

# APD Victim Services

Overview and Future  
Challenges

# APD Victim Services Division Overview

- **Established in 1981**

- **Mission**

To respond to the psychological and emotional needs of victims and witnesses of crime and trauma through crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, education, information and referrals

# Current Staffing Levels

- City funded positions
  - 1 manager, 3 supervisors, 20 counselors, 1 administrative assistant
- Grant funded positions
  - 4 counselors
- Volunteer positions (unpaid)
  - 89
- Social work interns (unpaid)
  - 2-3 per semester

# Victim Services Units

- **Crisis Response Team (1 supervisor, 10 counselors)**  
24/7 Response to crime and trauma scenes
- **Domestic Violence Unit (1 supervisor, 8 counselors)**  
Investigative support, counseling, safety planning and referrals to victims of domestic violence, intimate partner sexual assault, dating violence and stalking
- **Violent Crimes Against Persons Unit (1 supervisor, 6 counselors)**  
Investigative support, counseling, safety planning and referrals to victims and witnesses of major crimes, including homicide, sex crimes, robbery and child abuse

# Victim Services Funding History

- Historical funding sources - VOCA (Victims of Crime Act), VAWA (Violence Against Women Act), State 421 Fund, and OVW Community Defined Solutions to Violence Against Women (formerly Grants to Encourage Arrest)
  - In 1981, all original Victim Services Division positions were grant funded
  - During the late nineties, half of the positions were absorbed
  - Since 2000, ten positions have been lost due to lack of funding (grant and City)
- 4 victim counselor positions are currently grant funded (3 through State VAWA and 1 through OVW Community Defined Solutions)
- State and federal funding for victim assistance programs decreases every application period while competition for grant funded resources increases exponentially

# Impact of Lost Positions on Community Policing Efforts

- Loss of a single grant funded position would result in an average of 900 fewer crime victim contacts per year
- Additional reductions would greatly diminish APD's ability to be a full partner with local domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse collaborations and would directly affect traditionally underserved populations (60% of VS clients are minorities)
- Loss of grant funding sources would also seriously impact APD's ability to meet obligations to provide state mandated victim assistance to victims of violent crimes
- Victim Services is unable to meet current demand for services (from 2000-2010, Part 1 violent crime increased by 21%)

# Impact of Lost Positions (cont)

Number of Victim Services Contacts

