



City Council

Mark Mitchell, Mayor  
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**October 12, 2016**

Michael Simmons, Foreperson  
Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury  
725 Court Street  
P.O. Box431  
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Dear Mr. Simmons:

Pursuant to your June 22, 2016 letter regarding Grand Jury Report No. 1609, "Human Trafficking" please consider this to be the City of Lafayette's response. This response was reviewed and authorized by the City Council at a duly noticed City Council meeting on October 11, 2016. According to page 15 of the Report, Lafayette is required to respond to Findings 1-11, 14, and Recommendations 1-3.

**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

**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
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- 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:** Partially disagree. The police department is unaware of any available analysis tool that performs this type of function. If such a tool were available, it would be beneficial in determining the magnitude of the problem within the county.
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- 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
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- 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
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- 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
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- Finding 11:** Public awareness is a critical factor in identifying potential human trafficking activity.
- City response:** Agree
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- 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
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- 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 City of Lafayette has implemented this recommendation. The Supervisor of the Investigations Unit has completed additional training in the recognition and investigation of human trafficking related cases. The Unit Supervisor oversees the cases and work of all investigators assigned to the unit.

**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 City of Lafayette has implemented this recommendation. The police department collaborates routinely with various State and federal law enforcement agencies. The Investigations Unit has worked extensively with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, the State Alcohol Control Board (ABC), the State Contractors Board and the California Massage Therapist Council (CAMTC) to performs "sweeps" and "stings". The City Municipal Code provides additional regulations of massage establishments, requiring inspections by investigators.

**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 will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The City does not currently experience significant levels of drug, gang, or prostitution activities.

We appreciate your time and attention in consideration of these important matters and hope this letter is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Falk".

Steven Falk, City Manager