



September 20, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
2015-2016 Contra Costa County Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

RE: City of Richmond's Response to Grand Jury Report 1609: "Human Trafficking"

Dear Foreperson Simmons:

In accordance with California Government Code Sections 933.5(a) and 933.5(b), please find below the response of the City of Richmond to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury. The City's response is in italics directly below each finding or recommendation.

FINDINGS

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 Richmond agrees with this 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 receive equal consideration.

Response: The City of Richmond agrees with this 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 Richmond agrees with this finding.

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

SECRET

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Response: *The City of Richmond agrees with this 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 Richmond agrees with this finding.*

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

Response: *The City of Richmond agrees with this 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 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 Richmond agrees with this finding.*

8. City law enforcement and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department does not always use resources offered by State and federal for joint “sting” and “sweep” operations.

Response: *The City of Richmond agrees with this 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 Richmond agrees with this 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 Richmond agrees with this finding.*

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

Response: *The City of Richmond agrees with this 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: Agree The City of Richmond agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Officers assigned to trafficking cases attend several trafficking training/symposiums annually.

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 recommendation has been implemented. The Richmond Police Department includes FBI, District Attorney’s office, Advocates and Cease Task Force during “sweeps.”

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 activity to assist in identifying trafficking activities.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Richmond Police Department has officers assigned to MDT’s regarding trafficking cases.

The Richmond City Council reviewed and approved this response at their meeting of September 20, 2016.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond on this very important issue. Please contact me at (510) 620-6512 or at bill_lindsay@ci.richmond.ca.us if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,



William A. Lindsay
City Manager

cc: Tom Butt, Mayor
Bruce Reed Goodmiller, City Attorney
Chief Allwyn Brown, Richmond Police Department