

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OR
THEIR DESIGNEE TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CO-
RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS FOR A TOTAL
AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000,000**

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a public health and safety issue that impacts over 10,000 people in San Mateo County annually and, in 2022, the County received 1,786 domestic violence-related calls for service; and

WHEREAS, to better address domestic violence in San Mateo County, the Domestic Violence Council has convened a Task Force that seeks to identify opportunities for programmatic improvement, and one suggestion was the creation of a domestic violence Co-Response Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers have traditionally responded to domestic violence calls alone and the proposed pilot program enhances the law enforcement response by supplementing it with an embedded domestic violence survivor advocate (“survivor advocate”) assigned to each partner law enforcement agency; and

WHEREAS, each survivor advocate will be simultaneously dispatched to domestic violence calls for service with law enforcement and will assist in the first response by providing early and specialized engagement, intervention, guidance, and connection to support services for those involved; and

WHEREAS, this pilot program recognizes the importance of ongoing support for victims beyond the initial response, a capacity that survivor advocates can uniquely provide, complementing law enforcement's efforts; and

WHEREAS, the County and three partner cities are currently utilizing with success the Co-Responder model for response to community members experiencing mental health crises, and the domestic violence co-responder pilot looks to replicate that model and its success to better address domestic violence, ensure a holistic and supportive response to domestic violence-related calls, and improve outcomes; and

WHEREAS, participating cities will enter into cooperative agreements with the County for implementation of the pilot and a local service provider will provide a minimum of three full-time survivor advocates to be embedded within law enforcement and a half-time program manager; and

WHEREAS, the Co-Response Model for Domestic Violence calls for service aims to not only improve victim safety and perpetrator accountability but also to potentially establish a model for addressing domestic violence calls that embraces a proactive, collaborative, and tailored approach, recognizing the unique needs of our diverse community; and

WHEREAS, this initiative reflects the County's commitment to creating a safer and more supportive environment for victims of domestic violence while contributing to the broader goal of fostering respectful domestic relationships within San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the County will develop the pilot collaboratively with survivors of domestic violence, community-based organizations that address domestic

violence, and a third-party researcher so that the pilot promotes equity by increasing availability and effectiveness of responses to domestic violence by local jurisdictions in a culturally competent manner.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the County Executive or their designee is granted authority to design and implement a Domestic Violence Co-Response Pilot Program for a term of two years (FY 2024-26) to be funded by County reserves for a total amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

* * * * *