

“The District Attorney’s Office takes seriously all reports of threats, harassment, and intimidation against a public figure, elected official, or community member. Individuals have the right to feel safe while serving in public office. The DA’s Office receives reports of suspected criminal threats from a variety of law enforcement agencies. Our team closely assesses the nature of each threat and conducts follow up, often collaborating with other investigative agencies and specialized threat assessment teams. We regularly provide support to potential victims by aiding them in obtaining a restraining order or taking other steps to increase their safety, regardless of whether a case can be prosecuted or not. Not all acts reported to the District Attorney’s Office are prosecutable as the legal definition of criminal threats is a higher legal standard than what might be perceived as a threat. Each instance is evaluated under the law, with consideration of First Amendment rights and the requirement that charges be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Unfortunately, threats against public officials have become all too commonplace, as documented by the University of San Diego's California Threats and Harassment Toward Locally Elected Officials study.”