



News from the Office of San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin

October 1, 2020

Twitter: @SFDAOoffice

CONTACT:

Rachel Marshall/ Rachel.Marshall@sfgov.org / 415.416.4468

DISTRICT ATTORNEY BOUDIN ANNOUNCES THE EXPANSION OF AN MOU FOR NINE BAY AREA COUNTIES TO RESPOND IN THE EVENT OF A MASS CASUALTY

San Francisco, CA — Today, on the third anniversary of the Route 91 Harvest Festival mass shooting in Las Vegas, San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin announced the signing and expansion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between nine Bay Area counties to streamline a coordinated response in the event of a mass casualty crime incident. The nine counties include San Francisco, Alameda, Sonoma, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, San Joaquin, Solano, and Santa Cruz counties. The MOU allows any participating county impacted by a mass casualty crime incident to request shared resources and personnel from the surrounding counties. This is critical because a mass casualty event can quickly deplete county resources and victim or witness support staff, given the high number of people affected by suffering injuries, witnessing the incident, or experiencing the loss of a loved one. In such an event, the other counties would deploy staff and support to the affected county to ensure that there are sufficient victim and witness support providers available in the aftermath of a mass violence event.

“As the year 2020 has shown us, in times of unpredictable tragedies, we must unite and support one another,” said District Attorney Boudin. “We of course hope that there is never a need to respond to another mass casualty incident. But, in the event that another tragic disaster strikes, this partnership among nine different counties in the Bay Area is an important recommitment to taking care of each other in the hardest of times.”

When incidents involving many casualties occur, it is critical that counties have well-developed plans to share resources and support to the many survivors and their families. This is especially important across county lines, as when there are mass casualties or injuries, the victim support staff of the county where the event occurred can quickly become overwhelmed with requests for support.

The Bay Area Mass Casualty Planning Committee began meeting in 2015 with an aim towards preparing and planning emergency responses related to mass violence incidents. This MOU, initially signed in 2017 with seven counties, allows for each county’s victim and witness advocates to travel to the affected county to provide aid to those in need of assistance.

In recent years, there have been several tragic incidents ranging from the Ghost Ship Fire in Alameda County, the 2017 UPS shooting in San Francisco, and the Gilroy Garlic Festival shooting just last year. The multi-county partnership was critical in the aftermath of the Gilroy Garlic Festival shooting in 2019, for example, as participating counties sent support to the Family Assistance Center there.

District Attorneys from the various counties expressed the importance of this collaboration. “The San Joaquin County District Attorney’s Office is proud to partner with our neighboring counties to share resources and personnel in the event of a mass casualty incident,” explained San Joaquin County District Attorney Tori Verber Salazar. “2020 has taught us that tragedy recognizes no boundaries and that preparation and cooperation among our contiguous counties will ensure the safety and wellbeing of our collective communities.”

“The coordination between all of our offices is key in helping victims of crime during a horrific event,” said Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton. “We have to support each other when these events occur and provide critical victim services during and long after an event.”

“Community unity is crucial in a time of crisis,” explained Marin District Attorney Lori E. Frugoli. “Marin County is honored to partner with the Victim Services Divisions of Bay Area District Attorney’s Offices to provide mutual aide in the time of a mass casualty event. For more information about the Marin County District Attorney’s Office Victim Services Division programs, please visit our website at <https://www.marincountyda.org/service/victim-witness-assistance> or email us at MCDAVictimWitness@marincounty.org.”

“We have experienced far too many incidents in the Bay Area and across California that have resulted in mass casualties. Whether the result of shootings, fires, incidents at the hands of another or natural disaster, the impact is far greater than for any one agency to provide comprehensive responses and advocacies. While we hope that we will never again face a mass casualty incident, we must be prepared to respond if the need arises,” said Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley. “The nine Bay Area counties have joined together with united protocols, extensive training and coordination to provide mutually combined responses in the face of tragedy. We are all committed to providing the best possible help to any and all of our communities. Working together, we are stronger for our communities and for any individual who is affected by a mass casualty event.”

Victim rights advocates were at the forefront of this effort. “The series of challenges we have experienced in 2020 have taught us that we cannot predict this type of crises we could face and that when a significant event happens we need our partners to work with us toward recovery,” said Dr. Gena Castro Rodriguez, Chief of Victim Services in the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office, who started the Bay Area Mass Casualty Planning Committee and played a key role in the MOU. “We are proud of the work we have done and will continue to do to collaborate, plan, practice and prepare for mass casualty crime incidents throughout the Bay Area. We hope that we will never need to exercise a critical response to a mass casualty crime, but if we do, we are ready.”

The MOU was signed today to mark the third anniversary of the Route 91 Harvest Festival Shooting in Las Vegas, where 58 people were killed. Hundreds of family members and loved ones were devastated by the event and will be forever impacted by that day. As a result of that tragedy, Bay Area counties, including San Francisco, sent aid to Las Vegas to provide critical support to survivors. The event is a reminder of the critical need to provide immediate support to victims of crime in the days, weeks and even years after a tragic mass casualty event.

If you were impacted by the Gilroy Garlic Festival Shooting, The Santa Clara County DA’s Office’s Victim Services Unit, the American Red Cross and the County’s Behavioral Health Services have opened a Family Assistance Center to assist those people affected by the shootings at the Gilroy Garlic Festival. For information, please call The Family Assistance Center at (408) 209-8356.

If you were impacted by the Route 91 Harvest Festival Shooting, the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center staff are available to those affected. For information, please call them at 702-455-2433 or email vegasstrongresiliencycenter@clarkcountynv.gov.

If you were a California resident and were impacted by the Route 91 Harvest Festival Shooting, the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) may be able to help you pay bills and expenses resulting from this violent crime. For assistance, please fill out the CalVCB [application for Las Vegas shooting victims](#) or visit the [How to Apply page](#).

###

--

Rachel Marshall

Director of Communications & Policy Advisor
Assistant District Attorney
Office of San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin
Rachel.Marshall@sfgov.org
San Francisco District Attorney
350 Rhode Island Street, North Building, Suite 400N
San Francisco, CA 94103
Desk: (628) 652-4193
Cell: (415) 416-4468

The information contained in this electronic message may be confidential and may be subject to the attorney-client privilege and/or the attorney work-product doctrine. It is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this electronic message in error, please delete the original message from your e-mail system. Thank you.