

URBAN GRANT GENERAL INFORMATION

Multi County Grant – No

FY 2022-2023 Audited Unexpended Funds, excluding interest – \$42,615 + \$287 interest
= \$42,902

FY 2022-2023 Audited Unexpended Funds percentage, excluding interest – 9.7%

Contacts

Project Manager – William Lee

Case Statistics – Brenda Whittaker

Compliance/Fiscal Officer – Claudia Walker

Elected District Attorney – Jason Anderson



County of San Bernardino
Office of the District Attorney
JASON ANDERSON, District Attorney

Felicia Lieb
Deputy Chief, Programs Operations and Grants
California Department of Insurance
2400 Del Paso Road, Suite 250
Sacramento, CA 95834

May 1, 2024

Dear Deputy Chief Lieb:

Regarding San Bernardino County's Organized Automobile Fraud Interdiction Program (Urban), I hereby delegate my authority to:

1. **William Lee**, Chief Deputy District Attorney, to submit the Fiscal Years 2024 – 2027 Urban Insurance Fraud Grant application to the California Department of Insurance.
2. **William Lee**, Chief Deputy District Attorney, wlee@sbcda.org, to execute any and all associated Grant Award Agreements, including any extensions or amendments thereof for Fiscal Years 2024 – 2027.

Sincerely,

Jason Anderson, District Attorney
County of San Bernardino
303 West Third Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415

QUALIFICATIONS AND SUCCESSES

1. What areas of your organized automobile insurance fraud program were successful and why?

Since 2000, the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office (SBCDA) has participated in the Organized Automobile Fraud Activity Interdiction Program (Urban Grant). Up until this year, we had jointly applied with the Riverside County's District Attorney's Office (RCDA). This fiscal year, however, we apply individually and focus on the accomplishments of our program. However, we continue to work close with RCDA on joint investigations and parallel prosecutions where appropriate. Additionally, SBCDA and RCDA continue to work under a joint Memorandum of Understanding.

Placing an investigator with the California Department of Insurance Inland Empire Regional Office (CDI) has improved our ability to participate in the investigation of large-scale criminal activity. Its benefits were seen, for example, in the *California Collision* case (below) which spanned the tri-county area of San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Riverside Counties, was an 18-month investigation, and resulted in the prosecution of 15 defendants. This case would have taken years to investigate if our office acted alone.

Below are three examples of SBCDA's successful large-scale investigations and prosecutions:

Successful Prosecutions

California Collision

California Collision, case numbers FWV24001547, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61 (Fiscal Year 2023-2024) was an investigation conducted by the Urban Grant Task Force. It was an elaborate fraud scheme that relied on an employee of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) who was using her position to access reports of automobile collisions. Up to 17,000 collision reports were accessed and many sold to a capper. Accomplices then contacted accident victims pretending to be a representative of the victim's insurance company to have the victim's damaged vehicle towed to an accomplice repair shop, often California Collision. Once the victim's vehicle was at a repair shop, inflated fees were charged for storage. If the true insurance company refused to pay the fees, the vehicles were sold at lien sales.

After a lengthy investigation that included the execution of 53 search warrants, which recovered over 3,000 pages of CHP reports, 52 counts of insurance fraud and theft charges were filed against 15 defendants. The known loss is approximately \$350,000. We have filed Lis Pendens on property owned by the capper and the owner of the California Collision repair shop and we seized/froze their bank accounts – as an example of our close working relationship, RCDA performed this work for us because our newly assigned asset forfeiture staff member did not have the experience and was otherwise unavailable. Additional charges are expected in Los Angeles and Riverside Counties

relating to this fraud scheme. This case was only recently filed, so there are no resolutions to report this fiscal year.

Blue Ghost

In *Blue Ghost*, case numbers FSB23000969 and 70 (Fiscal Year 2022-2023), Defendant Christopher Phelps staged numerous collisions by positioning and driving his vehicle in ways to cause others to crash into him. He then made insurance claims and provided video recordings that were edited to show that he was not at fault. Seeking fame, in addition to money, Mr. Phelps posted his videos on YouTube under the name BLU3 GHO57. Further, his wife, Kimberly Phelps, also participated in some staged accidents along with their young child. In one recovered video, Kimberly Phelps is heard warning her child to brace for impact just before a staged crash.

The couple was charged with 29 counts of insurance fraud, child endangerment and assault with a deadly weapon, to wit, a motor vehicle. Christopher Phelps was sentenced to 3 years in state prison on insurance fraud, child endangerment and assault with a deadly weapon. The last charge is a strike under California's Three Strikes law and carries a life-time prohibition on operating a motor vehicle. Kimberly Phelps was sentenced to 90 days in jail and felony probation on insurance fraud and child endangerment charges. Both were ordered to pay \$50,838 in restitution. This case received significant print and television news coverage.

Heywood

Another prolific fraudster was prosecuted in *People v. Brandon Heywood*, FWV22002676, 77, 78, 79, 80 and 81 (Fiscal Year 2022-2023) Defendant Brandon Heywood's activities spanned Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Heywood used his friends and family members to submit 14 fraudulent insurance claims by fabricating police reports, medical records, chiropractic records, timesheets, rental car receipts, car seat receipts and physical therapy documents. He received thousands in payouts. Mr. Heywood and 5 other defendants were charged with 49 counts of fraud, identify theft and other crimes. While most defendants have been convicted and sentenced, Defendant Brandon Heywood – the primary defendant – failed to appear in court and remains a fugitive with a \$500,000 warrant.

Dedicated, Experienced Deputy District Attorney and Investigator

Our Urban Grant program was led by DDA Denise Yoakum since March 1, 2021. DDA Yoakum is an accomplished 26-year prosecutor. Most recently, she was assigned to homicides and code cases. She also has experience in the Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Unit. DDA Yoakum brought her fraud experience and formidable litigation skills into the Urban Grant Program. DDA Yoakum works closely with CDI's Urban Grant Task Force, SANCATT, CHP and local law enforcement agencies. Her most important collaborations have been with CDI and RCDA.

District Attorney Investigator William Smyser was assigned to the Urban Grant Task Force since October 9, 2021. DAI Smyser is assigned to the Urban Grant Task Force and works out of the CDI office. We thereby leverage our limited resources by participating in the task force.

2. Provide the number of new investigations, the amount of chargeable fraud and total arrests (both felony and misdemeanor) for the past 3 fiscal years.

Fiscal Year	New Investigations	New Investigations Chargeable Fraud	Total Arrests
2022-23	3	\$108,000.00	12
2021-22	0	\$0	4
2020-21	10	\$1,049,872.00	7

3. Provide the number of new cases in court, the amount of corresponding chargeable fraud and total arrests (both felony and misdemeanor) for the past 3 fiscal years.

Fiscal Year	New Cases in Court	New Case in Court Chargeable Fraud	Total Convictions
2022-23	4	\$188,000.00	9
2021-22	1	\$64,000.00	3
2020-21	3	\$125,000.00	5

4. List the governmental agencies and task forces you have worked with to develop potential organized automobile insurance fraud cases.

- Barstow Police Department
- California Department of Insurance, Inland Empire Regional Office
- California Department of Insurance, Los Angeles Regional Office
- California Department of Motor Vehicle’s Investigations
- California Highway Patrol – multiple stations/divisions.
- Chino Police Department
- Colton Police Department
- Fontana Police Department
- Los Angeles County Sheriff Department

- Montclair Police Department
- Ontario Police Department
- Redlands Police Department
- Rialto Police Department
- San Bernardino City Police
- San Bernardino County Auto Theft Task Force (SANCATT)
- San Bernardino County Fire/Arson Department
- San Bernardino County Sheriff Department, Victorville Station
- San Bernardino County Sheriff Department, Bomb/Arson
- San Bernardino County Sheriff Department, Central Station.
- San Bernardino County Sheriff Department, Hesperia Station
- San Bernardino County Sheriff Department. Rancho Cucamonga Station
- Upland Police Department

5. Were any frozen assets distributed in Fiscal Years 21-22, 22-23 or 23-24?

No

UNFUNDED CONTRIBUTIONS

SBCDA expends significant resources of its own in support of the program. We provide the services of unfunded personnel and provide much of the administrative costs associated with running the program. This allows us to use the greatest amount of grant funding for investigation and prosecution of fraud cases.

The services of managing attorneys, Supervising Deputy District Attorney Ronald Webster and Chief Deputy District Attorney William Lee, are provided at no cost to the grant. In addition to general management and administrative responsibilities, CDDA Lee is the co-chair of the CDAA Insurance Committee, served as the technical advisor for the 2023 and 2024 CDAA Fraud Symposiums, and was heavily involved in setting the agenda for CDAA Fraud Symposiums in prior years. CDDA Lee continues in his effort to encourage increases to the Urban Grant and Automobile Insurance Fraud programs. Until his promotion in 2022, CDDA Lee directly supervised the Urban Grant. In his newly promoted role, CDDA Lee continues to oversee the Urban Grant, albeit in a elevated role, and continues to offer his invaluable insight and direction. We anticipate CDDA Lee continuing in these roles as an unfunded contribution. SDDA Webster directly supervises the operations of the Urban Grant Unit, including direct engagement with CDI and grant writing. His services are unfunded contributions.

Our Urban Grant Unit is part of our Specialized Prosecutions Division. As such, the staff members work side by side and in cooperation with members of our Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit, Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit, Real Estate Fraud Unit, Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit, Asset Forfeiture Unit, Major Frauds Unit, Appellate Services Unit and others. These units support and supplement the efforts of our program, give aid when needed and share expertise in overlapping areas.

Many expenses are unfunded because our grant awards are usually insufficient to cover them. These include:

- The services of our Bureau of Administration are also provided without cost to the program. This arm of our office is responsible for all budget preparation (including the proposed budgets for this application) and fiscal responsibility, and support necessary to ensure proper review and approval of our application by County Counsel and our Board of Supervisors.
- Our Bureau of Information Technology (BIT) similarly provides the work computers and needed software to perform the functions of the Urban Grant Unit as efficiently as possible with technological structure and support for the modern environment in which the unit is based. BIT supports the daily operations and use of our office's network and programs.
- All operating expenses are unfunded. Our grant award is usually insufficient to pay the entirety of salary and benefits for existing staff. As such, all operating expenses such as automobiles, training and travel, etc. are unfunded.

PERSONNEL CONTINUITY

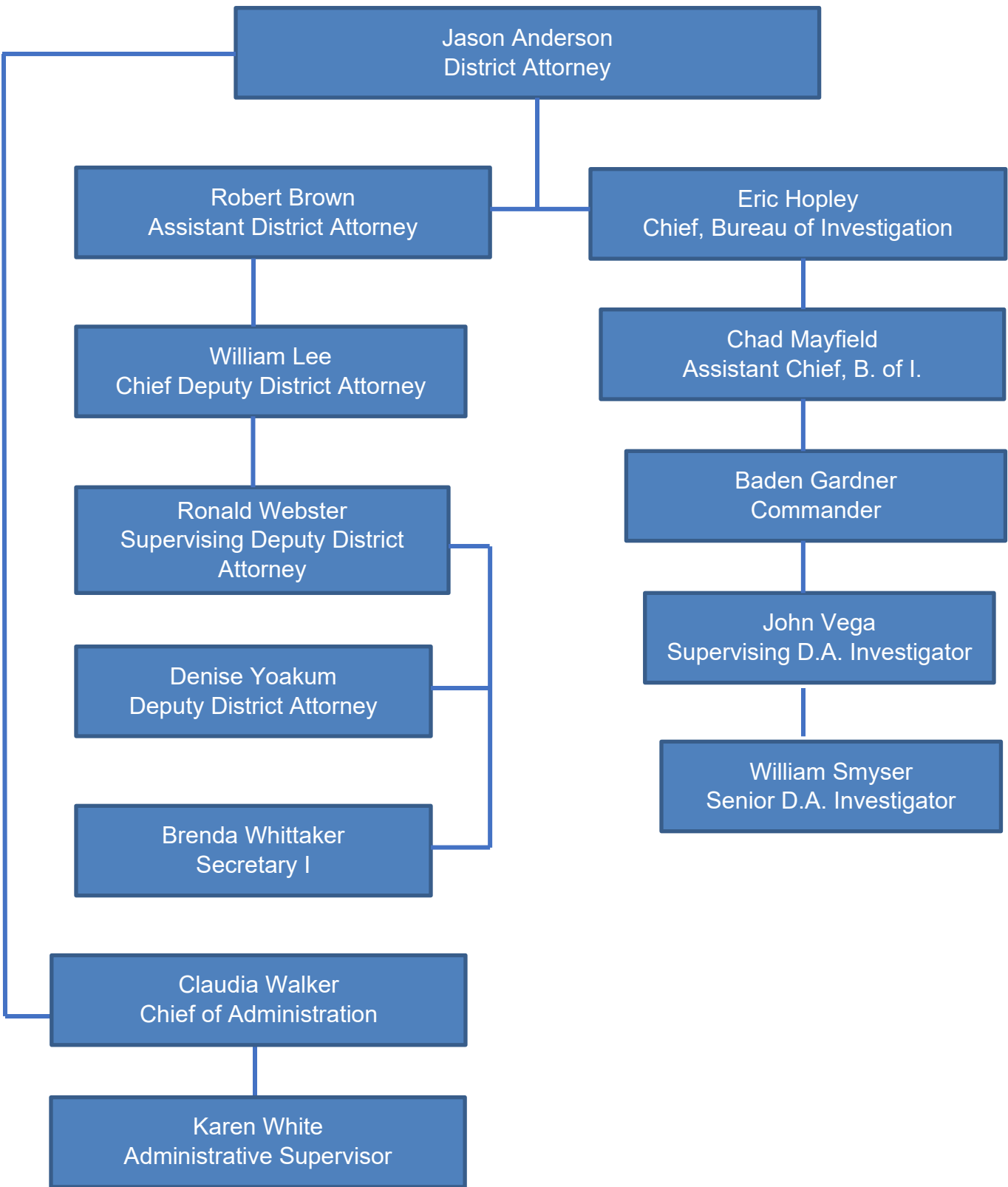
SBCDA believes in continuity in specialized fraud units. We maintain no mandatory rotation policies that might impact that continuity. Instead, we look to program needs and resources for our staffing decisions. Movement is occasionally necessary to meet shifting challenges, but we always act with an eye toward providing effective staffing to all our grant funded fraud programs.

No staffing change occurred this fiscal year in any funded position. The most recent change in a funded position occurred on October 9, 2021. After spending three years assigned to the Urban Grant Program, DAI Shane Benschop was replaced by DAI Smyser. DAI Smyser continues in this role. DDA Denise Yoakum continues in her role as the Urban Grant prosecutor, which she assumed on March 1, 2021, upon the retirement of her predecessor.

All management-level staff provide their services as unfunded staff. CDDA Lee has provided managerial support for the unit since 2016 – as the SDDA from 2016 through 2022 and as the CDDA since his promotion in October 2022. SDDA Ronald Webster is in his second year of supervising the Urban Grant. Finally, Supervising District Attorney Investigator John Vega enters his third year as the supervising investigator.

Staffing/FTE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Time (%)</u>
Denise Yoakum	3/1/2021	N/A	100%
William Smyser	10/9/2021	N/A	100%



PROBLEM STATEMENT

Describe the types and magnitude of organized automobile insurance fraud (e.g., applicant, medical/legal provider, staged collisions, insider fraud, fraud ring, capping, and economic vehicle theft) relative to the extent of the problem specific to your county.

Despite our aggressive efforts to combat organized automobile fraud activity, the problem persists in our area. Riverside and San Bernardino Counties combine to form the region east of Los Angeles known as the Inland Empire. The ongoing problem of organized automobile fraud in the region is shaped by the nature of the geography and population, high numbers of thefts and related frauds, resource limitations, and the nature of suspected fraudulent claims received by the two counties.

Due to our proximity and generally similar demographics and economies, San Bernardino County and Riverside County have always worked closely in tackling many fraud crimes, particularly the Urban Grant. In the past, we submitted a joint Urban Grant Application. We are unable to continue this practice this fiscal year because the grant application portal could not accommodate the type of joint application we have traditionally submitted. Even though SBCDA and RCDA will submit separate Urban Grant applications this year, our collaborative approach will not change. Both counties are served by the same Inland Regional Office of CDI, have investigators embedded into CDI's Urban Grant Task Force, and work under a joint MOU.

Geography and Population Contribute to Automobile Insurance Fraud in the Inland Empire

Fraud activity is heavily influenced by population. San Bernardino County is the largest geographic county in the United States. It is the 5th most populous county in California with 2,182,056 people, as of January 1, 2023. This represents 5.6% of the state's population.

While the population within the state and many counties shrank, San Bernardino County's population continued to grow. From 2022 to 2023, San Bernardino County was one of just three large counties (i.e., population over 1,000,000) which experienced a growth in population. Riverside County and Fresno County were the other two. Counties experiencing a population exodus include Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Santa Clara.

The table below represent population statistics for every county with at least 1,000,000 population. Only San Bernardino County, Riverside County and Fresno County experienced growth, while every other county and the state experienced a reduction in population.

	January 2022	January 2023	Percent Change
California	39,078,674	38,940,231	-0.4
Alameda	1,644,248	4,636,194	-0.5
Contra Costa	1,151,798	1,147,653	-0.4
Fresno	1,009,790	1,011,499	+0.2
Orange	3,151,946	3,137,164	-0.5
Los Angeles	9,834,503	9,761,210	-0.7
Orange	3,151,946	3,137,164	-0.5
Riverside	2,430,976	2,439,234	+0.3
Sacramento	1,573,366	1,572,453	-0.1
San Bernardino	2,180,777	2,182,056	+0.1
San Diego	3,275,435	3,269,755	-0.2
Santa Clara	1,890,967	1,886,079	-0.3

Further, San Bernardino County's population will continue to rise despite overall losses in statewide population.

- Between 2020 to 2030, California's population will decline by 0.23% while San Bernardino County's population will grow by 3.27%. (California Department of Finance Report, March 8, 2024.)
- Between 2020 to 2060, California's population will decline by 0.03% while San Bernardino County's population will grow by 2.52%. (California Department of Finance Report, March 8, 2024.)

This population pattern is expected. San Bernardino County offers vast undeveloped land to easily accommodate future growth. Amongst Southern California counties, San Bernardino offers lower living costs, lower housing costs, proximity to urban centers within Los Angeles County and Orange County, two international airports in the cities of Ontario and San Bernardino, and a busy logistics airport in the city of Victorville. San Bernardino County is an attractive location into which businesses and workers will continue to relocate.

San Bernardino County's fraud problem is also affected by regional geography. The counties of Riverside and San Bernardino make up the Inland Empire, an area encompassing 27,313 square miles. The Inland Empire represents 16% of the total area of California and is 36% larger than the counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, Imperial,

Santa Barbara, Ventura and Orange, combined. In other words, San Bernardino County's and Riverside County's joint effort concerns well over half of the land area of Southern California. The population of San Bernardino County and Riverside County exceed 4,600,000 and represent almost 12% of the state's population.

The projections of population expansion cause great concern for our ability to keep up with accompanying rises in fraudulent activity. While the economic future of the Inland Empire is certainly bright, we are mindful that increasing populations and continued economic growth also bring greater opportunities for predatory fraud in the area. Simply, fraud will thrive in the absence of strong enforcement of California's insurance fraud statutes. We must keep pace and maintain the ability to be vigilant.

Crime Statistics and Suspected Fraudulent Claims

Show the Extent of the Problem in Our Counties

Automobile fraud continues its rampage in San Bernardino County. From 2021 through 2023, San Bernardino County received the 5th highest number of Suspected Fraudulent Claims (SFCs) for Auto/Urban – 2,015. In just Urban-related SFCs, San Bernardino County received the 4th highest number over those three years. Finally, San Bernardino County received 5.2% of statewide SFCs.

Additionally, crime statistics also show the seriousness of the problem in both Riverside County and San Bernardino County. An examination of the most recent California Crime Index annual report shows that for 2022 San Bernardino County reported 8,507 motor vehicle thefts. It is believed that significant numbers of motor vehicle theft claims are efforts to conceal automobile fraud.

In addition, the frequency of automobile insurance claims points to the gravity of the automobile fraud problem in San Bernardino County. According to statistics released to grant applicants, San Bernardino County experienced a combined 147.4 claims per 1,000 insured vehicles.

Types of Automobile Insurance Fraud in San Bernardino County

During Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 through Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021, most of our new cases were fraud rings, with smaller numbers of Applicant Fraud, Staged Accidents and Economic Car Theft. In the most recent cycle covering Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 through Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024, our program found a balance between the two most pernicious types of case: Staged Accidents and Fraud Rings.

Staged Accidents and Fraud Rings are the worse because the former jeopardizes human life while the latter represents the highest form of organized and sophisticated criminal behavior. In the last three fiscal years, we prosecuted three staged accident cases, three fraud rings and one Other case.

Staged Accident

Staged accidents can kill people. The criminal seeks to profit by deliberately putting innocent members of the public in danger of being hurt or killed. Within the last three years, our program prosecuted three new staged accident cases. The worse of them was *People v. Christopher Phelps and Kimberly Phelps – the “Blue Ghost” case*.

Christopher Phelps posted numerous dashcam videos of vehicle collisions, attempted or near collisions, and road rage incidents involving himself. They were posted under his name of “BLU3 GHO57.” The investigation entailed approximately 17 insurance claims, over 20 car collisions and numerous videos. Christopher Phelps was observed on videos making erratic maneuvers with his car to cause other cars to hit him. In multiple instances, Christopher Phelps’s own child was in the car. The sheer number of incidents made this a lengthy, complicated investigation. Kimberly Phelps was involved in some of the incidents. In one video, she is heard telling her child to brace for a crash. The period of activity appears to be from 2017 through 2022 (when it was discovered by law enforcement).

Among the criminal charges filed against Christopher Phelps and/or Kimberly Phelps were felony insurance fraud, child endangerment and assault with a deadly weapon (to wit, car). Christopher Phelps pled guilty to insurance fraud, child abuse and assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to 3 years in prison. He was ordered to pay \$50,838.34 in restitution. Kimberly Phelps pled guilty to insurance fraud and child abuse and received 3 years of felony probation. She was ordered to pay \$12,704.70 in restitution.

The Department of Insurance posted a press release with a link to some of the videos posted by Christopher Phelps. That press release can be found at <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/0400-news/0100-press-releases/2023/release011-2023.cfm>.

Fraud Rings

Fraud rings represent the highest form of sophisticated criminality, which often also results in significant loss for victims. This fiscal year, our program filed a 15-defendant fraud ring case that involved an employee from the California Highway Patrol. This investigation was titled, *California Collision*. (*People v. Andre Reyes et al, FWV24001547.*) *California Collision* involves thousands of victims in San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles Counties. The cases were split between those counties with, to our understanding, San Bernardino County having the largest case.

A CHP employee sold collision reports in bulk to a capping organization. Using information gained from the reports, the capping group posed as the insurance company to direct damaged cars to a particular tow company and body shop. The tow company and body shop charged excessive prices for their services. If the insurance company failed to make payment, they would attempt to implement a lien sale of the car. The CHP employee printed over 17,000 reports in a single year and over 3000 reports were found in the employee’s home during a search warrant.

Charges were filed against 15 defendants, including the person in charge of the capping operation, a CHP employee, individuals from the tow company and body shop, and other involved parties. The case is pending in court.

Here are links to news reports relating to this case:

- <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-05-15/a-smashed-polaris-slingshot-friends-inside-the-chp-how-investigators-unraveled-an-insurance-plot>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/chp-employee-and-14-others-charged-in-complex-insurance-fraud-ring/>
- <https://www.foxla.com/news/15-charged-in-southern-california-insurance-fraud-ring>

Applicant Fraud

San Bernardino County has no cases of this type to report for the period.

Economic Car Theft

San Bernardino County has no cases of this type to report for the period.

Insider Fraud

San Bernardino County has no cases of this type to report for the period.

Legal and Medical Provider Fraud, and Capping

San Bernardino County has no cases of this type to report for the period.

Additional Challenges and Staffing

San Bernardino County is the largest county in the country. This necessarily requires us to staff investigations and caseloads for distant locations, which puts additional strain on resources beyond that of the cases themselves.

San Bernardino County has three main courthouses that hear criminal cases, those being in San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville. Additionally, there is a smaller courthouse in Joshua Tree that also carries a criminal caseload. With one prosecutor to cover cases in all four courthouses, which are separated by 20 to 90 miles, her time is at a premium.

Staffing has also been a challenge for San Bernardino County. Its Urban Grant Program is funded for one prosecutor and one investigator. There is no funding for any support staff. Currently, one secretary from another unit assists with clerical, grant and court support. This is difficult to manage. The strain has become most pronounced with the added and challenging task of managing discovery.

Evidence collected in Urban Grant cases is voluminous and varied. They are voluminous in digital evidence in the form of computer and cell phone data, numerous insurance claim files, search warrant documents and seized evidence, and evidence in other forms. They are varied in the digital format in which evidence is received by our office. Evidence is submitted in the form of picture files, pdf files, Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoints and more. The variety of formats in which we receive documents is endless. Making things more difficult is that some documents are encrypted and/or password protected. The process of reviewing, converting, and Bates stamping all these documents is extremely time consuming, complex, and challenging. The secretary, whose ancillary responsibility is to support the Urban Grant, cannot keep up.

For this reason, we are requesting additional funds in this application to fund half of a paralegal position. Our observation is that our partners in Riverside County effectively use paralegal support to address challenges that are a critical part of the criminal justice system, such as properly documenting and Bates stamping discovery. Errors in that area jeopardize our ability to prosecute cases and place the prosecutor's law license at risk. Additionally, a paralegal, unlike a clerk or secretary, can assume both legal and clerical work responsibilities. In a small unit, such as Urban Grant, such utility would be highly valued and cost-effective.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION PLAN

To tackle the problems described in the Problem Statement, SBCDA plans to continue working in conjunction with CDI and CHP through the Urban Grant Task Force. Through this collaboration we have a two-part plan to resolve the problems described.

The most pernicious crimes affecting public safety and insurance rates are staged accidents and fraud rings. Through coordinated efforts we hope to develop investigative leads in complex, resource-intensive cases that we can actively pursue over the next three fiscal years. As always, we will continue to ensure that our prosecutor and investigator are being trained in all current fraud trends.

The second part of our plan involves continuing to work closely with allied agencies and stakeholders, and pooling investigatory resources whenever possible, to effectively combat fraud. The effectiveness of a collaborative approach is seen throughout the cases discussed in the Qualifications and Successes portion of this application, and will remain a central part of our program. This part of the plan requires strong partnerships with the members of the Urban Grant Task Force as well as investigators from the Bureau of Automotive Repair and other law enforcement agencies.

In order to develop viable medical provider investigations and prosecutions, we will also seek to collaborate with the California Medical Board and the California Board of Chiropractors, and will utilize the expertise we have developed in medical provider fraud in our other insurance fraud programs.

For San Bernardino County, the most significant planned improvement is the addition of a paralegal position for which 50% of funding would come from the Urban Grant award. A paralegal has the training and experience to perform both clerical and legal work. The prosecutor can delegate responsibilities to a paralegal in ways that simply cannot be done with a clerk or secretary, which in turn allows the prosecutor to spend more time collaborating with agencies to develop investigations and more time to litigate the cases in court. A paralegal is a cost-effective solution to a challenging staffing problem.

The Urban Grant MOU that we have in place provides a solid framework for a successful, cooperative program. We will continue to foster teamwork through the vertical prosecution model. The vertical prosecution model brings together the experienced prosecutor with the investigators from multiple agencies to discuss pending organized automobile insurance fraud cases and ensures that the cases will be handled appropriately from inception to conclusion.

Much of the way we currently operate the Urban Grant program will remain unchanged going forward. Below is a discussion of different aspects of our program:

CASELOAD DEVELOPMENT

Planned Coordination with CDI, CHP and Other Agencies

Even though we are no longer seeking grant funding jointly with RCDA, they are still a valuable partner in combatting organized automobile fraud activity. Prosecutors from both offices maintain a close working relationship due to the geographic proximity of our main offices and the interaction between staff in our other fraud units, such as Workers' Compensation Fraud, Automobile Insurance Fraud and Consumer/Environmental crimes. Both offices communicate frequently to ensure that there is no duplication of effort on cases and that no prosecution activity by one county adversely affects a case in the other county. We also communicate to identify trends, activities, defendants, and problems that are particular to the Inland Empire. Each county's supervising deputy district attorney will be in regular contact with the other county's counterpart to assess program activities.

In addition to coordinating our activities, the grant-dedicated prosecutors will continue to meet with the CDI, CHP, and DA investigators assigned to the program, as well as with SIUs on a regular basis to provide legal guidance, assess case progress and develop litigation and investigation plans.

We will continue to have monthly meetings attended by prosecutors and investigators from both District Attorney's offices, as well as investigators with CDI and CHP for the purpose of reviewing and developing investigative plans and prosecution strategies. This also provides us with an opportunity to assess the progress of upcoming and ongoing investigations. Additionally, these monthly meetings allow investigators and prosecutors to provide feedback to one another. This provides a forum in which investigators can express concerns about how their cases are being prosecuted and prosecutors can express concerns about how investigations are proceeding.

The supervisors from the District Attorneys' offices, the CDI Captain, and the CHP Assistant Chief or Special Services Captain will meet periodically to assess program progress, investigations and prosecutions. They will ensure that lines of communication remain clear and open, and that all parties remain on track towards achieving the goals of the grant program.

Finally, both counties have long established relationships not only with each other but also with CHP and CDI. This facilitates easy, cordial and familiar contact. In short, because we deal with each other regularly and effectively, our relationships do not need to be established, only reinforced and maintained.

Steps to Achieve Objectives

The supervising deputy district attorney confers regularly with CDI. We also are in regular communication with our colleagues from Riverside County to identify any overlap in criminal investigations and prosecutions. We will continue to monitor the activities of our employees assigned to the grant. We will coordinate the use of District Attorney resources assigned to the grant. We will also coordinate filing and dispositions on common defendants with adjacent counties to optimize the punishment of offenders. The supervising deputy district attorney will meet and confer with the program investigation supervisors as required. Issues of District Attorney policy will be addressed and resolved by the Chief Deputies of each county.

Program prosecutors for each county will coordinate to ensure uniformity of policies, legal opinions, and procedures for operations and prosecutions. They will be available to assist CDI, CHP, and other agencies with advice involving search warrants, arrest warrants, legal opinions, undercover operations, suspect interviews, filing complaints, grand jury proceedings and trials. They will meet regularly with the Urban Grant Task Force to discuss case development and investigations. If necessary, prosecutors will assist one another with program responsibilities and prosecutions.

Program Staffing

SBCDA will maintain program staffing with one prosecutor, one investigator and, if budgeted as requested, half a paralegal. Our investigator will remain assigned to the Urban Grant Task Force. Investigation and prosecution staff from other grant programs, most often from the Automobile Insurance Fraud Program, will assist when necessary. The supervising deputy district attorney will monitor case assignments. The prosecutors and investigators will meet regularly with SIUs, NICB, RAID and other law enforcement personnel to generate cases.

Quality Control and Budget Monitoring

The supervising deputy district attorney will monitor the activities of their employees and coordinate the use of their resources.

SBCDA's program will operate within the managerial and organizational framework utilized for all grant programs administered by SBCDA. The Chief Deputy District Attorney will have ultimate oversight over the management of the Urban Grant Program. The Chief over the Bureau of Administration, which oversees all budgetary and fiscal issues for SBCDA, will oversee the disbursement of funds for salaries and other expenses. Responsibility for ensuring that disbursements comply with grant guidelines and regulations rests with the Chief of the Bureau of Administration and the Chief Deputy District Attorney, who must approve all disbursements.

Integration with Other Fraud Units

In San Bernardino County, the Urban Grant Program functions as a companion unit of the Automobile Insurance Fraud Program. Both are part of the larger Specialized Prosecutions Division, which manages all the fraud programs, including Workers' Compensation Fraud, Welfare Fraud, and Real Estate Fraud, as well as other specializations such as Consumer and Environmental Crimes, Major Frauds, Wiretaps, and Asset Forfeiture. This arrangement enables the attorneys and investigators assigned to those units to interact, as well as share case and defendant information and expertise in fraud investigations and prosecutions.

In San Bernardino County, the Urban Grant also benefits from the technological expertise of a former investigator with the Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit. Automobiles and other electronic devices have become repositories of significant amounts of digital evidence. As with DNA providing the ability to solve crimes that were once thought to be

unsolvable, digital data has proven critical in prosecuting fraud cases that were once deemed unprovable. Several years ago, SDAI Chuck Petersen received training in accessing and using evidence obtained from Event Data Recorders (EDR, aka the “black box”), Infotainment systems, ZETX, key fobs, and other devices containing digital data. This hi-tech expertise has resulted in the successful investigation and prosecution of automobile insurance fraud cases that were not otherwise possible. Digital evidence is THE investigative tool of the future. SBCDA has committed itself to advancing their expertise in this field.

PLAN TO MEET THE GOALS OF THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

The Insurance Commissioner set forth five objectives for a successful Organized Automobile Fraud Activity Interdiction Program in his letter of March 6, 2024. The Commissioner’s objectives are designed to “ensure a clearly defined and consistent strategy.” We plan to meet the announced objectives as follows:

Public Safety

We share the Commissioner’s view that “[t]he safety of all Californians is of utmost priority.” The primary purpose of all law enforcement agencies is to protect the safety of the public. When insurance scams involve incidents of staged traffic collisions or faulty vehicle repairs, the unknowing drivers on the road are potential victims. To combat the danger inherent in these practices, we will continue to partner with CDI, CHP, NICB and BAR to detect, investigate and ultimately prosecute these fraudulent activities. Our goal is to permanently close down businesses that threaten the public safety by ensuring that offenders lose their business licenses, are convicted of the crimes they committed, and are sentenced appropriately.

We will continue to identify and prioritize cases that jeopardize public safety. We will accomplish this by ensuring that the Urban Grant Task Force adopts this strategy and by encouraging regional automobile theft task forces, such as RAID and SANCATT, to do so as well.

Medical-Legal Fraud

Aggressively pursuing medical provider fraud investigations and prosecutions is a priority in our fraud programs. While we rarely receive viable referrals of medical provider fraud related specifically to Organized Automobile Insurance Fraud, we are aware that the problem exists in the Inland Empire. We are always available to work with stakeholders to identify potentially viable investigations and prosecutions of this type of fraud. We make this known through industry outreach, and specifically tailoring that outreach to inform the industry on evidence and data trends which might indicate medical or legal provider fraud is involved.

Performance and Continuity within the Program

To ensure positive performance and continuity within the program, our plan in the upcoming fiscal years is to continue to aggressively pursue cases in the most efficient manner possible and to maintain dedicated team members with expertise in this area. Our program's ongoing success is predicated on the continued assignment of experienced investigators, as well as the continued assignment of experienced and energetic attorney personnel. SBCDA is committed to stability and continuity. Personnel Continuity is discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this grant application.

However, continued success must be supported by adequate staffing and appropriate funding. SBCDA's program funds one prosecutor and one investigator. The awards for Fiscal Years 2021 – 2024 were insufficient to fully pay for these positions. Increases in salary, benefits, retirement contributions and other expenses resulted in costs exceeding the grant awards.

With SBCDA, the projected budget schedule for salary and benefits for existing staff (which excludes the requested paralegal position), and operating expenses in Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 just for existing staff is \$677,723. This is the minimum award necessary for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 to ensure stability and continuity of the status quo.

The grant awards will only be used to fund salary and benefits for program personnel and necessary operating expenses. Losing even a single position due to a lack of funding would undermine a successful Urban Grant program. We renew our request to fund the addition of a partial paralegal position. Adequate support staff is no longer a luxury, but a critical piece of a successful program.

Outreach

We utilize two prongs for successful outreach. The first is outreach to law enforcement and stakeholder organizations to aid in detecting, investigating and prosecuting fraud cases. The second is informing the public about fraud activity. This allows unsuspecting victims to protect themselves and report suspected fraud, while deterring would-be offenders.

Outreach begins with case development. As such, CHP, CDI, regional task forces, local law enforcement, and the multitude of private organizations, such as SIUs and NICB, remain key relationships. Our program seeks to broaden these relationships at every opportunity. Our prosecutors and investigator regularly attend meetings sponsored by CDI, IASIU, WSATI, and Red Helmet (i.e., arson investigators and fire departments). They train local enforcement agencies and new cadets to look for overt and hidden signs of automobile fraud activity. They create, maintain, and encourage open lines of communication between these agencies and the Urban Grant. Finally, the prosecutors make every effort to engage early with investigations to advise and guide the investigation into, when warranted, a filed criminal case.

Outreach to the public is done primarily by advertising the program's successes. An educated and informed public gives it the tools to protect itself from victimization by fraud. It also turns the public into a source for reporting suspected fraudulent activity. Advertising our successful investigations, prosecutions, and punishment of offenders serves to deter those who may be tempted to commit fraud.

Just as we have made sure that news of our successful operations were widely circulated, we will continue to utilize our unfunded Public Information Officers to coordinate the flow of information to newspapers and all other media outlets and, when appropriate, issue press releases regarding key activities in newsworthy cases. Advertisement of arrests, prosecutions, punishments, closure of businesses, and other consequences of fraud activity serve to educate the public and deter criminal behavior. Our program will continue to advertise our program, its successes, and the punishments received by offenders as a component of our overall program strategy.

Balanced Caseload

We strive for a global approach in tackling organized automobile fraud. While we are cognizant of our limited investigative and prosecutorial resources, we balance this concern against our duty to enforce the law. Based upon the nature of organized automobile fraud within our county, a balanced caseload is achievable and, as a goal, has endured as an integral aspect of our program over the years. We fully anticipate once again achieving this goal in the upcoming fiscal years. Our plan to achieve this goal includes not only continuing to successfully investigate and prosecute the “bread and butter” of our program along with the large fraud rings, but to add the most complex fraud components such as medical provider and insider fraud cases as those opportunities present themselves. As we have done in past years, we will continue to regularly interact with the industry stakeholders to keep the pipeline full of quality referrals and to ensure that the referrals will lead to fruitful investigations.

MULTI-YEAR GOALS

We are pleased with the results of our program to access data stored within vehicles to investigate criminality. Our commitment to using this type of evidence to identify criminality involving vehicles remains a long-term commitment. This effort, which we call *Operation Trojan Horse* because it relies on information hidden within the vehicle, will continue to be refined as our experience grows. We remain hopeful our success in proving automobile fraud with the use of data stored in vehicles will encourage automobile manufacturers to permit easier access to vehicle data.

Collaboration and mutually beneficial interactions with our partners in combatting automobile fraud will always be an ongoing relationship. Furthering these ties in ways that continue to allow us and our partners to be productive and effective must necessarily be a process without defined end. As a result, nurturing those ties will not be a goal that can be accomplished in a single year.

Outreach to law enforcement, SIUs and the community at large will be an ongoing part of our program. We must continually reinvest efforts to communicate with, and educate, those whose lives are impacted by auto fraud and the countermeasures that are taken as a result. These tasks do not have a defined end, so they cannot be accomplished within a single year.

RESTITUTION

Fiscal Year	Restitution Ordered	Restitution Collected
2023-24	\$31,381	\$23,890
2022-23	\$51,333	\$46,819
2021-22	\$0	\$23,565
2020-21	\$458,910	\$21,007
2019-20	\$565,146	\$160,904
TOTAL	\$1,106,770	\$276,185

The California Constitution guarantees victims of crime full restitution for any economic loss. At the initial investigation and case-filing stages, we contact the victim to determine monetary loss. Early determination of loss enables us to settle restitution as part of the plea agreement. In most instances, there is a stipulation to the amount of restitution at the time of the plea.

Securing a stipulation and/or order for restitution is frequently simple. Successful collection is more difficult. As the outlook for significant punishment fades in California's evolving criminal justice system, we have decided to turn our attention towards collecting restitution as a significant, albeit much less effective, sanction against defendants. When we can secure significant punishment, we will pursue it. When that appears unlikely, we focus on restitution.

Towards that end, we will look for ways to incentivize early payment of restitution, including up-front payments at sentencing. That which is not collected up-front will be made payable in monthly installments as a term of probation. To ensure compliance with payment terms, we will regularly check for delinquent payment accounts. When necessary, we will pursue legal action to enforce compliance, such as filing a petition to revoke probation. This is a tool SBCDA has successfully used in our Workers' Compensation Fraud and Automobile Insurance Fraud programs. Additionally, we will expand the use of Judicial Council Forms CR-110 and CR-115. Although we have used these forms in our other fraud units, we have not effectively implemented their use in Urban Grant. This will change.

Utilization Plan

SBCDA is requesting award increases for each of the next three fiscal years. We are requesting a total base grant award of \$2,245,430 over the next three fiscal years as follows:

- \$728,833 in Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025
- \$745,635 in Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026
- \$770,962 in Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027

We understand that our grant request is a significant increase from our award in Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024. However, our Urban Grant Program is chronically unfunded. The awards from Fiscal Years 2021 through 2024, including any additional funding, has only paid for a part of salary and benefits. The entire award will directly fund fraud investigations and prosecutions.

TRAINING AND OUTREACH RECEIVED

FY 2023-2024 (July 1, 2021 - Present)

Name	Training Date(s)	Provider	Location	Topic	Hours Credit
William Smyser	9/19 to 9/21/2021	California Peace Officers Association	San Diego	Leadership, media strategies, investigation tools	24
	10/19 to 10/22/2021	California District Attorney Association	Carlsbad	Auto Insurance Fraud and Major Fraud cases	24
	3/2/2022	California Peace Officers Association	Sacramento, CA	Legislative Update on Laws and Bills	8
	4/27/2022	California Department of Insurance	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	Search Warrant Entry Team Training	16
	9/26 to 9/28/2022	California Peace Officers Association	San Diego	Leadership, media strategies, investigation tools	24
	1/12/2023	LA Clear/ Western States Information Network	Commerce, CA	Cell phone and location data analysis training	16
	4/27/2022	California Department of Insurance	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	Search Warrant Entry Team Training	16
	11/14 and 11/15/23	Joint Regional Intelligence Center	Riverside, CA	Active Shooter/Terror Cells/terror financing	16
	1/30 to 2/01/24	California District Attorney Association	Newport Beach, CA	Auto Insurance Fraud and Major Investigation Techniques	20
	2/20/2024	LA Clear/ Western States Information Network	CDI Rancho	Investigation Assistance and Location Conflicts	2
	2/5 to 2/6/24	California Peace Officers Association	Sacramento, CA	Legislative Update on Laws and Bills	8
	2/28/2024	SBDA	CDI-Rancho	Cal ECPA Guidelines and Procedures	1.5
	4/22-4/23/24	SBDA-Fox Valley College	SBDA	Open Source and Google Investigative Tools and procedur	16
Denise D. Yoakum	11/8/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Vision for Insurance Fraud	1.5
	11/8/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Social Media	1.5
	11/8/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Telehealth and Covid 19	1
	11/8/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Introduction to Auto Insurance Fraud	1
	11/8/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Auto Insurance/Arson Case Study	1
	11/8/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Electronic Data Recorders	1
	11/8/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	EDR Tampering, A Rising trend in Insurance Fraud	1
	11/8/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Classic Car Fraud Investigations	1
	11/8/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Repartriation of Vehicles from Mexico and CHP role	1
	11/9/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Exotic Car Scheme	1
	11/9/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Investigation into Auto Glass/Windshield Schemes	1
	11/9/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Investigating Staged/Collusive Auto Accidents	1
	11/9/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Impact of Nat'l Emergencies on Fraud Trends	1
	11/9/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Parking & Unattended Hit and Run Pattern Analysis	1
	11/10/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Forensic Evaluation of Workplace Injury	2
	11/10/2021	SCFIA Knox Ricksen LLP	Palm Springs	Restitution and Recovery/Post Conviction	2
9/12/2022	SBCDA	San Bernardino	Disrupting Implicit Bias	1	
6/27/2023	CDAA	Sacramento	Jury Selection	5.25	
1/17/2024	FCA	Dept. of Insurance	Fire Cause Analysis	1	

	2/12/2024	SBCDA	Fontana	Brady Evidence, legal updates, technology, civility	4.25
	2/28/2024	District Attorney's Office	Dept. of Insurance	CALECPA training	2.5
	3/31/2024	SBCDA	San Bernardino	Understanding Geolocation Data	1
	3/31/2024	SBCDA	San Bernardino	Early Release from Prison: Credits, Program, Parole	1.5

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
ENFORCEMENT BRANCH
FY 2024-2025 GRANT FUNDING PROGRAMS**

COUNTY	San Bernardino
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PROGRAM	URBAN
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Enter Requested Data				Select from drop-down menu		
Date Conducted mm/dd/yy	Location	Conducted By	# of Attendees / Contacts [1]	Purpose & Content	Target Audience	Method
2/8/2022	CHP Indio	Urban Grant Team	15	Training/Educating LEA Partners	Law Enforcement	Presentation
2/24/2022	CHP Indio	Urban Grant Team	15	Training/Educating LEA Partners	Law Enforcement	Presentation
5/12/2022	Upland PD	Urban Grant Team	12	Training/Educating LEA Partners	Law Enforcement	Presentation
9/8/2022	CHP San Bernardino	Urban Grant Team	15	Training/Educating LEA Partners	Law Enforcement	Presentation
07/19/23	Department of Insurance Rancho Cucamonga Office	DDA Yoakum	26	training/Educating LEA Partners	law Enforcement	Presentation
12/17/23	Claremont Rotary	William Smyser	30	Public Awareness: Education Component	General Public	Presentation
02/22/24	CHP Rancho Cucamonga	CDI & DDA Yoakum	21	Training/Educating LEA Partners	Law Enforcement	Presentation
02/28/24	Department of Insurance Rancho Cucamonga Office	DDA Hoffman	40	training/Educating LEA Partners	Law Enforcement	Presentation
03/06/24	CHP Rancho Cucamonga	CDI & DDA Yoakum	12	training/Educating LEA Partners	Law Enforcement	Presentation
03/15/24	Dale Middle School	William Smyser	75	Public Awareness: Education Component	General Public	Presentation
03/21/24	CHP Rancho Cucamonga	CDI & DDA Yoakum	5	training/Educating LEA Partners	Law Enforcement	Presentation

FUTURE TRAINING AND OUTREACH PLANNED

We will offer training for SIU's, NICB, CDI, CHP, local and regional automobile task forces, as well as other local law enforcement agencies. We recognize that each of these organizations have different goals and needs, so we will provide more generalized training in areas of broad interest and tailor smaller sections for each entity according to their needs.

We will continue to work to make patrol level law enforcement aware of the indicia of automobile fraud. This includes making them aware of signs that staged collisions, passenger stuffing, or vehicle arsons have occurred that might signal insurance fraud motivations. Helping these partners identify facts that speak to these possibilities at an early stage of an investigation is crucial to including trained personnel as quickly as possible. With that in mind, Task Force members will continue to respond to crime scenes when requested by first responders.

In addition to trainings, we shall continue to host meetings jointly with CDI. The meetings provide opportunities to share information and strategies and give participants the benefit of exchanging ideas geared toward our common goals of enhancing public safety and investigating fraud.

As discussed previously, our offices are aware of the role that social media plays in today's information driven environment. By using various platforms easily available to the public, we seek to further our messages to enhance knowledge of our resources. We also hope to deter further criminal conduct by shedding light on the consequences of fraudulent behavior through our successful investigations and prosecutions.

We will continue its close working relationship with CDI and will offer trainings to CDI investigators as we have the past several years. We will continue to be responsive to requests from our CDI partners when they request training in certain areas as needed and are available to present classes on a variety of fraud related topics both to investigators and to SIU personnel.

Additionally, we plan to continue our established tradition of presenting at large, state-wide fraud conferences throughout the year. Our CDDA overseeing the Urban Grant Unit is on the planning committee for CDAA's Annual Fraud Symposium which is tentatively scheduled for October of 2024. Numerous attorneys and investigators are expected to present trainings on a multitude of insurance fraud topics at that conference as we have done in years past.






Urban Grant MOU FY 2024-2027 Final

Final Audit Report

2024-06-18

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**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE - FRAUD DIVISION
ORGANIZED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM**

Submitted: Not Submitted

Version #: 1

FISCAL YEAR: 2023-24

From (7/1/23 to 06/30/24)

PROGRAM REPORT FOR: **SAN BERNARDINO****COUNTY**

I. Number of Suspected Fraud Claims
Reviewed from **7/1/23** through **06/30/24**

1

II. DOCUMENTED CASE REFERRALS SOURCES	PENDING	ACCEPTED	REJECTED	APPLICANT CASES	NON-APPLICANT CASES
A. CDI - Fraud Division		2			2
B. Private Carrier	1				1
C. Local Law Enforcement	2				2
D. Third Party Administrator					
E. Others					
F. Total (A-E)	3	2		0	5

III. INVESTIGATIONS - PRE FILING DECISIONS	CASES	SUSPECTS
A. Number of cases and suspects carried forward on 6/30/23 to FY 23/24	3	11
B. Number of NEW cases and suspects initiated from 7/1/23 through 06/30/24	2	20
C. Total Cases/Suspect (A+B)	5	31
1. Declinations - Rejections	0	1
2. Number of CDI Joint Investigations (from A & B)	0	0
D. Investigative Assist(s)	0	0
1. Number TO outside agency	0	0
2. Number FROM an outside agency	5	31
E. Number of unassisted investigations by District Attorney	0	0

III. INVESTIGATIONS - PRE FILING DECISIONS CONTINUED					
F. Case Investigations by Categories and Complexities	STANDARD	MEDIUM	COMPLEX	VERY COMPLEX	TOTAL CASES
1. Applicant Fraud					
2. Fraud Ring				3	3
3. Staged Accident					
4. Capping					
5. Medical Provider Fraud					
6. Insider Fraud					
7. Economic Car Theft				2	2
8. Legal Office Fraud					
9. Other					
Total (1-9)				5	5

IV. ARRESTS THIS REPORTING PERIOD	CASES	DEFENDANTS
A. Arrests by District Attorney - Felony	0	0
B. Arrests by CDI - Felony	2	18
C. Arrest by joint effort CDI / DA - Felony	0	0
D. Arrest by other - Felony	0	1
E. Total (A - D) - Felony	2	19
F. Arrests by District Attorney - Misdemeanor	0	0
G. Arrests by CDI - Misdemeanor	0	0
H. Arrest by joint effort CDI / DA - Misdemeanor	0	0
I. Arrest by other -Misdemeanor	0	0
J. Total (F- I) - Misdemeanor	0	0
K. Total (E+J) - Felonies and Misdemeanors	2	19

V. CASES IN COURT							
A. Cases carried forward on 6/30/23 to FY 23/24 by Categories and Complexities	STANDARD	MEDIUM	COMPLEX	VERY COMPLEX	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEFENDANTS	TOTAL CHARGEABLE FRAUD (in dollars)
1. Applicant Fraud			1		1	2	\$95,000
2. Fraud Ring				5	5	7	\$1,371,000
3. Staged Accident				1	1	3	\$50,000
4. Capping							
5. Medical Provider Fraud							
6. Insider Fraud							
7. Economic Car Theft							
8. Legal Office Fraud							
9. Other			1		1	3	\$5,000

V. CASES IN COURT (CONTINUED)

B. New Case filings/indictments initiated 7/1/23 through 06/30/24 by Categories and Complexities	STANDARD	MEDIUM	COMPLEX	VERY COMPLEX	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEFENDANTS	TOTAL CHARGEABLE FRAUD (in dollars)
1. Applicant Fraud							
2. Fraud Ring				2	2	20	\$355,000
3. Staged Accident							
4. Capping							
5. Medical Provider Fraud							
6. Insider Fraud							
7. Economic Car Theft							
8. Legal Office Fraud							
9. Other							
C. Total Cases in Court - Categories and Complexities (A+B)	STANDARD	MEDIUM	COMPLEX	VERY COMPLEX	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEFENDANTS	TOTAL CHARGEABLE FRAUD (in dollars)
1. Applicant Fraud			1		1	2	\$95,000
2. Fraud Ring				7	7	27	\$1,726,000
3. Staged Accident				1	1	3	\$50,000
4. Capping							
5. Medical Provider Fraud							
6. Insider Fraud							
7. Economic Car Theft							
8. Legal Office Fraud							
9. Other			1		1	3	\$5,000
10. Total Cases in Court from (C)			2	8	10	35	\$1,876,000

V. CASES IN COURT (CONTINUED)

D. TOTAL CASES BY FILING CLASSIFICATION	CASES	DEFENDANTS	
1. Felony Cases from (C)	10	35	
2. Misdemeanor Cases from (C)	0	0	
3. Civil Cases from (C)	0	0	
E. COURT PROCEEDINGS	CASES	DEFENDANTS	MOTIONS / HEARINGS
1. Number of Preliminary Hearings	1	3	
2. Number Held to Answer	1	3	
3. Number of Grand Jury Indictments	0	0	
4. Number of Motions requiring a response			4
5. Number of Court Hearings			126

VI. FELONY DISPOSITIONS	CASES	DEFENDANTS
A. Convictions	4	5
1. Pled Guilty / No Contest	3	4
2. Number of Convictions by Trial	1	1
B. Sentences		
1. State Prison Imposed		
2. County Jail Imposed		3
3. Probation, no Jail Imposed		
C. Reduction to Misdemeanor		2
D. Municipal Court Dismissals		
E. Superior Court Dismissals		
	AMOUNT ORDERED	AMOUNT COLLECTED *
F. Amount of Fines & Penalty Assessments	\$775	\$182
G. Amount of Restitution	\$31,381	\$23,890

*Amount collected from all cases during the fiscal year.

VII. MISDEMEANOR - DISPOSITIONS	CASES	DEFENDANTS
A. Convictions	0	0
1. Pled Guilty / No Contest		
2. Convicted by Trial		
B. Sentences		
1. County Jail Imposed		
2. Probation, no Jail Imposed		
C. Dismissals		
	AMOUNT ORDERED	AMOUNT COLLECTED *
D. Amount of Fines & Penalty Assessments		
E. Amount of Restitution		

VIII. CIVIL CASES	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER OF JUDGMENTS
A. Cases carried forward on 6/30/23 to FY 23/24		
B. New Cases filed this reporting period from 7/1/23 through 06/30/24		
C. Total Cases (A+B)		
D. Cases Concluded this reporting period.		
E. Judgments	AMOUNT ORDERED	AMOUNT COLLECTED*
1. Restitution		
2. Fines and Penalties		
3. Costs		

IX. SEARCH WARRANTS	NUMBER	SUSPECTS	LOCATIONS
A. Total Search Warrants Issued	62	20	62
B. Special Master Search Warrants	0	0	0

X. OUTREACH TRAINING	NUMBER		
A. Number of training sessions	5		
B. Total Number of trainees	104		

**CONVICTION INFORMATION
COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO**

				CONVICTION TYPE																			
CASE #	DEFENDANT'S	ROLE*	DATE OF CONVICTION	FELONY (X)	MISDEMEANOR (X)	PRIMARY CONVICTION CHARGE	ESTIMATED CHARGEABLE FRAUD (\$)	COURT	COUNTY JAIL (days)	PRISON (months)	PROBATION (months)	COMMUNITY SERVICE (hours)	OTHERS	TOTAL ACQUITTALS	TOTAL DISMISSALS	ASSETS FROZEN (\$)	RESTITUTION ORDERED (\$)	CIVIL FINE (\$)	CRIMINAL FINE (\$)	VICTIM NAMES	REFERRAL SOURCE **	DDA NAME	
2019-31989	Lopez, Jose De Jesus Bravo	B	12/13/23	X		PC550(B)(3)	100000	San Bernardino Superior	90		12						\$6,068		\$235	AAA Insurance	A	Denise Yoakum	
2020-48891	Martinez, Hector Uriel	B	10/04/23	X		PC550(A)(1)	30000	San Bernardino Superior	90		24						\$11,289		\$300	Nationwide Insurance	A	Denise Yoakum	
2022-10369	Monterrosa, Jonathan	B	04/10/24	X		PC550(A)(1)	80000	San Bernardino Superior	60		24						\$2,211			Progressive Insurance	A	Denise Yoakum	
2019-55194	Pavic, Bojana	B	04/30/24	X		PC550(b)(1)	95000	San Bernardino Superior			12								\$240	Sentry Select Insurance	A	Denise Yoakum	
2024-10369	Tooles, Jasmine Lashette	B	06/06/24	X		PC550(B)(1) PC550(A)(1) PC529-F	80000	San Bernardino Superior	120		24						\$11,812			Geico Insurance	A	Denise Yoakum	
FY (2023-24) Sub Total				5	0																		
TOTAL				5	0		385000									\$0	\$31,380	\$0	\$775				

**CONVICTION INFORMATION
COUNTY:**

SAN BERNARDINO

Insert appropriate letter *Role:		** Referral Sources	
Applicant Fraud	A	CDI - Fraud Division	A
Fraud Ring	B	Private Carrier	B
Staged Accident	C	Local Law Enforcement	C
Capping	D	Third Party Administrator	D
Medical provider Fraud	E	Other	E
Insider Fraud	F		
Economic Car Theft	G		
Legal Office Fraud	H		
Other	I		

BUDGET CATEGORY AND LINE ITEM DETAIL B. Operating Expenses	COST 1st Funding Cycle (FY 2024-25)	COST 2nd Funding Cycle (FY 2025-26)	COST 3rd Funding Cycle (FY 2026-27)
Memberships Dues to professional organizations required to perform job related duties.	\$700	\$700	\$700
Publications/Subscriptions Legal updates and publications pertaining to unit.	\$400	\$450	\$500
Office Expense Consumable office supplies necessary to administer and run the program.	\$250	\$300	\$350
Audit Allowance Financial and compliance audit per guidelines.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Motor Pool/Private Mileage Reimburse vehicle usage.	\$15,000	\$15,450	\$15,900

BUDGET CATEGORY AND LINE ITEM DETAIL B. Operating Expenses (cont'd)	COST 1st Funding Cycle (FY 2024-25)	COST 2nd Funding Cycle (FY 2025-26)	COST 3rd Funding Cycle (FY 2026-27)
Professional Services Charges for online research through West.	\$350	\$360	\$370
Training Tuition costs & registration fees for unit training	\$2,000	\$2,060	\$2,121
Air Travel Airline charges for personnel attending Training	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Travel Funds for travel to trainings, seminars and meetings for unit	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
Discovery Costs For discovery costs associated with current cases	\$0	\$0	\$0

BUDGET CATEGORY AND LINE ITEM DETAIL B. Operating Expenses (cont'd)	COST 1st Funding Cycle (FY 2024-25)	COST 2nd Funding Cycle (FY 2025-26)	COST 3rd Funding Cycle (FY 2026-27)
Non-Inventoriable Equipment To replace office equipment necessary to Administer and run the Urban program efficiently.	\$0	\$0	\$0
Forensic Investigations Forensic computer upgrades, hard drives for Imaging, supplies and software upgrades	\$0	\$0	\$0
Community Outreach Engage community AIF efforts	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indirect Expenses	\$41,796	\$43,014	\$44,204
CATEGORY TOTAL	\$65,496	\$67,834	\$70,145

BUDGET CATEGORY AND LINE ITEM DETAIL C. Equipment	COST 1st Funding Cycle (FY 2024-25)	COST 2nd Funding Cycle (FY 2025-26)	COST 3rd Funding Cycle (FY 2026-27)
CATEGORY TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-
PROGRAM TOTAL	\$728,833	\$745,635	\$770,962
CARRYOVER – PRIOR YEAR	-0-	-0-	-0-

