



# PROJECT GUARDIAN

**San Mateo Police**

Jeanine Luna, Community Relations Officer

# Background

- San Mateo Police Officers' Association & Autism
- 2017 - Relationship with Gloria Brown grows and her story sets the tone for change
- June 21, 2022, we begin to brainstorm & research a potential program
  - Harris County Sheriff's – Project Guardian (autism based)
  - Newport News Police, Virginia – Project Guardian (autism based)
  - \*San Diego County Sheriff's – Take Me Home Registry (all)*
- September 17, 2022, SMPD Project Guardian rolled out to the public

WHAT IS  
**PROJECT GUARDIAN ?**



# Project Guardian is...

- A step toward improving our department's engagement with community members who may be vulnerable, have special needs, or react differently when contacted by law enforcement.
- A free, VOLUNTARY, **CONFIDENTIAL** registry that encourages caregivers, family members, and loved ones to submit background information and a photo of the vulnerable person that law enforcement can access if needed.
- Another tool in the officer's toolbox.

- The information obtained from the registry is entered into a confidential database maintained by SMPD.
- Once enrolled, families are mailed a Project Guardian decal to place on their front door or window to notify officers someone in the residence is enrolled in the program.
- Some examples of the type of info we are looking for should include:
  - Diagnosis
  - Favorite locations
  - Behaviors and triggers
  - Calming measures



- In the event of an emergency or call for service involving the vulnerable person, the critical information provided will be accessible to the responding officer.
- Live 911

#### HICCUPS:

- Privacy concerns
- Don't live in our jurisdiction
- Interest, but no follow through



# Officer Training



Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) – 40 Hours



September 2020 – “Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia” – Alzheimer’s Assoc.



June 2021 – Therapy K9 “Rookie” Identified & Certified

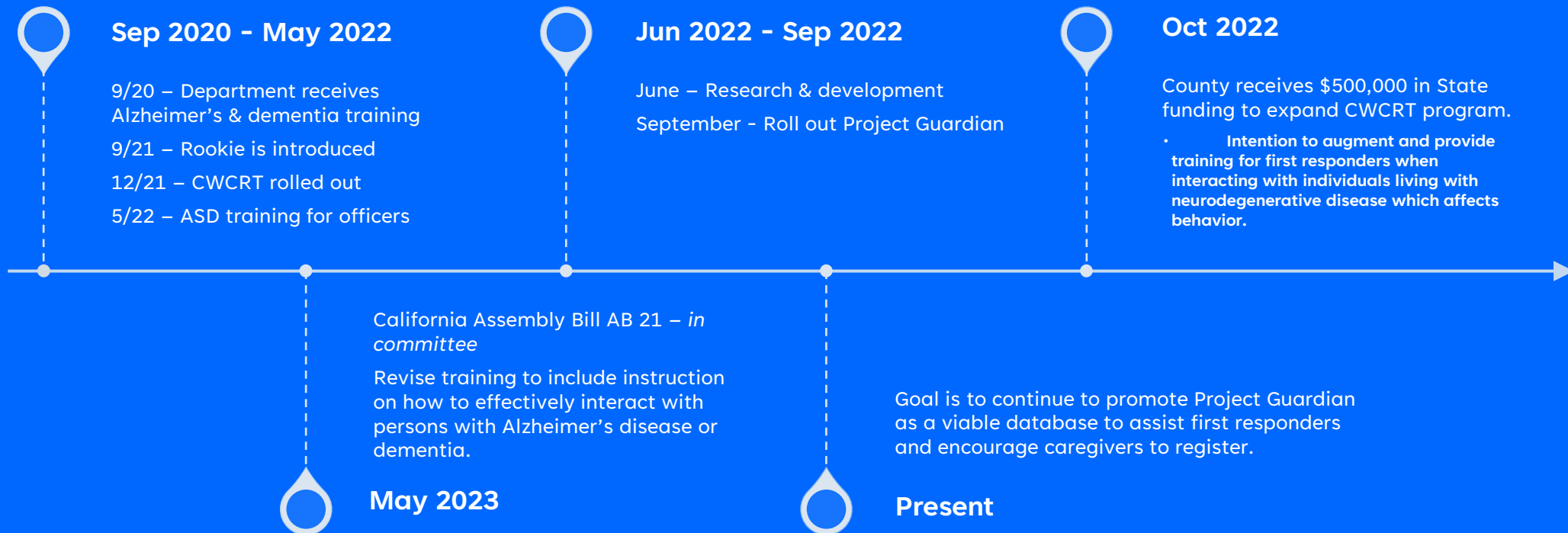


December 2021 – Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team (CWCRT)



May 2022 – Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Training – Johns Hopkins Hospital

# Timeline





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I am proud of the work being done in San Mateo County to respond more effectively and appropriately to 9-1-1 calls involving those who are experiencing some form of crisis. I am extremely pleased that state funding will provide additional financial support and allow for training so responders can effectively interact with those who have Alzheimer's or dementia.”

- Then Assembly Speaker pro Tem, now  
Congressman, Kevin Mullin

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