



City of Martinez

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September 22, 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. 1609, "Human Trafficking"

Dear Mr. Simmons:

On behalf of the Martinez City Council, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: "Human Trafficking" (Report 1609). The City Council authorized this response at its meeting on September 21, 2016.

According to page 15 of the Report, the City is required to respond to Findings F1 to F11, and F14 as well as to Recommendations R1 to R3 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 1-11 and 14

GRAND JURY FINDING #1

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

Response:

The City agrees with this finding based on the research conducted and presented in the Grand Jury Report.

GRAND JURY FINDING #2

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

Response:

The City agrees with this finding based on the evolution of the law and the approach, in terms of best practices, when investigating human trafficking cases. The City approaches these cases with the intention of providing equal consideration to trafficking victims.

ROB SCHRODER, MAYOR



GRAND JURY FINDING #3

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

Response:

The City agrees with this finding. Knowledge of the local environment and criminal activities are essential to effectively identifying and apprehending traffickers; developing, investigating, and prosecuting these cases can take years. The City will factor this information into our approach to developing trafficking cases.

GRAND JURY FINDING #4

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

Response:

The City agrees with this finding based on our experience as well as the research presented in the Grand Jury Report.

GRAND JURY FINDING #5

"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 issues important to officers assigned to trafficking cases."

Response:

The City agrees with this finding based on our experience as well as the research presented in the Grand Jury Report. The City does utilize the POST training curriculum for educating our police personnel.

GRAND JURY FINDING #6

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

Response:

The City agrees with this finding as traffickers generally work across jurisdictional lines require coordination from various agencies. The City will coordinate with local, State and Federal agencies on trafficking cases.



GRAND JURY FINDING #7

"City law enforcement and Contra Costa 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 agrees with this finding based on our experience as well as the research presented in the Grand Jury Report. We currently do not track this data, but should a mechanism be created to track this information, we plan on complying with the recommendation. We cannot comment on whether the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office tracks this information as we do not have access to their data.

GRAND JURY FINDING #8

"City law enforcement and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department does not always use resources offered by the State and Federal for joint 'sting' and 'sweep' operations."

Response:

The City disagrees with this finding as the City of Martinez does use resources from State and Federal agencies to investigate human trafficking and related investigations. Given the fact that human trafficking related criminal activity is not prevalent in Martinez, we have not conducted "sting" and "sweep" operations; if we were to engage in these investigative activities, we would use the State and Federal resources available. Furthermore, we cannot comment on whether the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office utilizes State or Federal resources as we are not knowledgeable on the cases they have investigated within their jurisdiction.

GRAND JURY FINDING #9

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

Response:

The City agrees with this finding based on our experience as well as the research presented in the Grand Jury Report.

GRAND JURY FINDING #10

"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 agrees with this finding as multidisciplinary teams leverage resources and expertise that can detect trafficking related behaviors. Should we focus on any trafficking cases it is our intention to leverage resources, such as multidisciplinary teams, during the investigation.

GRAND JURY FINDING #11

"Public awareness is a critical factor in identifying potential human trafficking activity."

Response:

The City agrees with this finding as tips and information from the community can direct law enforcement to potential trafficking related crimes. The City of Martinez encourages the public to share information with us on crimes, to include trafficking.

GRAND JURY FINDING #14

"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 to policy makers; and wrap-around services for victims/survivors."

Response:

The City agrees with this finding as a comprehensive approach, involving training, education, community engagement, wrap-around services, and vigorous prosecution, can yield good outcomes. When we investigate trafficking cases, we intend to comply with this finding in order to provide adequate resources to victims as well as to hold traffickers accountable for their crimes.

CITY'S RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS 1-3

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #1

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

Response:

The City agrees with this recommendation. Considering the scope and depth of the human trafficking problem, enhanced and expanded training for officers assigned to trafficking-related duties would be beneficial. The City of Martinez has not yet implemented this recommendation as we have not yet identified which one of our detectives will be assigned to trafficking-related duties. We recently had a detective with experience in trafficking-related investigations transfer back to our Patrol Division and we will need to determine which detective will take the lead role in trafficking investigations. The selection of the detective and pursuit of expanded training will occur in 2016.



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GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #2

"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 agrees with this recommendation, but it will not be implemented as it is not warranted. The City of Martinez, unlike other cities in the County, does not have high crime areas that exhibit any indications, based on observations or community feedback, of trafficking related activity. Should the information change we will collaborate with State and federal law enforcement to address the problem. It should be noted that we do routinely collaborate with our Federal partners on (Internet Crimes Against Children) ICAC. We have Federal investigators utilize work stations in the police department to assist with these cases and can expand our level of collaboration for trafficking cases as they arise.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #3

"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 supports this recommendation; however, it will not be implemented as it is not warranted. The City, unlike other cities in the County, does not have high crime areas that exhibit any indications, based on observations or community feedback, of significant drug, gang, and/or prostitution activity. Should this change, we will implement the recommendation as we value the benefits of assigning multidisciplinary teams to focus on these problems.

Sincerely,

Robert Schroder
Mayor

cc: City Council
Brad Kilger, City Manager
Manjit Sappal, Chief of Police
Jeffrey Walter, City Attorney