

# VC Family Justice Center-

## Emergency DV/SA Shelter Housing

### *IMPROVING ACCESS TO EMERGENCY HOUSING FOR UNDERSERVED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS (DV/SA)*

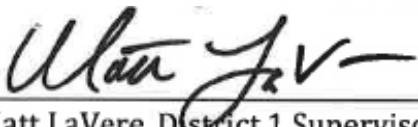
#### Background:

- ❖ The Ventura County Family Justice Center (FJC) began as a pilot project in the Ventura County Superior Courthouse in March of 2019 and served 1,705 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse and human trafficking in its first year. The FJC is now located in Ventura, adjacent to the County Hospital in a 15,000 sq. ft. facility with 15 on-site partnering service providers and serves over 2,000 crime victims annually.
- ❖ The vast majority of these victims are Medi-Cal enrollees, Latina with two or more minor children and victims of domestic violence (73%) and predominantly from the City of Oxnard (33%). Nearly 22% of them are either Mixteco or Spanish speakers and have limited transportation and housing options.
- ❖ Currently there are only 24 dedicated domestic violence emergency shelter beds serving all of Ventura County. Routinely these facilities operate at full capacity and have long waiting lists, leaving many underserved domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their children who need immediate access to housing with little option but to live in cars, hotel rooms or as is often the case, return to the scene of their abuse. The VC Family Justice Center-Emergency DV/SA Housing project will provide up to 17 additional rooms for domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their children fleeing from abuse thereby improving their ability to access the FJC services they need.
- ❖ The VC Family Justice Center-Emergency DV/SA Housing project brings assistance with emergency housing, restraining orders, U-Visas, family law matters and access to over 35 other partnering agency services currently only available at the Ventura FJC to underserved victims who are fleeing abuse. Specifically, The VC Family Justice Center-Emergency DV/SA Housing project, if funded would:
  - Allocate \$4,000,000 to acquire and remodel a FJC Emergency DV/SA shelter facility, leveraging the full services of the Ventura FJC and its partners to provide emergency housing, one-on-one civil legal, social services, counseling, safety planning and other victim advocacy services and outreach to underserved victims;
  - Enhance partnerships with local sexual assault and child advocacy centers by providing additional emergency DV/SA housing capacity for neighboring centers in Santa Barbara County who serve domestic violence and sexual assault victims;
  - Provide easily accessible emergency domestic violence shelter housing for those receiving medical care resulting from their abuse by locating the project's


facilities near the Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) building upon existing partnerships and referrals between VCMC and the FJC in domestic and sexual abuse cases;

- Bring justice to the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse and human trafficking crime and their families by giving victims the tools they need to recover, heal and end the generational cycles of abuse and violence in the underserved communities of Ventura County;
- Help to hold offenders accountable by providing victims with housing options and support.

We, the undersigned, support this request for funding for the VC Family Justice Center-Emergency DV/SA Shelter Housing project bringing critical emergency housing and culturally informed services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking in Ventura County:



Matt LaVere, District 1 Supervisor  
County of Ventura Board of Supervisors



Mike Johnson, City Councilmember – District 3  
City of Ventura



Erik Nasarenko, District Attorney  
Ventura County District Attorney's Office



James Fryhoff, Sheriff  
Ventura County Sheriff's Office



Darin Schindler, Chief of Police  
Ventura Police Department

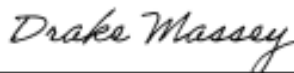


Jason Benites, Chief of Police  
Oxnard Police Department

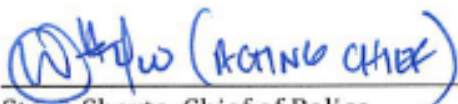
for



Robert Albertson, Interim Chief of Police  
Port Hueneme Police Department

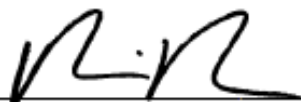


Drake Massey, Interim Chief of Police  
California State University of Channel Islands



for Chief Shorts

Steve Shorts, Chief of Police  
Simi Valley Police Department



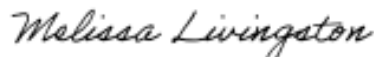
Michael Pallotto, Interim Chief of Police  
Ventura Community College District Police Department



Gina Johnson, Interim Chief Probation Officer  
Ventura County Probation Agency



Barry Zimmerman, Director  
Ventura County Health Care Agency

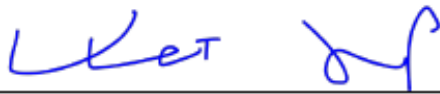


Melissa Livingston, Director  
Ventura County Human Services Agency



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Vargas  
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Rigoberto Vargas, Director  
Ventura County Public Health



**Victoria Jump, Director**  
**Ventura County Area Agency on Aging**

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**Erik Sternad, Executive Director**  
**Interface Children & Family Services**



**David Swanson Hollinger, Director**  
**Children & Family Services**



**Cesar Libanati, Executive Director**  
**Ventura County Legal Aid, Inc.**



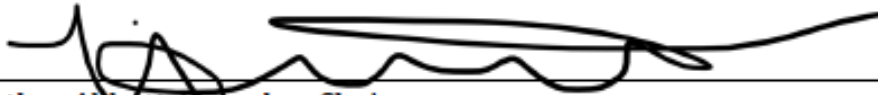
**Marie Villa, Administrator**  
**Ventura County Safe Harbor (Child Advocacy Center)**



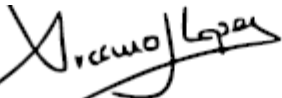
**Dr. Aimee Brecht-Doscher, Medical Director**  
**Forensic Nurse Examiner Team**



**Dr. Lynette Landry, Chair and Professor**  
**CSU Channel Islands Nursing Department**



**Heather Abbott-Gonzalez, Chair**  
**Voices of Ventura County**



**Arcenio Lopez, Executive Director**  
**Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)**

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Vanessa Bechtel, President & CEO  
Ventura County Community Foundation

*Anthony Mireles*

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Anthony Mireles, Business Manager  
Laborers Local 585