

CITY OF CONCORD
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August 16, 2016

By U.S. Mail and email (epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov)

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

Re: City of Concord Response to May 11, 2016 Grand Jury Report No. 1605, "Caring for the Victims: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Contra Costa County"

Dear Mr. Simmons:

This letter serves as the City of Concord's response to the Contra Costa County Grand Jury's findings and recommendations set forth in Report No. 1605, entitled "Caring for the Victims: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Contra Costa County." This letter was reviewed by the Concord City Council at its August 2, 2016 City Council Meeting, and I was directed to submit the response for the City of Concord.

I. FINDINGS

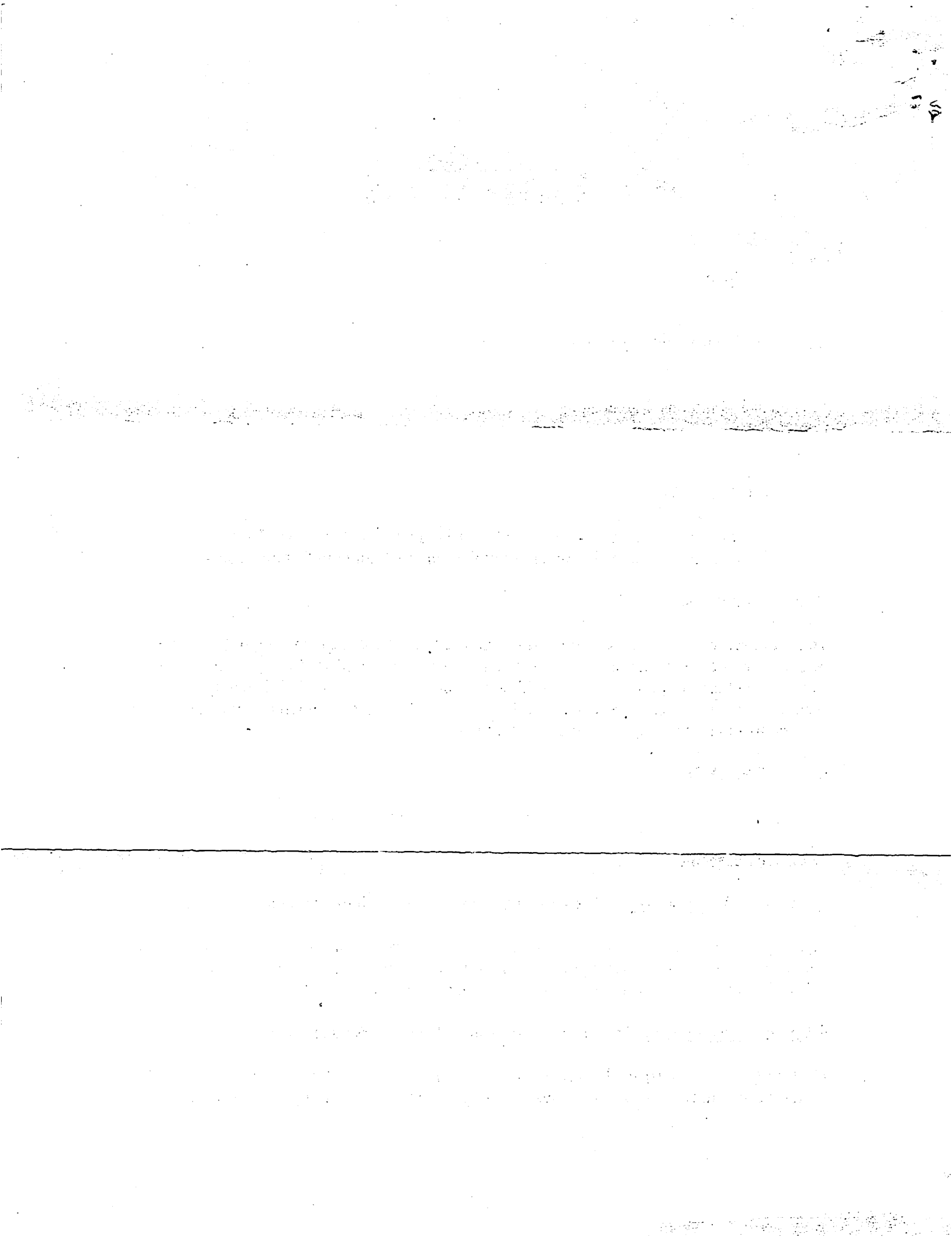
Finding No. 6: "Many social workers in CFS, law enforcement, officers in Juvenile Hall and victim advocates in the DA's Office are not implementing the CSEC Protocol because they have not seen it."

Response to Finding No. 6: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 7: "CFS, the leader of the Oversight Committee, has not followed up with its interagency partners that have signed off on the Protocol, but have not submitted their own CSEC department plan/protocols to the Oversight Committee."

Response to Finding No. 7: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 9: "Suspected CSEC victims are being arrested and booked into Juvenile Hall for their own safety pursuant to various statutes under the Welfare & Institutions Code,



relating to infractions and crimes committed by youth, while County assesses the appropriate health and social services to provide.”

Response to Finding No. 9: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 11: “No single database covering all CSES-related arrests, referrals and pending cases exists in the County.”

Response to Finding No. 11: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 12: “Due to the lack of a single database in the County covering all CSES-related arrests, referrals and pending cases, the County does not know the number of victims of CSEC and where they are located.”

Response to Finding No. 12: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 13: “County Personnel and law enforcement dealing with victims of CSEC are well-meaning, compassionate and dedicated people trying to make the best of a very difficult situation.”

Response to Finding No. 13: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 14: “Most County personnel and law enforcement dealing with victims of CSEC lack in-depth CSEC training, necessary facilities for temporarily accommodating the victims and a clear-cut plan of action, which lays out how to rescue, protect and serve the victims of CSEC in a manner that is caring and trauma-informed.”

Response to Finding No. 14: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 2: “The Board of Supervisors, City Councils, and Sheriff’s Department should consider recommending that all CSEC interagency partners, as listed in the CSEC Protocol, in Contra Costa County adopt their own CSEC protocols and submit them to CFS for approval.”

Response to Recommendation No. 2: The City of Concord will not implement this recommendation. Agency-specific protocols are often unique to the individual agency and fail to bring consistency to the issue at hand. A unified and thorough approach is needed in order to bring collaboration with public safety partners to positively impact the alarming rate of Human Trafficking occurring throughout the county.

It is our recommendation CFS work with CVS and the County Chief’s to develop a protocol for all law enforcement agencies in Contra Costa County. A county-wide protocol should be

adopted by every agency resulting in consistency while focusing on victims, services and centers they can access, in the hope of mitigating the number of victims and the trauma they experience.

Recommendation No. 9: “The Board of Supervisors, City Councils, and Sheriff’s Department should consider recommending that all first responders (usually law enforcement) refer suspected victims of CSEC to specialized and dedicated CSEC personnel, to be established within CFS.”

Response to Recommendation No. 9: The City of Concord will not implement this recommendation as it is too vague, requiring more specificity and further analysis. Although the recommendation appears to be valuable, it lacks specificity on who the personnel will be, how they will be specialized, and how victims will be referred to them. Further, it is our recommendation that CVS be involved with this process. The City of Concord is willing to work with whoever is needed to pursue this recommendation.

Recommendation No. 11: “City Councils and Sheriff’s Department should direct law enforcement to avail themselves of CSEC training programs formulated by CFS.”

Response to Recommendation No. 11: The City of Concord agrees with this recommendation although we highly recommend CVS be involved with any such training programs.

Guy Swanger, Chief of Police, is available to answer any questions or provide any additional information concerning the above responses or enclosed documents. You can reach him at (925) 671-3193 or by email at guy.swanger@cityofconcord.org.

Sincerely,



Valerie J. Barone
City Manager