



City of Pleasant Hill

July 19, 2016

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
Martinez, CA 94553
Also via email to epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

RE: City of Pleasant Hill's Response to Report No. 1605 "Caring for the Victims"

Dear Judge Laettner and Foreperson Simmons:

In May 2016, the 2015-2016 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury issued a report entitled Report No. 1605 "Caring for the Victims." Below find the City of Pleasant Hill's responses to the report's findings and recommendations.

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 seen it.

City Response: Agree, the staff of the Pleasant Hill Police Department have not seen 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.

City Response: Agree, the staff of the Pleasant Hill Police Department has not been contact by CFS regarding the protocol.

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

City Response: Partially disagree. The Pleasant Hill Police Department does not arrest CSEC victims and does not know whether CSEC victims are being arrested and booked into Juvenile Hall for their own safety.

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

City Response: Agree, the staff of the Pleasant Hill Police Department is not aware of a single database covering all CSEC related incidents in the County.

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.

City Response: Agree, the staff of the Pleasant Hill Police Department is not aware of a single database covering all CSEC related incidents in the County or any other system that would enable the County to know the number and location of victims of CSEC.

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.

City Response: Agree.

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.

City Response: Agree

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.

City Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Pleasant Hill Police Department will engage with other law enforcement agencies within the County to consider whether and/or how best to establish a protocol for addressing CSEC. The Department will retain the right to implement the protocol that it judges will be the best fit for the City's needs.

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.


City Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Pleasant Hill Police Department does and will continue to refer suspected victims of CSEC to personnel with appropriate training. The Department will refer suspected victims to personnel within CFS or personnel with other organizations depending upon that personnel's capacity and capabilities.

Recommendation 11: City Councils and Sheriff's Department should direct law enforcement to avail themselves of CSEC training programs formulated by CFS.

City Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. Staff of the Pleasant Hill Police Department will continue to avail themselves of training on CSEC. The Department will consider training programs formulated by CFS as well as training programs of other providers.

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 dated May 11, 2016 Regarding Report No. 1605 "Caring for the Victims"
- Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury Report No. 1605, "Caring for the Victims"