



August 1, 2016

Grand Jury
The Honorable John Laettner
c/o Foreperson Michael Simmons
725 Court Street, Martinez CA 94553
(also by email to epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov)

Re: **Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: Report No. 1605, "Caring for the Victims"**

Dear Judge Laettner:

On behalf of the San Pablo City Council, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: "Caring for the Victims". The City Council authorized this response at its meeting on August 1, 2016.

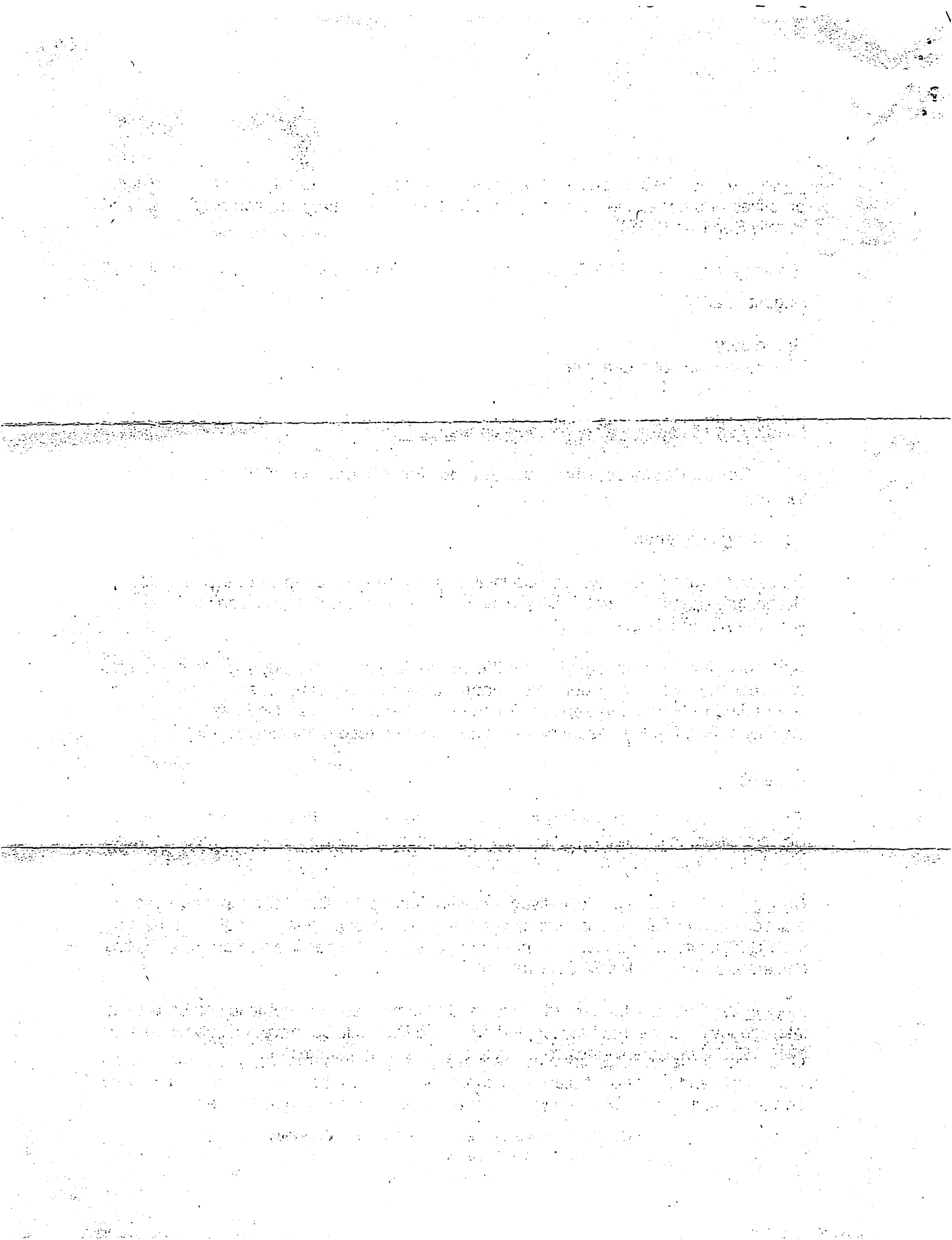
We appreciate the time that you and the Grand Jury spent considering these matters. We trust that the Grand Jury also appreciates the City time spent reviewing and responding to Grand Jury reports. Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933.05, the City of San Pablo's response to the findings and recommendations follow:

Finding

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 yet seen it.

Response: San Pablo partially disagrees with Finding #6. The City cannot address the practices of other entities, including whether or not other parties "are not implementing the CSEC Protocol because they have not yet seen it." Specifically, San Pablo Police officers are aware of the CSEC Protocol.

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: San Pablo partially disagrees with Finding #7. The City cannot address the practices of other entities, including the Contra Costa County Division of Children and Family Services (CFS).

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: San Pablo partially disagrees with Finding #9. The City cannot address the practices of other entities, including whether all suspected CSEC victims are being arrested and booked into Juvenile Hall for their own safety. In San Pablo, suspected CSEC victims are *not* automatically arrested and booked into Juvenile Hall. The San Pablo Police Department takes an approach to CSEC that is victim-centered and trauma-informed.

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

Response: San Pablo agrees with Finding #11. The City is aware that no single database exists.

Finding #12: Due to the lack of a single database in Contra Costa 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: San Pablo partially disagrees with Finding #12. While the City acknowledges that no single database in the County exists that covers all CSEC-related arrests, referrals and pending cases, the City cannot 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: San Pablo partially disagrees with Finding #13. The City cannot address the practices of other entities, but does tend to agree that County personnel and law enforcement dealing with victims of CSEC are well-meaning, compassionate and dedicated people trying to make the very best of a very difficult situation.

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: San Pablo partially disagrees with Finding #14. The City cannot address the practices of other entities, including how other agencies deal with victims of CSEC. The San Pablo Police Department does work toward protecting and serving the victims of CSEC in a manner that is caring and trauma-informed. 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.

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: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The City of San Pablo believes that public safety agencies should not adopt their own CSEC protocols and submit them to the Contra Costa County Division of Children and Family Services (CFS) for approval. Rather, CFS should work with all countywide public safety agencies to adopt a uniform CSEC protocol that would be consistent across 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: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. While the recommendation may be an appropriate solution, the CSEC protocol should be determined at the county, not city level. Once a process has been identified, either within or outside of the CSEC protocol, the City of San Pablo will follow appropriate protocols for referring suspected victims of CSEC to other personnel.

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

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. The San Pablo Police Department has and will continue to attend CSEC training programs formulated by CFS and other organizations.

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We trust that the Grand Jury will find these responses helpful to its endeavor.

Sincerely yours,



Rich Kinney
Mayor, City of San Pablo

c: Matt Rodriguez, City Manager
Lynn Tracy Nerland, City Attorney
Lisa Rosales, Police Chief
City Clerk's Office