

**TELEPHONE CONFERENCE OF THE
VICTIM AND WITNESS PROTECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE (VWPRC)
FOR REVIEW OF FUNDING REQUESTS**

A telephone conference of the Victim and Witness Protection Review Committee (VWPRC) was held on Thursday, September 4, 2008, 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, at FDLE Headquarters. **Note: A Declaration of Closure was read during the meeting and faxed to State Attorney Bernie McCabe (Council Chair) after the telephone conference for his signature. The original signed document will be returned to FDLE and placed in the official General Meeting File for the VWPRC telephone conference call.**

The *Closed Session* of the VWPRC was called to order at 2:03 p.m. **Members present via dial-in mode:** Mr. Bernie McCabe (Chair/State Attorney, Sixth Judicial Circuit), Sheriff Jim Coats (Pinellas County Sheriff's Office), Sheriff Ben F. Johnson (Volusia County Sheriff's Office), Chief Norman B. Botsford (Gainesville Police Department), and Mr. William N. Shepherd (Statewide Prosecutor). **Also present at FDLE Headquarters:** Special Agent in Charge Tom McInerney (representing FDLE Assistant Commissioner Ken Tucker), General Counsel Michael Ramage, Special Agent Supervisor Rick Ward, and Government Analyst Joyce Gainous-Harris.

Special Agent Supervisor Rick Ward presented six cases totaling \$15,328.76. **Individual motions were made, seconded, and passed unanimously for the VWPRC to fund the six requests in the following amounts:**

Lead Agency	Requested Amount	Approved Amount	Funding Adjustments to Approved Amount
City of Miami PD	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
Palm Bay PD	800.00	800.00	
Miami Dade PD	7,400.00	5,550.00	Reduced by \$1,850 for expenses incurred after the victim's certification had expired
Miami Dade PD	5,069.87	4,329.87	*Reduced by \$740 for "refundable" deposits
Miami Dade PD	3,517.00	2,627.00	*Reduced by \$890 for "refundable" deposits
Lake Worth PD	521.89	521.89	
TOTALS	\$ 18,808.76	\$ 15,328.76	

*** Note: Under F.S. 83.49, ALL security deposits must be refunded unless, upon the end of the lease, specific notice is given by the landlord that the deposit is being retained for a legitimate reason as specified in the statute. In other words, the "deposit" IS refundable and the landlord MUST give it back unless the landlord provides legitimate notice under law that the deposit is retained. That cannot occur until the end of the lease. The agency may seek reimbursement at a later time.**

The overall funding disbursements from the Victim/Witness Protection Account during the July-September 2008 quarter involved three agencies for six cases totaling \$15,328.76.

General Counsel Ramage advised Chairman McCabe that the Council Rules were being drafted to incorporate the "criminal gang" funding category as a result of the passed Legislation. Additional proposed Rule language will include a statement that the chair of the "full" Council should be a member who is "statutorily allowed to serve on the Victim and Witness Protection Review Committee". This language would ensure the continuation of the Council's past practice to have a chair that serves in a law enforcement capacity (i.e., state attorney, statewide prosecutor, etc.).

The next VWPRC telephone conference call will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time. A "full" Council meeting will be held some time in early 2009 after the VWP meeting.

The telephone conference was declared complete and the session was then adjourned at 2:17 p.m.