



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
DAVID O. LIVINGSTON
SHERIFF - CORONER

July 7, 2016

The Honorable John T. Laettner
2015-2016 Contra Costa County Grand Jury
Superior Court, State of California
County of Contra Costa Courthouse
725 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Dear Judge Laettner:

Penal Code Section 933.05 requires the Office of the Sheriff to comment on Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury Report; attached hereto you will find our response to Grand Jury Report Number 1609.

The Office of the Sheriff is committed to providing the highest quality of public safety services possible. I welcome the comments and support of this independent study of government business by the Grand Jury.

Should there be any remaining issues not addressed by my response, please feel free to contact me personally.

Sincerely,

DAVID O. LIVINGSTON
Sheriff - Coroner

DOL:sl

Attachment

cc: ✓ Michael Simmons, Foreperson, 2015-2016 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
David Twa, Contra Costa County Administrator
via email: epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

Following is the Office of the Sheriff's response to Grand Jury Report No. 1609 dated June 22, 2016, "Human Trafficking."

FINDINGS – *California Penal Code Section 933.5(a) requires a response to the designated findings of the Grand Jury.*

F1. The San Francisco Bay Area is one of three "hot spots" for human trafficking in California, along with Los Angeles and San Diego.

Response: Agree.

F2. 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: Agree.

F3. Effectively identifying and apprehending traffickers requires knowledge of the local environment and criminal activities acquired through years of experience.

Response: Agree.

F4. Most police officer training related to human trafficking is acquired through working with more experienced officers and victim advocates.

Response: Agree.

F5. 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: Agree.

F6. Successful apprehension and prosecution of traffickers often involves coordination and cooperation among local, State and federal agencies.

Response: Agree.

F7. 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: Agree.

F8. 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: Disagree. The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office utilizes all of the resources available when conducting "sting" and "sweep" operations. These resources include but are not limited to FBI High Tech agents, FBI victim advocates, and FBI agents.

F9. Trafficking frequently occurs in combination with other violent crimes and its victims often have a history of abuse and trauma.

Response: Agree.

F10. 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: Agree.

F11. Public awareness is a critical factor in identifying potential human trafficking activity.

Response: Agree.

F14. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS – *California Penal Code Section 933.05(b) requires a response to the designated recommendations of the Grand Jury.*

R1. 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. The Office of the Sheriff supports expanded training for Human Trafficking. Detectives assigned to investigate Human Trafficking have received Human Trafficking training within the past 6 months. Additionally, detectives will avail themselves to additional training opportunities as they become available.

R2. 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 Office of the Sheriff currently collaborates with the FBI and other governmental entities to conduct sweeps and sting operations. These operations occur multiple times per year.

R3. 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 Office of the Sheriff routinely collaborates with the FBI and other governmental entities who identify and target drug, gang, and prostitution activity. The Office of the Sheriff has personnel assigned to the Contra Costa County's SAFE Streets Task Force and the Contra Costa County Anti-violence Support Effort. The Office of the Sheriff also operates a Vice Unit and a Special Victims Unit. These units contain detectives specially trained to identify and target human trafficking and associated crimes. Additionally, beginning in May of 2016, the Office of the Sheriff assigned a detective from the Special Victims Unit to participate on the Contra Costa County Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team.