

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

**In the matter of:
Recognizing the 12th Anniversary of the Family Justice Center**

Resolution No. 2023/148

WHEREAS, the Family Justice Center is a warm and welcoming one-stop center for individuals and families affected by interpersonal violence -- domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse and human trafficking. The Center is a model of collaboration and a hub organization fostering collaboration and partnership among its 60+ direct-service partners, offering a wide-ranging and diverse multi-sector approach to family violence assistance, intervention, and prevention; and

WHEREAS, the family justice model is identified as a best practice in the field of domestic violence intervention and prevention services and the United States Congress recognized the importance of the one stop family justice model in the Violence Against Women Act 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Family Justice Center is the result of planning and collaboration that began in 2001 when the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors established the “Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence” (“Zero Tolerance”) initiative to eliminate family violence and elder abuse. The Zero Tolerance initiative (now known as the Alliance to End Abuse) partners saw the need for a one-stop service center and established the first Family Justice Center in Richmond in 2011; and

WHEREAS, an expanded permanent location for the West Family Justice Center opened in June 2015, a second Family Justice Center opened in Concord in March 2015, and a third Center opened in Antioch in July 2019, thereby realizing the vision of building a countywide network of support for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse and human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the Family Justice Center’s programs and services are client-centered, strengths-based, and trauma-informed, offering crisis support, long term support, and community education. The Center’s comprehensive, wrap-around services are available in multiple languages and include case management, civil legal assistance (including family law and immigration assistance), advocacy, mental health services, peer counseling, a medical clinic, housing assistance, assistance for victims of crimes, law enforcement investigation and prosecution, adult education, job placement services, cooking and nutrition classes, parenting classes, and safety net services; and

WHEREAS, each Family Justice client works with an expertly-trained, culturally- and linguistically-competent Navigator. Navigators serve as each client’s single and trusted point of contact and provide guidance that supports clients to make safety plans and connect with services to address their immediate crisis related needs. After working on their crisis, Navigators connect clients to “long term safety” programs that will help build resources in four domains: health (including mental health), education and training, wealth and community; and

WHEREAS, the Family Justice Center serves survivors of intimate partner violence regardless of their income, gender, location or immigration status. In 2022, the Center served over 4,400 clients experiencing violence in their homes. Requests for mental health and legal services doubled. 63% of our clients lived in very low-income households earning less than \$2,000 per month. 14% were over 60 years old. 81% were Black, Indigenous, or people of color, including 52% Latinx or Hispanic. 29% spoke Spanish as their primary language; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize the 12th Anniversary of the Family Justice Center and 22nd Anniversary of the Zero Tolerance initiative, and recognizes the lifesaving and hope-giving work of the Family Justice Center and its 60+ partners to bring safety, healing and hope to individuals and families experiencing violence and abuse in our communities.

JOHN GIOIA

Chair, District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS

District III Supervisor

KEN CARLSON

District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: April 24, 2023

Monica Nino, County Administrator

By: _____, Deputy