



City of Pittsburg
65 Civic Avenue • Pittsburg, California 94565

(17)

July 26, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
Contra Costa County Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, Ca 94553

RE: City of Pittsburg Response to Grand Jury Report No. 1605, "Caring for the Victims"

Dear Mr. Simmons,

As requested, the following is in response to Grand Jury No. 1605, "Caring for the Victims" in the format you requested. Please note that because many of the Grand Jury's findings are general and not necessarily specific to the City of Pittsburg, we do not have the basis to agree or disagree on many of the findings since we do not have all of the information to review from the cities/agencies in Contra Costa County as the Grand Jury did when they prepared this report. We appreciate the time that and the Grand Jury spent considering these matters.

List of Findings

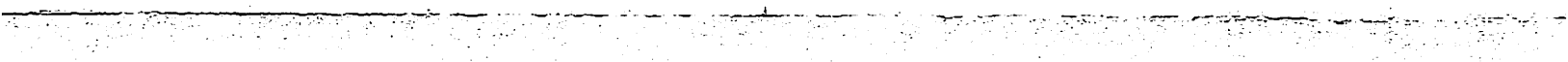
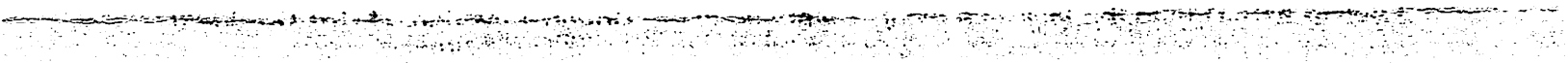
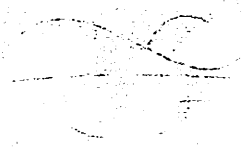
Finding #6: Many social workers in CFS, law enforcement, officers in Juvenile Hall and victim advocates in the DA's Office are not implementing the CSEC Protocol because they have not seen it.

Response: Pittsburg partially disagrees with Finding #6. The City cannot answer for other agencies relative to CSEC protocols. Pittsburg is aware of the protocol and staff are specifically assigned to address and provide resources to CSEC victims.

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.

Response: Pittsburg cannot answer this finding as the City cannot not speak on the behalf of or address findings of another entity. The City is not able to address the practices of CFS or other agencies.

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.



Response: Pittsburg disagrees with Finding #9. Suspected CSEC victims are not being arrested and booked into Juvenile Hall for their own safety. The Pittsburg Police Department has provided training to officers as well as other agencies in the region. Resources are available to CSEC victims within the police department, including an in-house Victim/Witness Advocate.

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

Response: Pittsburg agrees with Finding #11. The City is not aware of a single database that covers all CSEC related arrests, referrals, and pending cases that exist in the county.

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.

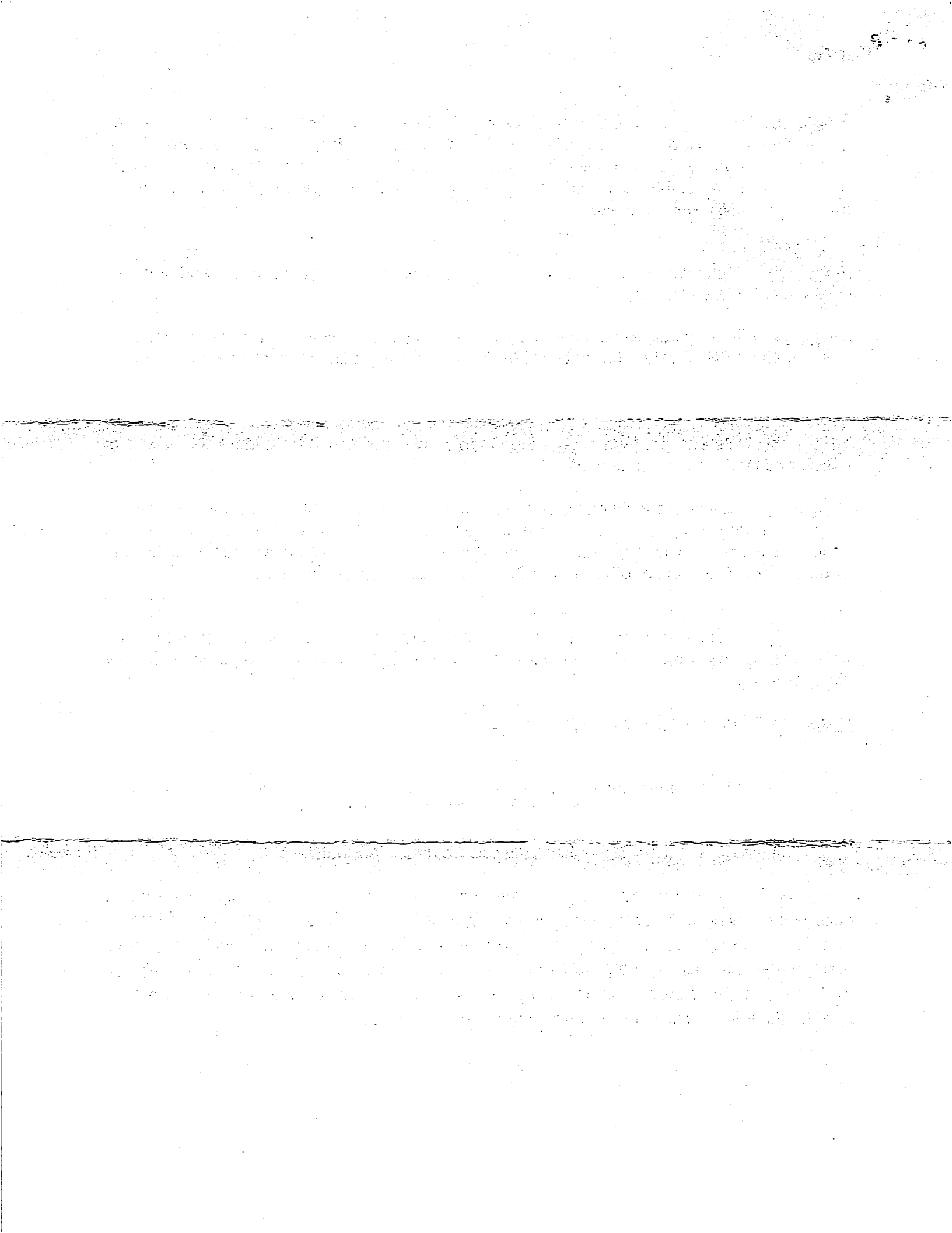
Response: Pittsburg partially disagrees with Finding #12. The City acknowledges that no single database in the County exists that covers all CSEC-related arrests, referrals and pending cases. The City does not have needed information to address whether or not the County knows the number of victims of CSEC or where they are located.

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.

Response: Pittsburg agrees with this finding.

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.

Response: Pittsburg partially disagrees with Finding #14. The Pittsburg Police Department does work closely with regional resources to provide assistance and protection for victims of CSEC. Several staff members have also attended trauma-informed training and have brought this information back to staff and local schools. Additional in-depth training, facilities for temporary accommodations and a clear-cut plan of action at a countywide level could help improve conditions for the victims of CSEC.



City's Response to Grand Jury Recommendations 2,9,11

Recommendations

Recommendation #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: Pittsburg disagrees with this recommendation and will not be implementing it. The City of Pittsburg does not recommend individual public agencies adopt their own CSEC protocols. We recommend CFS work with agencies throughout the county to adopt a universal protocol that will be used throughout the county.

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.

Response: Pittsburg disagrees with this recommendation and will not be implementing it. The City believes this process should be determined from a County level. We would recommend that CFS identify a process that local agencies can follow for referring suspected CSEC victims to personnel and resources.

Recommendation #11: City Councils and Sheriff's Department should direct law enforcement to avail themselves of CSEC training programs formulated by CFS.

Response: Pittsburg agrees with this recommendation. The Pittsburg Police Department has provided CSEC and trauma-informed training to staff and will continue to do so. This recommendation has been implemented.

Respectfully,



Joe Sbranti
City Manager