



September 29, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091
Email: epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov
Via U.S. Mail and Email

RE: Grand Jury Report No. 1609, "Human Trafficking"

Dear Mr. Simmons:

On behalf of the City of El Cerrito, this letter serves as a response to Grand Jury Report No. 1609, "Human Trafficking," by the Contra Costa Grand Jury.

In accordance with your request and Section 933.05 of the California Government Code, the City is responding as required to Findings F1–F11 and F14, and Recommendations R1–R3 as outlined in the Grand Jury Report.

FINDINGS

F1: "The San Francisco Bay Area is one of the three "hot spots" for human trafficking in California, along with Los Angeles and San Diego."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #1.

F2: "The emphasis in human trafficking cases has shifted from solely prosecution to a "victim-centered" approach in which the needs of persons who have been trafficked receive equal consideration."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #2.

F3: "Effectively identifying and apprehending traffickers requires knowledge of the local environment and criminal activities acquired through years of experience."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #3.

F4: "Most police officer training related to human trafficking is acquired through working with more experienced officers and victim advocates."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #4.

F5: "The required two-hour POST Training Video in dealing with human trafficking complaints provides a general basis, but more intensive training found in the POST 2014 training manual contains in-depth coverage of the issues important to officers assigned to trafficking cases."



Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #5.

F6: "Successful apprehension and prosecution of traffickers often involves coordination and cooperation among local, state and federal agencies."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #6.

F7: "City law enforcement and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department have no comprehensive or consistent method for analyzing data about the number and type of adult trafficking victims. More data that is complete is needed to define the magnitude of the problem and to support decisions about victim services and resource allocation."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #7 as it pertains to the City of El Cerrito.

F8: "City law enforcement and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department does not always use resources offered by state and federal for joint "sting" and "sweep" operations."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #8 as it pertains to the City of El Cerrito. The City does not have any information regarding whether other agencies always use resources.

F9 "Trafficking frequently occurs in combination with other violent crimes and its victims often have a history of abuse and trauma."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #9.

F10: "The use of specialist multidisciplinary teams in high crime areas can increase the likelihood that trafficking will be recognized as a component of other crimes."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #10.

Finding #11: "Public awareness is a critical factor in identifying potential human trafficking activity."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #11.

F14: "A comprehensive approach to dealing with human trafficking includes robust community engagement; training law enforcement in responding to human trafficking incidents; vigorous prosecution of perpetrators; education of and advocacy for policy makers; and wrap around services for victims/survivors."

Response: The City of El Cerrito agrees with Finding #14.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: "City law enforcement agencies and the Sheriff's Department should consider incorporating expanded training for officers assigned to trafficking related duties."

Response: The City of El Cerrito has implemented this recommendation. The City of El Cerrito will consider incorporating expanded training for officers assigned to trafficking related duties.



R2: "City law enforcement agencies and the Sheriff's Department should consider increasing collaboration with state and federal law enforcement to expand "sweeps" and "stings" in high crime areas."

Response: The City of El Cerrito has implemented this recommendation. The City of El Cerrito will consider increasing collaboration with state and federal law enforcement combating human trafficking.

R3: "City law enforcement agencies and the Sheriff's Department should consider the benefits of assigning multidisciplinary teams in areas with significant drug, gang and/or prostitution activity to assist in identifying trafficking activities."

Response: The City of El Cerrito has implemented this recommendation. The City of El Cerrito will consider the benefits of assigning multidisciplinary teams in these areas to assist in identifying trafficking activities.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or require additional information concerning the above responses. You can reach me directly at (510) 215-4302 or by email at kpinkos@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Pinkos
Assistant City Manager
City of El Cerrito

cc: El Cerrito City Council
Scott Hanin, City Manager