# Santa Clara-Ivins Police Department

## VAWA-Funded Specialized Detective

As our population grows we are experiencing a high demand on our department to investigate cases of domestic abuse. These cases are time-consuming and have many special required actions detailed in law. An officer could spend several hours just in follow up investigation requirements. For example:

1. The definition of domestic relations in expanding,
2. An investigative officer now must make complex determinations such as prior complaints, severity of injuries, history,
3. Likelihood of event occurring again or did someone act in self-defense,
4. A complex decision not to arrest or arrest
    a. This requires justification, and follow up
    b. Follow up interviews and written reporting demands
    c. Follow up has several complex requirements that have a time frame demand on them.

This newly requested position would focus on these requirements and others. This position would also allow the other detective to focus on other investigative demands such as burglary, fraud, and other crimes against people.

This position will be funded by Federal monies set aside for victims through the STOP-Violence Against Women Act. The money was initially used only for women victims of violent crimes; however, because of various discrimination laws, the funds can be used to service ALL victims of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse and other victimized crimes against underserved populations. The purpose of this program will address the following:

- Strengthen and improve Santa Clara-Ivins police response to crimes of violence by developing and maintaining a Specialized Detective.
- Enhance effective investigations by focusing on homicide, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, crimes against children, elder abuse, and victimized crimes to underserved populations.
- Enhance effective response by enforcing protective orders and by citing offenders who violate those orders.
- Ensure all Code-R kits, and other evidence in violent crimes are submitted to the crime lab in a timely manner.

- Strengthen response to high-risk victims through collaboration with victim-serving community partners (SART, DCFS, CJC, and other LE agencies) to minimize trauma to victims.
- Improve the ability of law enforcement to more effectively respond to underserved victim populations by training officers in racial and cultural sensitivity and awareness as services are provided.

The Specialized Detective will work closely with the Victims Advocate to form a Victims Unit within the department. Both positions will work together to provide effective law enforcement and a customized breadth of services to victims in the community.

Between July 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018 (a 9 month period), there were 84 domestic violence, 8 harassment, 22 threatening, 3 stalking, and 5 child abuse incidents within our cities. Between January 1, 2018 to September 1, 2018 (a 9 month period), there were 190 domestic violence, 4 child abuse, 26 sexual assaults, 22 harassment, 14 threatening, 8 stalking, and 20 dating violence/juvenile incidents. As of September 17, 2018, we have had 302 calls of service year to date (total for 2017 300 calls of service) which fall under the VAWA definitions for victimized crimes in our cities.

As we look in the future, this is a position will be required to meet the needs of our communities. It was our plan to request this type of position in the immediate future in any event. We have seen a 40% growth in our calls for the service during the last two years. This growth is due to population growth, changes in law and requirements, and indeed the changes in attitude about domestic violence.