



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SOLANO**

**KRISHNA A. ABRAMS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Sharon S. Henry
Chief Deputy

Paul D. Sequeira
Chief Deputy

Ken Kramer
Chief Investigator

June 18, 2018

California Department of Insurance, Local Assistance Unit
Enforcement Branch Headquarters
2400 Del Paso Road, Suite 250
Sacramento, California 95834

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed is a copy of the Automobile Insurance Fraud Program's Request For Application for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, along with an electronic version of the application (CD/DVD). The DAR was submitted online on June 18, 2018. The Solano County Board of Supervisors Resolution will be submitted prior to the December 31, 2018 deadline.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Williams,
Deputy District Attorney
Solano County District Attorney's Office
707-784-6830

Cc: file

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE FRAUD DIVISION



AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATION
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

SECTION II APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

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**GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST and SEQUENCE
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

THE APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. GRANT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (FORM 02) completed and signed by the district attorney?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. PROGRAM CONTACT FORM (FORM 03) completed?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Original or certified copy of the BOARD RESOLUTION (FORM 04) included? If NOT, the cover letter must indicate the submission date.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
4. TABLE OF CONTENTS	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The County Plan includes:		
a) COUNTY PLAN QUALIFICATIONS (FORM 05)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) STAFF QUALIFICATIONS (FORM 06(A))	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) ORGANIZATIONAL CHART (FORM 06(B))	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) PROGRAM REPORT (DAR OR FORM 07)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) COUNTY PLAN PROBLEM STATEMENT (FORM 08)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) COUNTY PLAN PROGRAM STRATEGY (FORM 09)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Projected BUDGET (FORMS 10-12) included?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) LINE-ITEM TOTALS VERIFIED?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) PROGRAM BUDGET TOTAL (FORM 12) matches amount requested on FORM 02?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. EQUIPMENT LOG (FORM 13) completed and signed?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. JOINT PLAN (Attachment A) completed and signed?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. CONFIDENTIAL CASE DESCRIPTIONS (Attachment B) Is all content readable? A partial narrative is not acceptable.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. ELECTRONIC VERSION (CD/DVD) included?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

GRANT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM****Grant Period: July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**

Office of the District Attorney, County of Solano,
hereby makes application for funds under the Automobile Insurance Fraud Program
pursuant to Section 1872.8 of the California Insurance Code.

Contact: Jason Aguirre

Address: 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500

Fairfield, California 94533

Telephone: (707) 784-3267

(1) New Funds Being Requested: \$ 145,031.22

(2) Estimated Carryover Funds: \$8,966

Janice M. Williams
(3) *Program Director*

Gina Chen
(4) *Financial Officer*



(5) *District Attorney's Signature*

Name: Krishna A. Abrams

Title: District Attorney

County: Solano

Address: 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500

Fairfield, California 94533

Telephone: (707) 784-6800

Date: 6-15-18

**AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM
PROGRAM CONTACT FORM
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

1. Provide contact information for the person with day-to-day operational responsibility for the program, who can be contacted for questions regarding the program.

a. Name: Jason Aguirre
b. Title: Senior Staff Analyst
c. Address: 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500
d. Fairfield, California 94533
e. E-mail address: JLAguirre@solanocounty.com
f. Telephone Number: (707) 784-3267 Fax Number: (707) 784-3267

2. Provide contact information for the District Attorney's Financial Officer.

a. Name: Gina Chen
b. Title: Accountant
c. Address: 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500
d. Fairfield, California 94533
e. E-mail address: GChen@solanocounty.com
f. Telephone Number: (707) 784-3436 Fax Number: (707) 784-3426

3. Provide contact information for questions regarding data collection/reporting.

a. Name: Janice M. Williams
b. Title: Lead Deputy District Attorney
c. Address: 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500
d. Fairfield, California 94533
e. E-mail address: JMWilliams@solanocounty.com
f. Telephone Number: (707) 784-6830 Fax Number: (707) 784-6830

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

AS INDICATED IN THE APPLICATION COVER LETTER. THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISERS RESOLUTION WILL BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 2018.

COUNTY PLAN: QUALIFICATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions to describe your experience in investigating and prosecuting automobile insurance fraud cases during the last two (2) fiscal years, as specified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 10, Section 2698.65.

- The outcomes reported in Form 5 shall represent activities funded by this grant program.
- If a case is being reported in more than one insurance fraud grant program, clearly identify the component(s) that apply to this program.

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

- Detail your program's successes for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 fiscal years ONLY. Include information you believe made your program successful.

Solano County's Automobile Insurance Fraud program is successful because the unit has an experienced and dedicated prosecutor who is enthusiastic about prosecuting fraud cases. Deputy District Attorney Janice Williams has been with the Solano County District Attorney's Office since November 1994. She is currently the Lead Deputy that supervises six units, including the automobile insurance fraud unit.

On April 3, 2017, Deputy District Attorney Irene Chew joined the unit under Ms. Williams' direct supervision. She has been with the Solano County District Attorney's office since 2000.

On April 11, 2018, District Attorney Investigator Steven Begley joined the unit. He has over 40 years of law enforcement experience, including 20 years with the Solano County Sheriff's Office and 20 years with the California Department of Insurance, Fraud Division. He has worked three years as a Team Manager for Liberty Mutual, Special Investigations Unit. Mr. Begley has arrested over 200 individuals for insurance fraud on both state and federal level and has testified as an expert witness regarding auto insurance fraud in Sonoma County Superior Court. He is a past president of the Northern California Fraud Investigators Association (NCFIA).

SOME OF THE SUCCESSES FOR 2017-2018

- A claimant automobile insurance fraud case went to a jury trial this year involving a defendant who allowed his car insurance policy to lapse. Approximately a month after his insurance lapsed, the defendant rear ended a woman's truck that had slowed suddenly in front of him. While the woman's truck received little damage, the defendant's car had severe damage from the left headlight to the driver's side door as he had collided with the truck's trailer hitch. The woman driver specifically recalled the accident time being shortly before 4pm as she was taking her granddaughter to a weekly appointment. The evidence at trial revealed that the defendant made a phone call to pay and reinstate his policy at 4:36pm, but did not report the accident at that time. The defendant contacted his insurance company the following day and reported the accident from the prior day, but stated that the time of the accident was at 5:30pm. Needing to substantiate the time, the claims adjuster called the woman driver who gave the accident time as shortly before 4pm. The defendant called the woman and repeatedly pleaded with her to do him a favor and change the accident time to 5:30pm. She refused and he became upset with her. Later that week, the defendant showed up at the woman's home and again begged her to change the time of the accident to 5:30pm. She refused.

At jury trial, the defendant was convicted of PC 550(a) and PC 550(b). The court found his strike prior and a prison prior to be true and the defendant is now facing up to 13 years in prison. He was remanded and has a sentencing date in July of 2018.

- A second case during this period involved a licensed insurance agent who committed premium insurance fraud by rewriting policies to avoid the original premiums. She would key in a payment to the system without actually receiving a payment from a customer to get a policy reinstated in hopes of receiving a payment in the future. She also rewrote policies for herself and family members without paying premiums. The insurance company paid out on a couple of these policies to customers who were not entitled to receive any benefits. All the while, she received commission. The loss for the insurance company was approximately \$14,000.

She pled to a felony PC 550(b)(1) and paid the restitution in full. The court placed her on formal probation, and ordered her to do 100 hours of community service.

SOME OF THE SUCCESSES FOR 2016-2017

- This case is an example of how the unit successfully worked with local law enforcement to prosecute an auto insurance fraud case. A local fire department and police department responded to a vehicle fire. Contact was made with the registered owner, who was later identified as the defendant. The defendant told the police that he had last seen his vehicle parked near his apartment complex

earlier that morning. As it was now gone, the defendant believed the vehicle was stolen. At the time he also told the officer that he was in good standing on his vehicle payments and the vehicle was fully insured. Per the defendant's insurance policy, his vehicle was covered for losses resulting from vandalism, fire or if it was stolen. The defendant filed a stolen vehicle report with his insurance company. The defendant underwent an Examination under Oath by the insurance company. The attorney conducting the exam noted there were inconsistencies in various areas within the defendant's statements. The case was referred back to the police agency for further investigation. The police agency contacted our auto insurance fraud unit. After further investigation was conducted, the detective conducted an interview of the defendant. During this interview, the defendant initially maintained that he believed that his vehicle had been stolen; however, he finally admitted that he was two months behind on his payments. He further told the police detective that he had called his bank several times asking that they pick up the vehicle prior to reporting the vehicle stolen and driving it to the location where it was located and setting the vehicle on fire.

On March 1, 2017, the defendant pled to a felony count of PC550 (b)(1) and a misdemeanor count of PC 452(c). He was sentenced in April to three years of formal probation, six months in county jail with a series of fines and fees. The court reserved jurisdiction over the issue of restitution.

- Next is an example of how a person's past can catch up with them. This defendant, along with two others staged an auto collision back on January 15, 2012. This defendant, referred to as defendant #1 was later determined to be the mastermind who designed the plan. defendant #1 contacted his insurance company and claimed he rear ended defendant #2's car while driving. Defendant #2 had a passenger in the car at the time, defendant #3. During the investigation, it was later determined that all three were friends. Both defendants #2 and #3 went to the emergency room on three separated occasions each claiming various injuries to the abdominal, neck, back and legs as a result of the collision. When initially questioned by defendant #1's insurance company, both defendants #2 and #3 gave false statements. Both defendants #2 and #3 eventually admitted to the staged collision for money and were successfully prosecuted in October of 2013. Meanwhile the mastermind, defendant #1, fled the jurisdiction. He was arrested in Connecticut in July of 2016 on the Solano County warrant. Our office extradited him back to our county. On September 9, 2016, he pled to PC 550(b)(1) as a felony. On the same day he pled, he was sentenced to two years in state prison (per PC 1170(h)).

2. Specify any unfunded contributions (i.e., financial, equipment, personnel, and technology) and support your county provided to the automobile insurance fraud program.

In an effort to ensure the success of this program, the Solano County District Attorney's Office has assigned Janice Williams to supervise the Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit and pay her salary outside the grant. The office also continues to provide all equipment that is necessary for the district attorney investigator and the deputy district attorney. County vehicles are also provided as needed. Every employee has a computer with access to network printers, and the internet access which Solano County requires that each employee sign and follow the County security protocol. All staff have access to Just Ware database wherein all cases are entered with events, dispositions, sentencing criteria, witness information, etc. updated as they occur. The Solano County District Attorney's Office also continues to provide photocopy, telephone, central duplicating, and paging services which are all directly related to the daily needs of the unit.

Also, when needed, other district attorney investigators will assist with in-field interviews and arrests.

3. Detail and explain the turnover or continuity of personnel assigned to your Automobile insurance fraud program. Include any rotational policies your county may have.

Deputy District Attorney Janice Williams has been with the Solano County District Attorney's Office since November of 1994. She has been serving as the fraud prosecutor since May of 2012. Since May of 2012, Ms. Williams has been successful in reaching out and establishing cohesive working relationships with the members of the CDI regional office, Golden Gate Division, NCFIA, BAR, NCIB and local law enforcement. She has successfully prosecuted numerous of fraud cases.

In April of 2017, Ms. Williams was promoted to Lead Deputy District Attorney over the Financial Crimes Unit. The Automobile Fraud Unit is, one of the six units, Ms. Williams now supervises. In order to maintain a smooth transition of the Automobile Fraud Unit, Ms. Williams continues to interact and maintain close working relationships with the above-mentioned organizations while training Deputy District Attorney Irene Chew on automobile insurance fraud cases.

Ms. Chew joined the unit in April of 2017 and has taken over the caseload. She has been with the Solano County District Attorney's Office since August 2000 handling various caseloads including general felony cases, prison cases, post-release community service cases, welfare fraud cases, and worker's compensation fraud cases. Since joining the unit, she has successfully prosecuted an auto insurance claimant fraud case that went to jury trial.

On April 11, 2018, District Attorney Investigator Steven Begley joined the unit. He has over 40 years of law enforcement experience, including 20 years with the Solano County Sheriff's Office and 20 years with the California Department of Insurance, Fraud Division. He has worked three years as a Team Manager for Liberty Mutual, Special Investigations Unit. Mr. Begley has arrested over 200 individuals for insurance fraud on both state and federal level and has testified as an expert witness regarding auto insurance fraud in Sonoma County Superior Court. He is a past president of the Northern California Fraud Investigators Association (NCFIA).

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

- a) California Department of Insurance
- b) NCFIA
- c) Local Law Enforcement
- d) BAR
- e) NICB

5. Were any frozen assets distributed in the current reporting period? (Assets may have been frozen in previous years.) If yes, please describe. If no, state none.

None

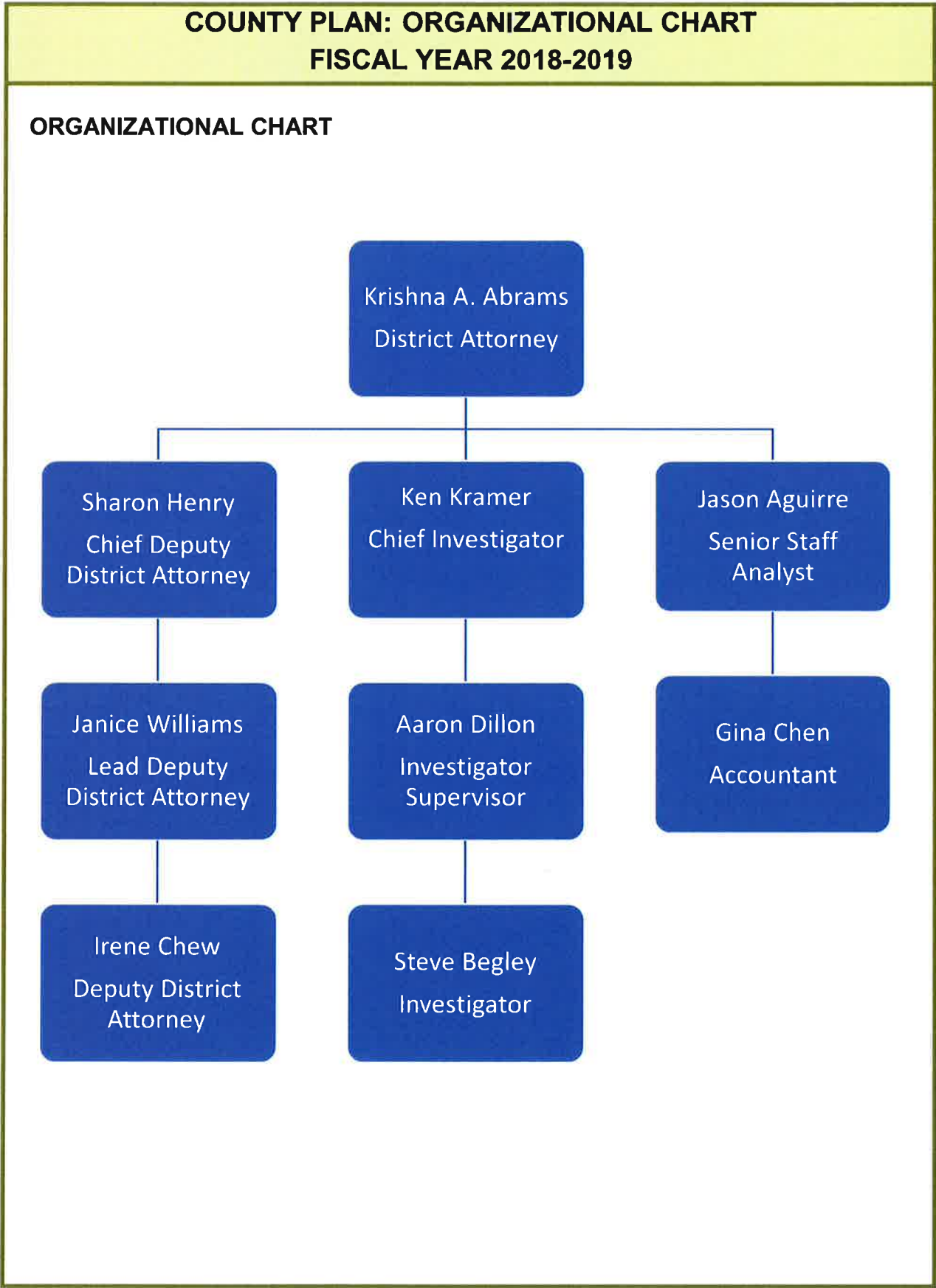
**COUNTY PLAN: STAFFING
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

COUNTY OF SOLANO

Prosecutors	% Time	Time With Program Start Date/End Date
Irene Chew	40	April 2017-Present

COUNTY OF SOLANO

Investigators	% Time	Time With Program Start Date/End Date
Steve Begley	100	



**COUNTY PLAN: DISTRICT ATTORNEY PROGRAM REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

DAR (FORM 07) is submitted online

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION WILL BE CAPTURED
FROM JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 15, 2018**

COUNTY PLAN: PROBLEM STATEMENT

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

PROBLEM STATEMENT

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

Use local data or other evidence to support your description.

Central Solano County is located 35 miles from Sacramento and approximately 32 miles northeast of San Francisco and Oakland. Interstate 80 bisects Solano County north and south. Interstate 680, Highway 12 and Interstate 505 also connect Solano with Napa and Yolo counties. Solano County houses a military base (Travis Air Force Base) and three state prisons (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California Medical Facility and Delta Conservation Camp) all of which attract populations of semi-transient people in the families of prison inmates and service personnel. The County is centrally located for those working in the construction trades in the outlying counties and is home to many commuters to the Bay Area and Sacramento Metropolitan locales.

According to data provided by the US Census Bureau (7/1/15) Solano County has approximately 436,092 residents. In December of 2016, the labor force was 210,100, with 199,400 employed and 10,700 unemployed. Per the Solano Economic Development Corporation, the key to Solano County successful economy is the competitiveness to attract and retained businesses providing jobs for Solano County residents and affordable housing when compared to prices in the Bay Area.

The Solano County District Attorney's Office recognizes that auto insurance fraud is a substantial problem in the region. A significant portion of auto insurance fraud cases in Solano County involve false and fraudulent claims filed by applicants.

One common scheme in Solano County involves drivers who do not carry mandatory insurance coverage and subsequently get involved in a collision resulting in vehicle damage and/or injuries. The drivers then purchase an insurance policy after-the-fact and file a claim with a false date of loss, post-dating the loss to a date after the insurance policy inception. The drivers file a false claim with the expectation the insurance company will pay for the damages and/or health care when in fact they did not have insurance coverage at the time of the collision.

Another common fraud scheme involves an applicant filing multiple claims for the same damage. This situation occurs when an insurance claim is paid due to damage from a legitimate accident or collision. The applicant receives payment from

the claim, but chooses not to repair the vehicle. The applicant then cancels the exiting policy and purchases a new policy from a different insurance company. The applicant subsequently files a false and fraudulent claim for a new "collision" and lists the same unrepaired damage from the first claim. The applicant expects the second insurance company to pay on the false claim for the same damages paid out by the first insurance company.

Other types of auto insurance fraud committed in Solano County include vehicle staged collisions, arsons committed by policy holders for financial gain, and auto body shops that fraudulently bill insurance companies for new replacement parts not used for work not performed according to the written estimate. There have also been false documents such as medical bills and altered or false auto repair bills.

COUNTY PLAN: PROGRAM STRATEGY

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

PROGRAM STRATEGY

1. Explain how your county plans to resolve the problem described in your problem statement. Include improvements in your program.

The Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit will continue to work with our regional CDI and local police agencies to coordinate investigations throughout the fiscal year. The unit recently hired a part-time investigator, Steven Begley, to work in the unit. Mr. Begley has over 40 years of law enforcement experience, including 20 years for the California Department of Insurance, Fraud Division. He has arrested over 200 individuals for insurance fraud on both the State and Federal level. He is currently reviewing and investigating the pending viable cases. Because of his prior experience, he will also be able to investigate the more complex automobile insurance fraud cases. The District Attorney's office will also continue to contribute unfunded resources from its own staff as well. Since joining the unit, Mr. Begley has begun investigating six claimant fraud cases. These cases range from standard to complex due to three of them having multiple suspects, one case having 4 suspects.

2. What are your plans to meet the announced goals of the Insurance Commissioner? Copies have been provided for your reference.

In terms of meeting the goal of **Public Safety** against traffic collisions on our roadways and vendors who provide faulty vehicle repairs, and place dangerous and unsafe vehicles on the roadways as a part of insurance scams, the Solano County District Attorney's Office has hired an experienced part-time investigator to make it possible to investigate the more complex cases such as multiple defendants, staged collisions, fraud rings, auto body shops, and joint undercover operations with Golden Gate Branch of CDI.

Solano County also believes that there is a significant amount of fraud committed by the **Medical-Legal Providers** within the County and the State on a whole. In order to meet the goal of conducting a concerted effort to investigate these types of case, the Solano County District Attorney's Office has hired an experienced part-time investigator to work jointly with the Golden Gate Branch of CDI.

Although in April 2017, Ms. Williams was promoted to Lead Deputy District Attorney over the Financial Crimes Unit, in terms of meeting the goal of **Performance and Continuity** within the program, Ms. Williams continues to interact and maintain close working relationships with the California Department of Insurance, NCFIA, BAR, NICB and local law enforcement while training and

integrating Deputy District Attorney Irene Chew with the above agencies and the auto fraud industry. Deputy District Attorney Irene Chew meets on a regular basis with the California Department of Insurance investigators to go over cases being investigated. She has stepped in and attended and participated in the various meetings held by the California Department of Insurance, NCFIA, BAR, NICB, and local law enforcement to ensure the continuing working relationships with them.

In addition, in April of 2018, the Solano County District Attorney's Office hired Steven Begley. He has over 40 years of law enforcement experience, including 20 years for the Solano County Sheriff's Office and 20 years for the California Department of Insurance, Fraud Division. He has worked three years as a Team Manager for Liberty Mutual, Special Investigations Unit. He has arrested over 200 individuals for Insurance Fraud on both the State and Federal Level and has testified as an expert witness regarding auto insurance fraud in Sonoma County Superior Court. He is a past president of NCFIA.

In terms of meeting the goal of **Outreach**, the unit also thinks it is imperative that our achievements be highlighted in the public to serve as both awareness and deterrence. The local newspapers in Solano County also have an interest in writing about fraud cases and have been present in Court at every major stage of every insurance fraud case handled, including jury trials. (see attached press release on Lamont James), and have reported the facts and outcomes very responsibly.

Ms. Chew and Mr. Begley also intend to have more roundtables and trainings with local law enforcement and SIUs in order to enhance to auto insurance fraud caseload.

In terms of meeting the goal of a **Balanced Caseload**, the unit intends to continue prosecuting those who purchase insurance after the collision and post-date the claim for damage, and those that file duplicate claims for the same damage. With the addition of Mr. Begley as the unit's part-time investigator, the unit can now investigate the more complex cases such as multiple defendants, staged collisions, fraud rings, auto body shops, and joint undercover operations with the Golden Gate Branch of the CDI.

3. What goals do you have that require more than a single year to accomplish?

A typical auto insurance fraud case can usually be completed from arrest to sentencing within one year. However, some of the more complex cases involving multiple counts and victims may take more than one year to reach disposition, due to the time required for investigation, collecting of discovery, and legal procedures in court. The auto fraud unit expects future complex cases which may involve high monetary losses, multiple defendants, victims and witnesses, multiple criminal

charges, and specialized data collection to take more than a single year to accomplish successful prosecution.

4. Training and Outreach

- List the **training received** by each county staff member in the automobile fraud unit **during Fiscal Years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018**.

Janice Williams, DDA:

September 26, 2016: Garden Grove CDAA Anti-Fraud Conference

February 22, 2017: CDI Grant Writing Webinar

March 8, 2017: Sacramento CDI Grant Writing Workshop

April 12-14, 2017: Monterey NCFIA Anti-Fraud Conference, 17.5 hours

September 28, 2017: Lafayette NCFIA Anti-Fraud Alliance training, 2.5 hours

December 5, 2017: Lafayette NCFIA Anti-Fraud Alliance training, 2.5 hours

March 13, 2018: Sacramento CDI Grant Writing Workshop, 3.5 hours

April 11-13, 2018: Monterey Anti-Fraud Conference, 17.5 hours

Irene Chew, DDA:

April 12-14, 2017: Monterey Anti-Fraud Conference, 17.5 hours

September 28, 2017: Lafayette NCFIA Anti-Fraud Alliance training, 2.5 hours

October 2-5, 2017: Orange County CDAA Fraud Symposium, 17.5 hours

December 5, 2017: Lafayette NCFIA Anti-Fraud Alliance training, 2.5 hours

March 13, 2018: Sacramento CDI Grant Writing Workshop, 3.5 hours

April 11-13, 2018: Monterey Anti-Fraud Conference, 17.5 hours

Steve Begley, DAI:

April 11-13, 2018: Monterey Anti-Fraud Conference, 17.5 hours

- Describe what kind of training/outreach **you provided in Fiscal Year 2017-2018** to local Special Investigative Units, as well as, public and private sectors to enhance the investigation and prosecution of automobile insurance fraud. Also describe any coordination with the Fraud Division, insurers, or other entities.

During the Fiscal Year 2017-2018, the unit provided the following outreach to the general public:

May 11, 2018: Dixon May Fair, District Attorney information table where about 55 people stopped by for questions to be answered, information relayed, and flyers handed out.

May 12, 2018: Dixon May Fair, District Attorney information table where about 70 people stopped by for questions to be answered, information relayed, and flyers handed out.

May 26, 2018: Vacaville Fiesta Days, District Attorney information table where about 60 people stopped by for questions to be answered, information relayed, and flyers handed out.

- Describe what kind of training/outreach **you plan to provide in Fiscal Year 2018-2019.**

To combat auto fraud, the unit would like to provide trainings and create local alliances with those SIU's we work with the most in our area, along with Bureau of Automotive Repair, the California Department of Insurance, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. We would also like to contact local law enforcement and train for spotting issues regarding automobile insurance fraud (staged collision cases, arson cases, owner give up theft cases, etc) and what to do with such information when encountered during their normal assignments.

5. Describe the county's efforts and the district attorney's plan to obtain restitution and fines imposed by the court to the Automobile Fraud Account.

The Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit continues to oversee fraud cases after their completion in court. In cases of delinquent payment, Ms. Chew is alerted and files appropriate paperwork to violate the defendant's probation grant. At times, negotiations are made either pre-plea or post-plea for a reduction in the charge for full restitution.

6. Identify the performance objectives that the county would consider attainable and would have a significant impact in reducing automobile insurance fraud.

Projection:

a. 20 new investigations will be initiated during FY 2018-2019

b. 15 new prosecutions will be initiated during FY 2018-2019

7. If you are asking for an increase over the amount of grant funds awarded last fiscal year, please provide a brief description of how you plan to utilize the additional funds.

<u>\$145,031.22</u> FY 2018-2019 Grant REQUEST	<u>\$124,822</u> FY 2017-2018 Grant AWARD	<u>\$20,209.22</u> FY 2018-2019 Increase Requested
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Utilization Plan:

The Auto Fraud Unit is very excited about Steve Begley joining the team. The unit is now able to work the pending viable cases, assist in investigating staged traffic accident cases and increase our overall investigations.

**AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM
BUDGET: PERSONNEL SERVICES
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

COUNTY NAME: SOLANO

A. PERSONNEL SERVICES: Salaries and Employee Benefits	COST
PROSECUTION	
Deputy District Attorney III - Step 5 0.4 FTE Salary: \$2,177.72/Biweekly x 26 Pay Periods = \$56,620.72	56,620.72
Benefits: 43% of Salary	24,416.27
Retirement: \$11,289.60 Deferred Comp: \$52.00 OPEB: \$1,132.80 FICA: \$3,975.20 Health: \$5,152.80 Vision: \$67.20 Unemployment Ins. \$47.00 Dental: \$207.84 Life Ins. \$26.41 POB: \$2,465.42	
One District Attorney Investigator. Step 5, Extra Help Salary: \$58.38 / hour x 960 hours = \$56,044.80	56,044.80
Benefits: FICA @ 7.65% of total salary = \$4,287.43	4,287.43
A. PERSONNEL SERVICES TOTAL	\$141,369.22

**AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM
PROGRAM BUDGET: OPERATING EXPENSES
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

COUNTY NAME: SOLANO

B. OPERATING EXPENSES	COST
<p>Training:</p> <p>Registration: \$900.00</p> <p>Hotel: \$1,005.00</p> <p>Per Diem: \$207.00</p> <p>Mileage \$150.00</p> <p>Accounting & Financial Services</p>	<p>\$2,262.00</p> <p>\$1,400.00</p>
B. OPERATING EXPENSE TOTAL	\$3,662.00

**AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM
PROGRAM BUDGET: EQUIPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019**

COUNTY NAME: SOLANO

C. EQUIPMENT	COST
C. EQUIPMENT TOTAL	0.00
D. PROGRAM BUDGET TOTAL	\$145,031.22

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM
PROGRAM BUDGET: EQUIPMENT LOG
PRIOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

COUNTY NAME: SOLANO

[illegible]

Rows can be inserted as needed.

X No equipment purchased.

I certify this report is accurate and in accordance with the Grant guidelines.

Name: Janice M. Williams

Title: Lead Deputy District Attorney

Signature: Janice M. Wellman

Date: 6/15/18



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SOLANO**

**KRISHNA A. ABRAMS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Sharon S. Henry
Chief Deputy

Paul D. Sequeira
Chief Deputy

Ken L. Kramer
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: May 21, 2018

Re: People v. Lamont Jarome James

Today in Department 9 of the Solano County Superior Court, before the Honorable Judge Carlos Gutierrez, the jury found the defendant, Lamont James, Guilty of two counts of Insurance Fraud in violation of Penal Code Section 550(a)(1) and Penal Code Section 550(b)(1). On August 19, 2015, Defendant, while driving his car without insurance, rear ended another driver on Union Avenue. Within the hour, he paid for an insurance policy. The next day, Defendant called his insurance company to report the accident. He falsely reported the time of the accident in order to get the benefit of insurance coverage to which he was not entitled. Defendant, after discovering the other driver had already made a statement to his insurance agency, called to ask her to change the hour of the accident to an hour later than it had occurred which she refused. Then, not long after, showed up at her house to ask her to do the same in which again she refused. Defendant is scheduled to return to court on May 22, 2018, in Department 9 to finish matters in his bifurcated portion of the trial.



Investigator Martin Dito of the California Department of Insurance investigated the case. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Irene Chew.

ATTACHMENT A

JOINT PLAN

FY 2018-2019

Statement of Goals

The purpose of this plan is to formalize the continuing joint efforts between the Solano County District Attorney's Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit (DA Fraud Unit), and the California Department of Insurance (CDI) Fraud Division, to effectively cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of Automobile Insurance Fraud cases. The plan will reflect the Insurance Commissioner's goals to identify, investigate, and prosecute the various types of automobile fraud which may include Applicant Fraud, Fraud Rings, Staged Collisions, Capping, Medical Provider Fraud, Insider Fraud, Economic Car Theft, and other types of Automobile Fraud. The plan will ensure that the activities of CDI and the DA Fraud Unit are not duplicated and will allow investigators and prosecutors to coordinate their activities to ensure successful outcomes.

Receipt and Assignment of Cases

Automobile Insurance Fraud are generally received via a Suspected Fraudulent Claim (SFC) reported on a Referral Form (FD-1). These referrals come from CDI or other outside sources which may include a Documented Case Referral (DCR). The DA Fraud Unit will assign an investigative file number when a case is accepted for investigation and/or prosecution.

Upon the receipt of information sufficient to open an investigative file, the DA Fraud Unit Investigator will contact his counterpart at CDI to determine if an investigative file has been opened by CDI as well. If CDI receives initial information in which the County of Solano is determined to be the venue county, CDI will contact the DA Fraud Unit Investigator.

If an insurance carrier wishes to make an oral presentation, an appointment will be established. Either the DA Fraud Unit Investigator or the CDI Investigator will make reasonable efforts to contact the other agency and advise them of the date and time of the oral presentation so that the other agency may attend if possible.

Cases will be jointly worked where appropriate. Decisions necessary for the successful outcome of any joint investigation will be made on a case-by-case basis by the two investigative units. Because of the volume of cases, it is anticipated meetings between CDI investigators and the assigned Deputy District Attorney will be held to discuss matters of mutual concern on a quarterly basis.

CDI will provide a copy of all FD-1's they receive to the DA Fraud Unit when Solano County is the venue. CDI will provide these whether an investigative file is contemplated or not. When Solano County receives FD-1's from the carrier directly, the DA Fraud Unit will forward a copy to CDI upon receipt.

Investigations

When the DA Fraud Unit receives a DCR for investigation or prosecution from a self-insured entity, the DA Fraud Unit will notify CDI of the request and then determine whether the assistance of CDI is required. If so indicated, the DA Fraud Unit Investigator and the investigator assigned from CDI will meet and prepare an investigative plan. Every effort will be made to avoid duplication of investigative efforts. The time frame for initial and follow-up meetings between the assigned CDI investigators and the DA Fraud Unit will be determined on a case-by-case basis between the individuals.

The referring agency will be notified of any DCR rejected by the DA Fraud Unit in the form of a letter from the assigned Deputy District Attorney. CDI will be sent a copy of all letters. This notice will allow the referring agency future consideration of the case should additional evidence warrant such action. In addition, both CDI and the DA Fraud Unit will make themselves available to discuss the reconsideration of any rejected case with the referring agency.

Insurance carriers will be encouraged to personally appear at the District Attorney's Office for a presentation of a completed case for possible criminal filing. Representatives from both agencies will attend the presentation, when practicable, to discuss the merits of the case.

Undercover Operations

It is not anticipated that undercover operations will be conducted solely by the Solano County District Attorney's Office. The DA Fraud Unit will assist CDI in any undercover operation contemplated by CDI within Solano County on a case-by-case basis. The DA Fraud Unit will do all that it can to assist in the initiation of these cases if CDI conducts such operations in Solano County. Pursuant to Penal Code section 633, the Deputy District Attorney will review all requests by CDI for the recording of communications.

Case Filing Requirements

Filing criteria for any type of criminal prosecution is difficult to quantify. The same is true for insurance fraud cases. The District Attorney's Office's general filing guidelines require that a case should be filed where, in our opinion, the evidence is sufficient to convict an individual by a standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt. As a general rule, the following information must be provided before a case filing decision can be made:

1. Complete investigative reports, including all search warrants and an index and summary of all documents, photographs, videos, and other evidence submitted, in triplicate;
2. Copies, or access to all documents that have been recovered in the course of the investigation, whether by search warrant or otherwise, and a contact person to assist in discovery requests regarding said materials;
3. A list of anticipated witnesses, including addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth (law enforcement personnel excepted);
4. DMV printouts and Soundexes on all suspects;

5. Information regarding any inducements or agreements regarding the giving of information or testimony that may have been made to witnesses;

6. Name and telephone number of the investigating officer who will be responsible for the signing of the declaration in support of arrest warrant and providing additional investigation, if warranted.

Training

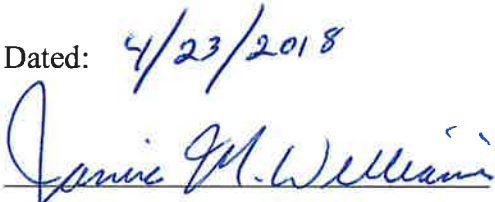
Prosecutors, investigators, and the DA Fraud Unit staff are sent to the annual California District Attorney Association Fraud Symposium and/or the Anti-Fraud Alliance training courses. The budget for the DA Fraud Unit covers this training, as well as the general office budget. We are available for joint training as the need arises. If present efforts to increase the size of the unit are successful, joint training and community outreach will be much more easily facilitated.

Problem Resolution

We encourage resolution of any problems at the earliest stages and at the lowest staff levels possible to ensure that all personnel continue to operate cooperatively and efficiently. Inter-office staff will be expected to resolve most problems at their level, with supervisory assistance if necessary. Any problem which cannot be solved at those levels will be handled by the Chief Deputy District Attorney.

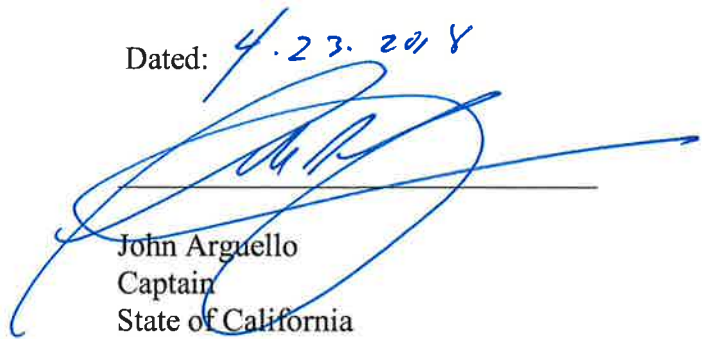
Disputes involving prosecutorial decisions will be decided by the District Attorney. Disputes that deal with investigative issues will be decided by the investigative agency in charge of the investigation and the District Attorney.

Dated:



Janice Williams
Deputy District Attorney
Solano County

Dated:



John Arguello
Captain
State of California
Department of Insurance
Golden Gate Office