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September 27, 2016

Mr. Michael Simmons, Foreperson
Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091
epant@contracosta.courts.ca.us

Re: **Responses to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1609,
"Human Trafficking"**

Mr. Simmons:

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1609, "Human Trafficking." This response was reviewed and authorized by the City Council at the September 27, 2016 City Council Meeting.

GRAND JURY FINDINGS

Finding No. 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 Oakley agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 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 Oakley agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 3: "Effectively identifying and apprehending traffickers requires knowledge of the local environment and criminal activities acquired through years of experience."

Response: The City of Oakley partially disagrees with the finding. In addition to experience, training in these specific areas and collaboration with other agencies are also very critical.

Finding No. 4: “Most police officer training related to human trafficking is acquired through working with more experienced officers and victim advocates.”

Response: The City of Oakley only partially disagrees with this finding. In-class training, coordination with other agencies, including non-profit organizations are other elements of training.

Finding No. 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 Oakley agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 6: “Successful apprehension and prosecution of traffickers often involves coordination and cooperation among local, State and federal agencies.”

Response: The City of Oakley agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 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 Oakley agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 8: “City law enforcement and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department do not always use resources offered by State and federal for joint "sting" and "sweep" operations.”

Response: The City of Oakley does not have complete information on this finding, but believes it is likely to be true.

Finding No. 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 Oakley agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 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 Oakley agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 11: “Public awareness is a critical factor in identifying potential human trafficking activity.”

Response: The City of Oakley agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 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 Oakley agrees with this finding.

CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1: Recommendation No. 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 Oakley has implemented this recommendation. Sworn staff are provided with specific training on Human Trafficking every two years through our in-service training program. Additionally, detectives who investigate human trafficking incidents have also been provided with additional training through CVS and California POST-approved training.

Recommendation No. 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 Oakley believes this recommendation may have merit, but it lacks detail on cost and personnel resources needed to accomplish it.

Recommendation No. 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 City of Oakley is not inclined to implement this recommendation. The model for enforcing and investigating human trafficking cases is not entirely consistent with a multidisciplinary team. All sworn staff at the City of Oakley are trained in identifying human trafficking

cases and will summon assistance from detectives should such a case be identified.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's recent Report No. 1609. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact me directly at (925) 625-7025 or at montgomery@ci.oakley.ca.us.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan H. Montgomery
City Manager

cc: City Council