


**TO: Yolo County Board of Supervisors**  
**FROM: Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney**   
**DATE: 4/4/23**  
**SUBJECT: Report on Use of JAG Funds for Community Prosecution Program**

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During the period of January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, the District Attorney's Office used federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funding to dedicate one attorney to the communities of Woodland, West Sacramento, and Davis as community prosecutors. This report is required by the grant conditions to close the grant with the Department of Justice.

The D.A.'s Office received the FY 2017 JAG Local Solicitation in the amount of \$41,226. This grant funded the Community Prosecution activities from 1/1/20-9/30/20. We received the FY2019 JAG Local Solicitation in the amount of \$33,096 which was included in the FY20/21 budget. This grant funded the Community Prosecution activities from 10/1/20-6/30/21.

While receiving federal grant funds, the Deputy District Attorneys were unable to fully perform the duties as a Community Prosecutor due to COVID. Though we are no longer receiving grant funding, these prosecutors remain part of each community by working with the police departments, attending city council meetings, Shop with a Cop during the winter holidays, etc.

Questions or community feedback regarding the program can be provided to [district.attorney@yolocounty.org](mailto:district.attorney@yolocounty.org) Below are some of the activities for each city funded by the grant:

**Davis:**

Part of being the community prosecutor has been to help city law enforcement build stronger cases and work collaboratively with the prosecution. The attorney worked directly with detectives on numerous long-term investigations including the 8-county catalytic converter theft case from September 2020-February 2021 that resulted in the conviction of two men who stole 64 catalytic converters. This investigation tied into a larger federal investigation that went from Sacramento to New Jersey.

The attorney also worked to address the fentanyl poisoning crisis by identifying cases where there may be a criminal nexus, developing response protocol, and taking next steps in the investigations.

Officers also have someone available to them 24/7 to review warrants in all cases, including the late night DUIs.

The D.A.'s Office partnered in community events such as the Etch & Catch events (which have residents to have their catalytic converters etched in order to deter theft) and their Winter Holiday Toy Drive.

The result of collaboration with Davis PD has led to stronger cases being presented for prosecution, increased expertise in different areas of law for the officers, and partnerships designed to bring better quality of life for everyone in the community.

### **Woodland:**

The assigned D.A.'s Office attorney regularly work with Woodland Police in a variety of different ways to assist when needed.

For instance, the attorney attends monthly Gang Intelligence Meetings. These meetings include Woodland PD and are held monthly to coordinate with other Yolo County agencies as well as State and out of county agencies to exchange information, spot trends, or identify potential threats or issues.

Additionally, at Woodland PD's request, the attorney was part of the interview panel for the Senior Detective position in May of 2022. They interviewed the candidates and ranked them for consideration of the promotion.

The attorney was also asked to be part of the Domestic Violence POST training in October of 2022. There were multiple sessions to cover every officer. The training included changes in the law, current policy, officer safety, and best practices for investigating domestic violence cases.

The attorney also reviewed cases for officers and detectives for issues that pop up including statutes of limitation calculations, case law and problematic repeat offenders. For instance, in May of 2022, the attorney was consulted regarding school shooting threats and the need to trace the internet IP of the perpetrator. The attorney was able to connect the sergeant with our High-Tech Unit to offer support and expertise.

Additionally, in August of 2022, the attorney was contacted regarding options for chronic PC 419 (person who returns to lands that he has legally been removed from) and PC 602 (trespass) issues that was requiring a lot of resources for a single repeat offender. They were able to strategize a solution that eliminated the need for repeat use of the PD's limited resources and still stopped the repeated violations.

### **West Sacramento:**

As the West Sacramento Community Prosecutor, the assigned D.A.'s Office attorney acted as both a liaison to the West Sacramento Police Department ("WSPD") and the community as a whole. Regarding my interaction with WSPD, the attorney became the primary point of contact for the officers when they have questions regarding specific cases, changes in the law, and the D.A.'s Office's policies and procedures. The attorney routinely fielded phone calls and emails

from officers inquiring into these matters or asking the attorney to review search warrant declarations for their investigations.

The attorney regularly visited the department in person and attended briefings as well as provided training on specific issues, including legal updates, search and seizure procedures, the office's many diversion and collaborative court programs, as well as responding to the scenes of specific high-profile events such as homicides and officer involved shootings.

This rapport with WSPD has been crucial in building and maintaining relationships between the Yolo County DA and WSPD. The attorney regularly engaged in a variety of outreach in order to promote transparency as well as act as a source of information so that the community has the ability to make informed decisions regarding public policy and the criminal justice system. For example, the attorney maintains a presence on social media pages related to the various West Sacramento neighborhoods, and engages with citizens and tries to answer specific questions they have on those platforms. Also, they draft press releases and occasionally appear on local news outlets to spread awareness of issues in the community, such as Fentanyl overdoses, mail theft, and sidsnows which have been issues plaguing West Sacramento over the last 4 years.

Additionally, the attorney assisted in the planning and execution of multiple community events such as toy drives, Shop with a Cop, Coffee with a Cop, and guest lecturing for various high school classes in an attempt to disrupt the school to prison pipeline, which is one of the greatest threats to our community.

Lastly, the attorney partnered with WSPD Chief Strange in attending both City Council and the WSPD Community Advisement Board meetings and has developed relationships with some of the most influential and vocal community members in West Sacramento to promote transparency, civil discourse, and justice in line with the wishes of the community that we serve.