



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

5/2/17

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF CRIMES
AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS UNIT**

Today District Attorney Tim Ward announced the formation of a new prosecution and investigative unit in an effort to prioritize the prosecution of crimes against police officers. The announcement comes as part of the District Attorney's observance of Peace Officer Memorial Week.

"There is no level of tolerance for the idea that it should be part of a deputy or police officer's job to be assaulted in the line of duty," said District Attorney Tim Ward. "Cases where an officer or deputy is a victim of a crime will take a higher priority than ever before in this office."

The CAPO unit will consist of three prosecutors currently assigned to prosecution divisions in Visalia and Porterville, as well as investigative support provided by a criminal investigator in the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations. Victim services will continue to be available to officers who are victimized in the line of duty. There are approximately 88 cases of misdemeanor and felony crimes committed against police officers currently being prosecuted, including 4 cases of attempted murder.

"Our officers and deputies are truly the "Thin Blue Line" and my hope is that line just got a little thicker knowing that we at the Office of the District Attorney stand with them," continued District Attorney Ward.

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