

**CITY OF COCONUT CREEK**  
**Police Department**  
INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**To:** City Commission **Date:** May 3, 2022  
**From:** Captain Fred H. Shelton, Jr. *FH*  
**Subject:** **Broward Victim's Rights Coalition (BVRC)**  
**Donation Support**

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The Broward Victim's Right Coalition is a registered community-based non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Our agency has acquired the minimum of \$15,000.00 into the reconciliation fund. Per Florida State Statute (FSS) 932.7055, we are required to donate no less than 25 percent to a program or programs at our discretion within a fiscal year.

Other agencies have donated to BVRC from their LETF Funds in the last year. These agencies have active victim advocates in their departments and communities who understand the importance of supporting victim's rights:

- Margate Police Department: \$3,000.00
- Miramar Police Department: historically \$6,000.00, last donation \$2,000.00
- Plantation Police Department: \$1,000.00
- Sunrise Police Department: \$4,500.00
- Wilton Manors Police Department: \$1,000.00

The BCVR funds are made available to crime victim within Broward County and the maximum benefit to any one victim is \$500.00 per incident. These funds are only used for required needs or services. No cash donation is exchanged. Our most recent Coconut Creek resident/victim/survivor of an Attempted Homicide was the recipient of these funds today, May 3, 2022. This recipient immediately received a \$500.00 gift card to Walmart to supplement her loss in wages from hospitalization. A prior Coconut Creek resident/victim/survivor of a Domestic Violence Homicide on June 17, 2017, received a \$400.00 gift card to Walmart.

The BCVR funds are also used to maintain and add to the "Garden of Reflection" for family members to have a place for remembrance to honor crime victims and survivors. This also covers the cost of an annual vigil and victim names engraved on the wall at the garden. This year, they honored a Coconut Creek homicide victim who was shot behind Bella Roma while at work. His name was engraved on the wall with a flyer attached in the garden.

BVRC meets every third Wednesday of the month. The BVRC is made up of volunteer advocates in the community, i.e., police, school board, social workers, Nancy J. Cotterman Center, Women in Distress, FBI, as well as other agencies throughout Broward County.

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Our own Victim Advocate, Tara Arena, is the Committee Chair person for the Rebecca Lee Knox Fund. The fund provides limited emergency financial assistance to crime victims and/or their immediate families when no other funds are available. Last year, they approved seven (7) applications for victims of crime. This year, they approved two (2) applications.

Staff advised we cannot we not restrict use of the BVRC funds to strictly Coconut Creek. This is a countywide organization that benefits all agencies within Broward County.

Staff recommends approval of this donation.

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FS/cmb

cc: Chief Albert A. Arenal