



*"Small Town Atmosphere
Outstanding Quality of Life"*

July 6, 2016

Honorable John T. Laettner
Judge of the Superior Court
Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

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

Dear Judge Laettner:

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1605, "Caring for the Victims: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Contra Costa County." This response was reviewed and authorized by the Town Council at a duly noticed Town Council meeting on June 21, 2016.

Grand Jury 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 yet seen it.

Response: Danville partially disagrees with Finding #6. The Town 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, Danville 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: Danville partially disagrees with Finding #7. The Town 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

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Maintenance
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Police
(925) 314-3700

Parks and Recreation
(925) 314-3400

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

Response: Danville partially disagrees with Finding #9. The Town 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 Danville, suspected CSEC victims are *not* automatically arrested and booked into Juvenile Hall. The Danville Police Department takes an approach to CSEC that is victim-centered and trauma-informed. In one recent case, a CSEC victim in Danville was not booked into Juvenile Hall but rather consulted with CFS and returned to their parents, while the exploiters were arrested and booked into jail.

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

Response: Danville agrees with Finding #11. The Town is aware that no single database exists.

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: Danville partially disagrees with Finding #12. While the Town acknowledges that no single database in the County exists that covers all CSEC-related arrests, referrals and pending cases, the Town 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: Danville partially disagrees with Finding #13. The Town 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: Danville partially disagrees with Finding #14. The Town cannot address the practices of other entities, including how other agencies deal with victims of CSEC. The Danville 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.

Grand Jury 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 Town of Danville 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 Town of Danville 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 Danville Police Department has and will continue to attend CSEC training programs formulated by CFS and other organizations.

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The Town appreciates the time and effort spent by His Honor and the Grand Jury in consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF DANVILLE



Karen G. Stepper
Mayor