



July 20, 2016

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

RE: Grand Jury Report No. 1605, "Caring for Victims, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Contra Costa County"

Dear Mr. Simmons:

On behalf of the Martinez City Council, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: "Caring for Victims, Commercial Exploitation of Children in Contra Costa County" (Report 1605). The City Council authorized this response at its meeting on July 20, 2016. According to page 11 of the Report, the City of Martinez is required to respond to Findings F6, F7, F9, F11-F14 and Recommendations R2, R9, and R11. Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05, the City will respond to each finding and to each recommendation individually.

CITY'S RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY FINDINGS 6, 7, 9, 11-14

GRAND JURY FINDING #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."

City Response:

The City of Martinez agrees with this finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING #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."

City Response:

While difficult to answer, as we do not know the practices and protocols of CFS in this matter, we would agree with this finding based on the Grand Jury report.



GRAND JURY FINDING #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 the County assesses the appropriate health and social services to provide".

City Response:

The City partially disagrees with this finding. The City of Martinez makes every effort to treat suspected CSEC victims as true victims that need assistance. If no other option is available through CFS or a non-profit entity such as Community Violence Solutions, with expertise in assisting CSEC victims, as a last resort and in order to preserve the safety of the victim, the victim may be booked into Juvenile Hall. The practice of booking CSEC victims into Juvenile Hall is discouraged, however, even when making such a decision we would collaborate with CFS or CVS.

GRAND JURY FINDING #11

"No single database covering all CSEC-related arrests, referrals and pending cases exists in the County."

City Response:

The City of Martinez agrees with this finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING #12

"Due to the lack of a single database in the County covering all CSEC-related arrests, referrals and pending cases, the County does not know the number of victims of CSEC and where they are located."

City Response:

The City of Martinez agrees with this finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING #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."

City Response:

The City of Martinez agrees with this finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING #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."



City Response:

The City of Martinez agrees with this finding.

CITY'S RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS 2, 9, 11

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #2

"The Board of Supervisors, City Councils and Sheriffs' 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."

City Response:

The City of Martinez disagrees with this recommendation and will not implement it because it is not reasonable. Our explanation now follows: If each entity involved in treating the symptoms and root causes of human trafficking create their own protocols, there will not be a unified approach to solving this complex and disturbing problem. If all agencies within this County are involved in creating, vetting, and approving a protocol that not only refers suspected victims of CSEC to specialized and dedicated CSEC personnel, but identifies who these personnel are and, specifies a protocol for initiating case management for a victim we would whole heartedly support the recommendation.

We would recommend that CFS work with (Community Violence Solutions) CVS and the Contra Costa County Chief's Association to establish a protocol that can be adopted by every agency that works with CSEC victims and cases. To create multiple and independent CSEC protocols would potentially result in victims receiving different degrees of service and assistance by different agencies that need to collaborate in order to be effective.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #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."

City Response:

In theory, the City of Martinez agrees with the recommendation; however, several key areas need to be assessed including:

- the composition of the specialized and dedicated personnel;
- The protocols that must be in place for case management, referrals (both day and night) of victims, and for follow through tasks for each case. This recommendation can be tied into an overall protocol that can be crafted as mentioned in our response to recommendation number 2.



While we agree with the recommendation, further analysis is needed to identify how the different agencies will need to make referrals for victims, especially after business hours. Creating a County-wide protocol to address CSEC could help refine who first responders should call for assistance when encountering a CSEC victim.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #11

"City Councils and Sheriff's Department should direct law enforcement to avail themselves of CSEC training programs formulated by CFS."

City Response:

The City of Martinez supports this recommendation.

Respectfully,

Robert Schroder
Mayor

C: City Council
Manjit Sappal, Chief of Police
Jeffrey Walter, City Attorney