



**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**DATE/TIME:** November 20, 2017

**LOCATION:** City Of Santa Cruz

**TOPIC:** Santa Cruz Police Launches Outreach For U-Visa Program

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### **INFORMATION:**

#### **Santa Cruz Police Facilitates U-Visa Program For Victims Of Crimes, Protects Them From Deportation.**

(Santa Cruz, CA) — On Monday, November 20, 2017, the Santa Cruz Police Department (SCPD) announces the implementation of a proactive U-Visa program designed to encourage immigrants victimized by violent crime to cooperate with police and prosecutors without fear of deportation. The program includes outreach and fosters a collaborative relationship with immigrant advocates, community-based organizations, and legal service providers who work directly with clients.

The SCPD U-Visa outreach program provides frontline referrals to victim advocates and information about the U-Visa opportunity. The department also provides U-Visa information on the City of Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz Police website.

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/police/how-do-i/u-visa>

#### **Obtenga Un Certificado De Aplicación De La Ley U-Visa**

In keeping with its mission to serve the community, SCPD is pushing to make this information widely available. The U-Visa is a non-immigrant, temporary visa that allows a victim who has suffered substantial physical or mental abuse from certain crimes (specified in federal law), and who provides information that has, is, or will assist law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the crimes, to remain in the United States for up to 4 years.

Understanding the U-visa process can enhance community policing. The U-Visa outreach process can start a dialogue, develop a rapport with immigrant community members. Individuals who have had a favorable experience with police are likely to tell other members of their community about it, and in turn, this may make people more willing to report criminal activity in the future.

“In cases of domestic violence crime in immigrant communities,” Chief Mills said, “you have to remember that these victims are scared to come forward because the abusers take advantage of their vulnerable status. Police officers are sworn to protect everyone in their community from harm, including

undocumented immigrants facing the threat of violence. If a victim comes forward and feels comfortable because of the U-Visa process to report a crime, then the program works.”

SCPD encourages community members, especially those who are non-documented and in fear of deportation, to come forward to report crime and seek assistance with the U-Visa program.

**Flyer Attached**

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**For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke**

**Phone: (831) 420-5844**

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Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; [www.santacruzpolice.com](http://www.santacruzpolice.com). Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.

rtation, to come forward to report crime and seek assistance with the U-Visa program.

THE  
***U Visa***  
FOR VICTIMS OF  
VIOLENT CRIME



Designed to encourage immigrants victimized  
by violent crime to cooperate with police  
and prosecutors without fear of deportation.

**YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE**

- If you are the victim of a qualifying crime and suffered a substantial emotional and physical injury.
- If you have information concerning the criminal activity.
- If you are willing to help on the prosecution of the crime.

For more information contact:  
Julie Schneider, Victim Advocate  
831.420.5827





LOS  
**Visa U**  
PARA LAS VICTIMAS  
DE CRIMENES VIOLENTOS

Diseñado para alentar a los inmigrantes que han sido víctimas de crímenes violentos a cooperar con la policía y los fiscales sin temor a la deportación.

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**USTED PUEDE SER ELEGIBLE**

- Si usted es víctima de un delito calificado y sufrió una lesión emocional.
- Si tiene información sobre la actividad delictiva.
- Si está dispuesto a ayudar en el enjuiciamiento del crimen.

Para más información contacte:  
Julie Schneider, Defensor de la Víctima  
831.420.5827

