

RESOLUTION NO. .

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

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RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A STAND-ALONE SAN MATEO COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW TEAM, SPECIFYING THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND MEMBERSHIP THEREOF, AND STANDING RULES FOR ITS GOVERNANCE

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

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WHEREAS, pursuant to California Penal Code ("CPC") section 11163.3, a county may establish an interagency domestic violence death review team to assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing domestic violence deaths, including homicides and suicides, and facilitating communication among the various agencies involved in domestic violence cases; and

WHEREAS, interagency domestic violence death review teams have been used successfully in other counties in the State to ensure that incidents of domestic violence and abuse are recognized and that agency involvement is reviewed to develop recommendations for policies and protocols for community prevention and intervention initiatives to reduce and eradicate the incidence of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, the County's Domestic Violence Death Review Team has been operating as a standing subcommittee of the County's Domestic Violence Council; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Supervisors now wishes to restructure the County's DVDRT as a stand-alone interagency body, subject to the confidentiality provisions of CPC section 11163.3, whose continued purpose is to investigate and review domestic violence related deaths in San Mateo County in order make recommendations aimed at preventing deaths in similar circumstances and reducing domestic violence in general; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED as follows:

1. There is hereby created the San Mateo County Domestic Violence Death Review Team (the "DVDRT") pursuant to CPC section 11163.3, whose purpose is to perform the functions described herein.
2. The DVDRT will include categorical members and appointed members.
Categorical members are those who serve by virtue of their public or other specifically designated office. The remaining members of the DVDRT shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
3. The categorical members' terms shall be for the term of their office.
4. The appointed members shall serve terms of four years, which may be renewed subject to a maximum of three terms. Initially the terms of the members shall be staggered into terms of two, three and four years, which shall be determined by those members drawing lots.
5. The membership of the DVDRT shall be comprised of, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. The District Attorney and his/her representative.
 - b. The Sheriff and his/her representative.

- c. The County Manager and his/her representative.
 - d. The Chief Probation Officer and his/her representative.
 - e. The County Superintendent of Schools and his/her representative.
 - f. The Director of the Health System and his/her representative.
 - g. The Director of the Human Services Agency and his/her representative.
 - h. The Coroner and his/her representative.
 - i. Domestic violence shelter service staff and battered women's advocates.
 - j. Representatives of local agencies that are involved with domestic violence abuse reporting.
 - k. County health department staff who deal with domestic violence victim's health issues.
 - l. Representatives of local child abuse agencies.
 - m. Representatives of the LGBTQ community.
 - n. Experts in the field of forensic pathology.
 - o. Medical personnel with expertise in domestic violence abuse.
 - p. Criminologists.
 - q. Medical examiners.
6. The DVDRT members shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety, and shall not use their position to further their own pecuniary gain or for any purpose not directly related to the governmental function which they have been appointed to perform.
7. The DVDRT shall meet as necessary, but no less frequently than four times per year.

8. The Chair of the DVDRT shall be the Coroner or his/her designee from the Coroner's Office.
9. Consistent with CPC section 11163.3, information shared in DVDRT meetings is confidential and not subject to disclosure or discovery by a third party, but recommendations and summary data may be disclosed at the discretion of the majority of members of the DVDRT.
10. The DVDRT members must sign an agreement requiring that all information discussed in DVDRT meetings remain confidential with copies of the signed agreements kept on file by the DVDRT Chair.
11. The DVDRT will develop and submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors, which will include recommendations for effective intervention and prevention strategies to address problems, gaps or shortcomings identified by the DVDRT in its review of domestic violence related deaths in the County.
12. The DVDRT shall be staffed by the County Coroner's Office.

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