



City of Pleasant Hill

September 19, 2016

Honorable John T. Laettner, Judge of the Superior Court
Michael Simmons, Foreperson, 2015-2016 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553
Also via email to epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

RE: City of Pleasant Hill’s Response to Report No. 1609 “Human Trafficking”

Dear Judge Laettner and Foreperson Simmons:

In June 2016, the 2015-2016 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury issued Report No. 1609 entitled “Human Trafficking.” Below find the City of Pleasant Hill’s responses to the report’s findings and recommendations.

FINDINGS

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.

City Response: Agree

Finding 2. 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.

City Response: Agree

Finding 3. Effectively identifying and apprehending traffickers requires knowledge of the local environment and criminal activities acquired through years of experience.

City Response: Agree. Knowledge of criminal activity is vital. However, training, partnering with subject matter experts, and the development of criminal intelligence is more significant than years of experience.

Finding 4: Most police officer training related to human trafficking is acquired through working with more experienced officers and victim advocates.

City Response: Agree

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 the issues important to officers assigned to trafficking cases.

City Response: Agree

Finding 6. Successful apprehension and prosecution of traffickers often involves coordination and cooperation among local, State, and federal agencies.

City Response: Agree

Finding 7. 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.

City Response: Agree

Finding 8. 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.

City Response: Agree

Finding 9. Trafficking frequently occurs in combination with other violent crimes and its victims often have a history of abuse and trauma.

City Response: Agree

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.

City Response: Agree

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

City Response: Agree

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.

City Response: Agree

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1. City law enforcement agencies and the Sheriff's Department should consider incorporating expanded training for officers assigned to trafficking-related duties.

City Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Pleasant Hill Police Department sends officers to trafficking-related courses when able and the training is applicable to community needs.

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.

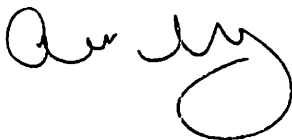
City Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Pleasant Hill Police Department currently collaborates with State and federal law enforcement whenever possible and appropriate.

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.

City Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Pleasant Hill Police Department will consider the benefits of assigning multidisciplinary teams.

Please feel free to contact me for additional information regarding the City's response at 925-671-5284.

Sincerely,



Andrew Murray, Assistant City Manager

Cc: Sue Noack, Mayor
Michael G. Harris, Vice-Mayor

Kenneth Carlson, Councilmember
David E. Durant, Councilmember
Timothy M. Flaherty, Councilmember
June Catalano, City Manager
Janet Coleson, City Attorney
John Moore, Chief of Police

Attachments: - Letter from Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury Regarding Report
- Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury Report