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September 6, 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. 1609, "Human Trafficking"**

Dear Judge Laettner:

On behalf of the San Pablo City Council, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: "Human Trafficking". The City Council authorized this response at its meeting on September 6, 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:

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.

Response: San Pablo agrees with the finding.

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.

Response: San Pablo agrees with the finding.

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

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Response: San Pablo agrees with the finding.

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

Response: San Pablo partially disagrees with the finding. Outside of on the job training and working with victim advocates, officers also receive required two-hour POST video training specific to human trafficking.

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.

Response: San Pablo agrees with the finding.

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

Response: San Pablo partially disagrees with the finding. Due to local human trafficking issues, i.e. prostitution, coordination and cooperation is always encouraged; however, due to organizational needs and outside uncontrollable influences on local, State, and Federal agencies there are times coordination and cooperation does not exist and law enforcement agencies still successfully apprehend and prosecute traffickers.

Finding #7: City law enforcement and the 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: San Pablo partially disagrees with the finding. San Pablo sees the need for more comprehensive and consistent human trafficking victim data; however, the City cannot address the practices of other entities including whether or not other entities are collecting and analyzing comprehensive data consistently.

Finding #8: City law enforcement and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department do not always use resources offered by State and Federal for joint "sting" and "sweep" operations.

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Response: San Pablo partially disagrees with the finding. The San Pablo Police Department would utilize resources offered by the State or Federal agencies when an investigation required the utilization of such resources. The City cannot address the practices of other entities including whether or not other entities not always use resources offered by the State and Federal agencies.

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

Response: San Pablo agrees with the finding.

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: San Pablo agrees with the finding.

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

Response: San Pablo agrees with the finding.

Recommendations

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 Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The San Pablo Police Department does not have officers assigned to human trafficking duties. Officers are generalists, who investigate an array of criminal activity. A significant human trafficking case would be assigned to the Investigations Division for further comprehensive investigation. The City cannot address the practices of other entities including whether or not other entities should consider incorporating expanding training for officers assigned to trafficking related duties.

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 Recommendation has been implemented. The San Pablo Police Department will appropriately collaborate with State and Federal Law Enforcement when an investigation requires State and/or Federal law enforcement assistance. The City cannot address the practices of other entities including whether or not other

entities should consider increasing collaboration with State and Federal law enforcement.

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 Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not feasible at this time. The San Pablo Police Department has fifty-four (54) sworn officers with the majority of the officers being assigned to the Patrol Division. The Department also has eight sworn officer vacancies not filled. The San Pablo Police Department has implemented a Priority Policing Unit (POP) that includes gang enforcement, building code enforcement, and vehicle abatement. The POP Unit concentrates on priority crimes or community concerns which includes prostitution. If human trafficking has been identified in an investigation, the POP Unit, with the collaboration of the Investigations Division, would conduct any appropriate or required follow-up investigation. The San Pablo Police Department also has a Community Outreach Unit. This unit organizes events between the community and the Police Department i.e. Coffee with the Cops, National Night Out, Citizen Police Academy, and parenting classes. If human trafficking concerns arose during the unit's contact with the community, staff would appropriately inform the Patrol Division to investigate the matter. The City cannot address the practices of other entities including whether or not other entities should consider the benefits of assigning multidisciplinary teams in areas with significant drug, gang, and/or prostitution activity.

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