

# Memorandum



DATE: June 5, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee: Sheffie Kadane (Chair),  
Adam Medrano (Vice Chair), Dwaine Caraway, Jennifer S. Gates, Sandy Greyson,  
Scott Griggs

SUBJECT: **Victim Services**

On Monday, June 8, 2015, you will be briefed on the Victim Services. The briefing materials are attached for your review.



Eric D. Campbell  
Assistant City Manager

## Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager  
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer  
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager



# Victim Services

Public Safety Committee

June 8, 2015



[www.dallaspolice.net](http://www.dallaspolice.net)

David O. Brown  
Chief Of Police

# Purpose

- Update the Public Safety Committee on the history and purpose of providing victim services
- Outline types of cases referred for assistance and services offered by victim advocates

# History

- Victim Services has been providing assistance since 1996
- Mandated that police departments in the State of Texas have a crime victim liaison to provide assistance to victims (Code of Criminal Procedure article 56.09)
- Majority of victims or family survivors are not aware of services or what to do after a crime occurs

# Goals

- Help victims recover from trauma while providing services to assist them in understanding the Criminal Justice System
- By providing services, victims will be more willing to cooperate with the investigation and follow through with prosecution
- By providing assistance, the goal is to prevent victims and family from suffering needlessly

# Staff

- Victim Services Staff
  - 1 Victim Services Coordinator/Liaison
  - 1 Victim Advocate
  - 1 Part-time Victim Advocate
  - 2 Victim Counselors in Domestic Violence Unit
  - 1 Volunteer
- Operate in the Crimes Against Persons Division (Monday – Friday)
- Respond after hours as needed

# Types of Cases

- Homicide
- Sexual Assault
- Aggravated Assault
  - Domestic Violence
- Aggravated Robbery
- Traffic Crimes
  - Driving While Intoxicated, Traffic Fatalities, Failure to Stop and Render Aid, Criminally Negligent Homicides

# Number of Cases

Offenses	2013	2014	2015 -YTD
Homicides	127	112	48
Sexual Assaults	130	121	49
Robberies	132	102	42
Assaults	163	177	67
Traffic	31	30	5
Family Violence	109	70	9



# Types of Services Offered

- Crisis Counseling
- Information and Referral
- Assistance with applying for Texas Crime Victims Compensation
- Information on Criminal Justice System
- Personal Advocacy
- Justice Advocacy
- Court accompaniment (as requested)

# Eligibility for Compensation

- Crime has to occur
- Report has to be made with Law Enforcement
- Victim must cooperate with the investigation
- Victim must not have shared in the responsibility of the crime
- Victim must not be involved in criminal activity at the time the crime occurred

# Other Services

- Apply for Sexual Assault reimbursement to the police department from the Texas Crime Victims Compensation Fund (started in 2002) has brought back over \$1 million to general fund)
- Instruct at Police Academy on
  - Victimology-Crime Victims Rights- Texas Crime Victims Compensation- Victim Services
  - Provide presentations/training to community as requested
  - Respond to request or letters from Texas Attorney General for offense reports (approximately 150 per month)

# Summary

- By informing victims and helping victims apply for Texas Crime Victims Compensation, it can provide financial assistance (maximum \$50,000 per victim) for:
  - Medical treatment
  - Funeral assistance
  - Assist family violence victims and sexual assault victims with relocation
  - Counseling services
  - Lost wages while recovering from injuries or trauma
  - Crime scene clean-up

\*\*Texas Crime Victims' Compensation is payer of last resort. Victims must use collateral sources first (i.e. insurance, Medicare/Medicaid, Workers Compensation, etc.)

# Questions?