

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 1**

**SUBJECT: MAKING SAN DIEGO A BLUE ENVELOPE COUNTY (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff's Department) has embraced and adopted a new resource called the Blue Envelope Program. The program is designed to promote inclusivity and serve as an enhanced communication awareness tool between law enforcement officers and community members diagnosed with a condition or disability such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, dementia, anxiety, or other conditions that might require additional accommodations or awareness during a law enforcement interaction. For example, a traffic stop or vehicle accident. The Blue Envelope Program prioritizes safety, effective communication, and provides an opportunity to alleviate misunderstandings through increased awareness for both the driver and the law enforcement officers.

The Sheriff's Department has received the support of the San Diego County Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association to expand the program countywide with local law enforcement agencies by extending training resources and distributing the Blue Envelope Program outreach materials to county partners and organizations who engage with individuals with a condition or disability where additional accommodations or awareness could be helpful.

On June 14, 2022 (23), Supervisor Lawson-Remer introduced an initiative to open doors, provide autonomy and dignity for neurodivergent San Diegans. Today's Board action will build on these efforts by supporting the County in implementing the Blue Envelope Program.

Today's Board action seeks to expand the Sheriff's Department's Blue Envelope Program by leveraging other County departments in promoting the program and making San Diego County more inclusive and equitable for our community members with a condition or disability by participating in this nationwide effort and declaring us a Blue Envelope County.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**SUPERVISORS JIM DESMOND, TERRA LAWSON-REMER, AND SHERIFF**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to identify core collaborative County department partners to work with the Sheriff's Department in the implementation of the Blue Envelope Program.
2. Declare San Diego County a Blue Envelope County.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work collaboratively with the Sheriff's Department to identify grants and other funding sources to fund ongoing needs for a regional Blue Envelope Program and return to the Board in early 2024 with a set of recommendations and a cost analysis relevant to the complete implementation of the program within the fiscal year 2024/2025 budget.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The implementation of the Blue Envelope Program in San Diego County is intended to enhance communication between individuals with a condition or disability and law enforcement officers or other public service personnel. Awareness and training provided by the Blue Envelope Program will assist with identifying, recognizing, and communicating more effectively with members of our community with a condition or disability. By providing a visible display of the program's logo, individuals can choose to voluntarily disclose, and provide awareness of, their needs to a law enforcement or a public service officer. This program promotes effective communication, thus reducing misunderstandings, and encouraging positive interactions.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This proposed action contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of engaging the community in meaningful ways and continually seeking stakeholder input to foster inclusive and sustainable communities. The Blue Envelope Program, as envisioned for San Diego County, is a collaboration between law enforcement, other first responders, county agencies, and community partners to encourage education, inclusion, and training to improve interactions with members of our community with a condition or disability. The goal is creating a means for equitable treatment for individuals who may need accommodations. Efforts will be made to ensure equitable access to and awareness of the program to prevent any potential bias or discrimination, furthering its impact on promoting equity.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operational Plan in the Department of Human Resources, which will be centrally funding these efforts. If approved this request will result in estimated costs of \$75,000 for the initial expansion of the Blue Envelope Program, based on today's actions. The funding source is General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years this fiscal year. However, today's recommended actions may result in future fiscal impacts, for which staff will return to the Board for consideration and approval.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 4 Seat Vacant)

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
by Andrew Potter

