Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	2020-1639	**Version:**	1	**Name:**	
Type:	Resolution			**Status:**	Action
File created:	12/16/2020			**In control:**	Board of Commissioners
On agenda:	2/23/2021			**Final action:**	
Title:	Commission District(s): all Creation of two Victim Advocates in the District Attorney's Major Case Unit				
Indexes:					
Attachments:					

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
2/23/2021	1	Board of Commissioners	withdrawn	Pass
1/12/2021	1	Board of Commissioners	deferred	Pass
1/4/2021	1	Committee of the Whole	Accepted to the BOC agenda and assigned	

Public Hearing: YES ☐ NO ☒ **Department:** District Attorney

SUBJECT:
Commission District(s): all

Creation of two Victim Advocates in the District Attorney's Major Case Unit
Information Contact: Sherry Boston or Roz Harris

Phone Number: 770-294-0369

PURPOSE:
To consider the creation of two Victim Witness Program Coordinator positions in the District Attorney's Major Case Unit: and to

To authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute any necessary documents.

NEED/IMPACT:
The District Attorney's Victim-Witness Assistance Program provides trauma-informed services to victims of crime as legally mandated by the Crime Victims Bill of Rights, O.G.C.A. 17-17-1, including but not limited to notification of court dates, accompaniment to court, emergency safety planning, counseling, and referrals to community agencies. The Major Case Unit, staffed with 6 prosecutors, 7 investigators, and 1 investigator, prosecutes the most serious and complicated felony cases in DeKalb, including complicated gang crime and multi-offender homicides. Currently, there are no Victim Advocates assigned to the Major Case Unit. The requested positions will be exclusively assigned to the Major Case Unit so that victims, witnesses and next-of-kin/family members in our most violent crimes will have critical and consistent support from their first contact with the District Attorney's Office through completion of their case.

Additionally, victim-advocacy work has shifted in a Covid-19 world, creating new challenges from providing technical assistance in virtual platforms to providing support for compounding traumas, challenges which the D.A.'s advocates has structured systems to completely work around.

The positions are requested to be added to the District Attorney's Operating budget, with an onset date of March 1, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The annualized cost for the addition in 2021 is $68,325.00 for each position. The total cost for the addition is $136,650.00. This amount includes salary and associated benefits, effective March 1, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

Create two Victim Witness Program Coordinator (Job Code: 39050) positions in the District Attorney's Major Case Unit; and Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute any necessary documents.

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