



97792

DATE: August 13, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Robert Menicocci, Social Services Agency Director

SUBJECT: Appropriation Modification to add one position in SSA Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Request for Appropriation Modification No. 14 - \$67,960 decreasing revenue and expenditures in the Social Services Agency budget, relating to adding one Welfare Fraud Investigator position in the Social Services Agency, deleting one vacant Criminal Investigator II/I position in the District Attorney's Office, reducing intra-county cost in the Social Services Agency, and transferring funds to the General Fund Contingency Reserve. (4/5 Roll Call Vote).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There would be a savings to the County General Fund in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 and FY2020-21 as a result of the Recommended Action. The cost for the remainder of the fiscal year for the Welfare Fraud Investigator position is \$133,400, with \$124,100 in state and federal revenue and a net county cost of \$9,340 in FY2019-20. The FY 2020-21 cost for the position is \$182,216, with \$169,461 in state and federal revenue and a net county cost of \$12,755.

For the Social Services Agency (SSA) there would be an Intra-County cost reduction for the current Criminal Investigator II in the amount of \$243,084, with a reduction of associated revenue in the amount of \$165,784, for a net total reduction of \$77,300.

For the District Attorney's Office (DAO), the savings for the remainder of the fiscal year for the deletion of the Criminal Investigator II position is \$236,593, partially offset by a reduction in reimbursement from SSA in the amount of \$243,084, for a net cost in DAO of \$6,491. The FY 2020-21 savings for the position is \$237,754, partially offset by a reduction in reimbursement from SSA in the amount of \$243,084, for a net cost in DAO of \$5,330.

The net results of these actions to the General Fund will be a savings of \$61,469 in FY2019-20 and a savings of \$59,215 in FY2020-21.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

SSA is requesting approval to add one Welfare Fraud Investigator position in the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) pursuant to the interagency agreement made between DAO and SSA. Per the agreement, SSA would reinstate the Welfare Fraud Investigator position once the Criminal Investigator II position housed at SSA was vacated. The incumbent retired from County service effective June 22, 2019. The Welfare Fraud Investigator position will investigate cases related to suspected fraudulent receipt of public assistance; interview witnesses; conduct computer checks and analyze welfare data; and serve civil papers and criminal complaints.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on children.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

BACKGROUND

In January of 2013 two Criminal Investigator II positions were created within the DAO and SSA deleted one Welfare Fraud Investigator position and one Supervising Welfare Fraud Investigator position (LF #65115).

Through an interagency agreement between the DAO and SSA, the Criminal Investigator II positions were housed at SSA as part of the SIU. SSA reimbursed the DAO the full cost (salary and benefits) of both positions while the position incumbents remained employed with the County to investigate welfare fraud at SIU. Once the individual incumbents left these positions, the corresponding positions were to be added back to SSA, and the respective Criminal Investigator II positions deleted from the DAO. One of the two Criminal Investigator II positions discussed in this file retired effective December 30, 2016, and the corresponding Supervising Welfare Fraud Investigator position was added back in SSA by the Board of Supervisors (LF #80914).

The remaining Criminal Investigator II position incumbent retired from County service effective June 22, 2019.

The DAO is taking a separate Legislative File (96678) to take appropriate action to delete the Criminal Investigator II position recently vacated by the incumbent.

The Employee Services Agency supports the recommended action.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

SSA will not be able to provide the welfare fraud investigation functions necessary to investigate, deter, and prevent fraud of funds administered through welfare benefits programs in an effective and efficient manner, as mandated by the State.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board is requested to send notification of completed processing to SSA's

Daniel Crick and Umesh Pol, and ESA-Human Resources.

LINKS:

- **Linked To:** 96779 : Adoption of Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.20.07 amending Santa Clara County Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.20 relating to compensation of employees adding one Welfare Fraud Investigator position in the Social Services Agency.
- **Linked To:** 65115 : 65115
- **Linked To:** 80914 : 80914
- **Linked From:** 96678 : Adoption of Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.20.10 amending Santa Clara County Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.20 relating to compensation of employees deleting one Criminal Investigator II or Criminal Investigator I position in the Office of the District Attorney.

ATTACHMENTS:

- F85-14 (PDF)