



City of Pittsburg
65 Civic Avenue • Pittsburg, California 94565

September 16, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
Contra Costa County Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, Ca 94553

RE: City of Pittsburg Response to Grand Jury Report No. 1609, "Human Trafficking" by the 2015-2016 Contra Costa Grand Jury

Dear Mr. Simmons,

As requested, the following is in response to Grand Jury No. 1609, "Human Trafficking" in the format you requested. Please note that because many of the Grand Jury's findings are general and not necessarily specific to the City of Pittsburg, we do not have the basis to agree or disagree on many of the findings since we do not have all of the information to review from the cities/agencies in Contra Costa County as the Grand Jury did when they prepared this report. We appreciate the time that and the Grand Jury spent considering these matters.

List of Findings

Finding #1: The San Francisco Bay Area is one of three "hot spots" for human trafficking in California, along with Los Angeles and San Diego.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

Finding #2: The emphasis in human trafficking cases has shifted from solely prosecution to a "victim centered" approach in which the needs of persons who have been trafficked received equal consideration.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

Finding #3: Effectively identifying and apprehending traffickers requires knowledge of the local environment and criminal activities acquired through years of experience.

Response: The City of Pittsburg partially agrees with this finding. All Pittsburg Police officers receive in-house training on the identification of victims and suspects in human trafficking. All officers work collaboratively with experienced officers and victim advocates through the remainder of the process.

Finding #4: Most police officer training related to human trafficking is acquired through working with more experienced officers and victim advocates.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

Finding #5: The required two-hour POST Training Video in dealing with human trafficking complaints provides a general basis, but more intensive training found in the POST 2014 training manual contains in-depth coverage of the issues important to officers assigned to trafficking cases.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

Finding #6: Successful apprehension and prosecution of traffickers often involves coordination and cooperation among local, State, and federal agencies.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

Finding #7: City law enforcement and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department have no comprehensive or consistent method for analyzing data about the number and type of adult human trafficking victims. More data that is complete is needed to define the magnitude of the problem and to support decisions about victim services and resource allocation.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

Finding #8: City law enforcement and Contra Costa Sheriff's Department does not always use resources offered by State and federal for joint "sting" and "sweep" operations.

Response: The City of Pittsburg disagrees with this finding. The police department encourages involvement with the state and federal levels for joint "sting" and "sweep" operations. Several operations have been conducted with state and federal agencies and we welcome this partnership.

Finding #9: Trafficking frequently occurs in combination with other violent crimes and its victims often have a history of abuse and trauma.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

Finding #10: The use of specialist multidisciplinary teams in high crime areas can increase the likelihood that trafficking will be recognized as a component of other crimes.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

Finding #11: Public awareness is a critical factor in identifying potential human trafficking activity.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

Finding #14: A comprehensive approach to dealing with human trafficking includes robust community engagement; training law enforcement in responding to human trafficking incidents; vigorous prosecution of perpetrators; education of and advocacy to policy makers; and wrap-around services for victims/survivors.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

City's Response to Grand Jury Recommendations 1,2,3

Recommendations

Recommendation #1: City law enforcement agencies and the Sheriff's Department should consider incorporating expanded training for officers assigned to trafficking related-duties.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this recommendation and currently incorporates training for officers. The police department has a detective assigned to investigate human trafficking cases. This detective, along with additional investigative personnel, has received expanded training related to human trafficking. They have provided training to officers internally as well as countywide.

Recommendation #2: City law enforcement agencies and the Sheriff's Department should consider increasing collaboration with State and federal law enforcement to expand "sweeps" and "stings" in high crime areas.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this recommendation and currently works actively with State and Federal law enforcement organizations. The police department currently has a supervisor assigned to a federal task force. One of the focus areas of this task force has become human trafficking as related crimes.

Recommendation #3: City law enforcement agencies and the Sheriff's department should consider the benefits of assigning multidisciplinary teams in areas with significant drug, gang, and/or prostitution to assist in identifying trafficking activities.

Response: The City of Pittsburg agrees with this recommendation and currently participates in three (3) multidisciplinary teams. These teams range from local, state and federal levels. Two of these teams focus directly on violence and enforcing crimes that often involve human trafficking and the other team has a mental health component that can be used as a resource for human trafficking victims.

Respectfully,


Joe Sbranti
City Manager