

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MONTEREY COUNTY,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, in 1978, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office established the Victim Witness Assistance Unit, and in the past 10 years the unit has provided 135,000 mandated services to 22,000 crime victims in Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, Victim Witness Unit has served as the primary comprehensive victim and witness service center in Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, the Victim Witness Assistance staff work to provide crime victims with crisis intervention, emergency assistance, training for criminal justice agencies, public presentations, court escort and support services, and additionally provides resources and respect as victims navigate the often-turbulent water of the criminal justice process; and

WHEREAS, the Victim Witness Assistance Unit staff encourages crime victims to talk about their needs and listens to their wishes with compassion and a commitment to help; and

WHEREAS, commencing in 1998 and continuing to the present, the Monterey County District Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Unit participates in National Victims Crime Week by planning and implementing the annual victim ceremony in April which honors victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the District Attorney's Office received a specially trained courthouse facility canine named Odile. Odile works with victims and witnesses providing comfort and calmness. Odile is one of six canines to be placed in California District Attorney's Offices; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Assistance Unit applies for various State and Federal grants, operates as self-sufficiently as possible, and receives both in-kind and financial donations from the community for the Annual Victim's Dedication Ceremony and Victim Emergency Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office – Victim Witness Assistance Unit's designation as the provider of major and comprehensive victim and witness services in Monterey County, will enhance their ability to compete and receive grant funding.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office - Victim Witness Assistance Unit is designated as the provider of major and comprehensive victim and witness services in Monterey County for the County of Monterey, State of California.