



Providing compassionate support to help the silently grieving families of murder victims

Press Advisory FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Court Trial Today - Friday, June 21, 2024

Mothers Against Murder "MAM" v CA Victim Compensation Board "CalVCB"

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What/When: Writ of Administrative Mandamus filed on November 30, 2021 by MAM against CalVCB will be in court trial tomorrow, Friday, June 21, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

Where: Superior Court of CA - County of Alameda

Civil Court - Department 17 at 1221 Oak Street Oakland, CA

HON. Frank Roesch

Why: To restore a fundamental right that crime victims in CA have always had, until Government Officials at CalVCB began violating about 12 years ago, creating a serious denial of due process to CA Crime Victims. The right to an in-person hearing allowed under Cal. Govt. Code §13959(a), provides that the Board "shall grant a hearing to an applicant who contests a staff recommendation to deny compensation in whole or in part." Attempts by MAM to get CalVCB to follow this law fell on deaf ears, leaving MAM no other choice but to ask for the court's intervention.

"Why are there laws? Justice is served only if laws are respected and practiced. MAM is committed to protecting crime victims' rights, honoring and respecting the pain that survivors endure to no fault of their own. No one chooses to lose a loved one to an act of violence," said Roger Smith, MAM's Chairman.

"To argue that CalVCB may entirely avoid a hearing by the use of the regulation 647.20.1(a), to do away with a hearing in its entirety. This is not the intent of Cal. Govt. Code §13959(a) and any reading of the statute to so provide is absurd," MAM's attorney, Robert David Baker, wrote in his brief for the court's review for this trial.

We are asking for the Media to bring awareness to this important cause of protecting the rights of crime victims. We are asking the Public to put the 2024 National Crime Victims' Rights theme "HOW WOULD YOU HELP?" to practice. "If you don't help bring about justice to survivors of violent crimes, then you too may one day experience injustice in the aftermath of violence, and there will not be anyone there to stand with you during the most painful times of your life. If you think it's not your business because it doesn't impact you, think again," said Margaret Petros, MAM's Executive Director.

MAM is a California-based nonprofit, proactive advocates for crime victims and their families.

Mothers Against Murder is a charitable 501 (c)(3) organization
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