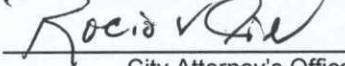


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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. 84961 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY
AND COUNCILMEMBER NOEL GALLO

**ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY
BILL 1629 (BONTA) WHICH EXTENDS PEER
COUNSELING SERVICES AND REIMBURSEMENT
UNDER THE VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND (VCF) TO
VICTIMS OF ALL VIOLENT CRIMES.**

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1965, the California Victims Compensation Fund has been a national leader in providing victims with support for losses or trauma suffered as a result of violent crime, including financial assistance for specified issues, such as medical recovery, on-going mental health services, or burial costs; and

WHEREAS, due to the high levels of violent crime in the City of Oakland, our city is home to many victims who have survived violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 alone, there were 90 murders, 469 assaults with a firearm, 592 additional firearm shootings and offenses, and 168 rapes in the City of Oakland, thus the number of victims of violent crimes grew by 1,319 individuals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is home to many victims support organizations who work collaboratively with hospitals to provide peer counseling services by trained individuals, which have been proven successful in decreasing retaliations and re-victimization among the populations they serve; and

WHEREAS, currently, the Victims Compensation Fund only allows victims of rape to be reimbursed for peer counseling services and does not allow victims of violent crimes, such as stabbings or shootings, to access this type of peer counseling service; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1629 creates a new classification of counselors called "Violence Intervention Specialists," who can offer reimbursable peer counseling services to victims, through the California Victims Compensation Fund; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1629 will promote healing and reduce re-victimization by including trained peer counselors among the options of service providers that victims have to choose from when seeking healing for emotional stress related to the violent crime they have survived; and

