



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

*Mark A. Peterson*  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

August 10, 2016

The 2015 – 2016 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury  
725 Court Street  
P.O. Box 431  
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Re: Response to Report 1608 – Welfare Fraud Investigation in Contra Costa County

On June 24, 2016, the Contra Costa County Office of the District Attorney received a copy of Grand Jury Report number 1608, "Welfare Fraud Investigation in Contra Costa County." The Contra Costa County Office of the District Attorney is required to respond to the findings and recommendations specified in the report on or before August 26, 2016. This letter contains the responses of the Office of the District Attorney to each of the required findings and recommendations.

Finding 21 - The Senior Inspector in the DA's Welfare Fraud Investigation Unit is authorized to carry a handgun.

Response – The Respondent agrees with the finding.

Finding 22 - The County DA's Office has only one senior inspector and a Deputy District Attorney assigned for welfare fraud prosecution.

Response – The Respondent agrees with the finding.

Finding 23 - If the County hires more senior inspectors, they could conduct investigations into EBT card fraud, internal fraud, and in-home supportive services violations.

Response – The Respondent agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 5 - As EHSD fraud referrals increase, and as funding is identified and made available, the District Attorney should consider increasing the number of Senior Inspectors and Deputy DAs so that investigations can also be done on Electronic Benefit Transfer card fraud and internal fraud within EHSD.

Response – The recommendation has been implemented. In fiscal year 2014 – 2015, the District Attorney's office received almost no public assistance fraud referrals from EHSD. In fiscal year 2015 – 2016, EHSD referred approximately 300 public

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD  
DATE: [illegible]  
TO: [illegible]  
FROM: [illegible]  
SUBJECT: [illegible]

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[illegible text]

assistance fraud cases to the District Attorney. All or some of the remaining cases in the backlog of overpayment cases will be forwarded to the District Attorney for investigation and prosecution following review by EHSD. Newly discovered public assistance fraud cases will also be forwarded to the District Attorney for investigation and prosecution. With this in mind, respondent has considered increasing the number of Senior Inspectors and Deputy DAs assigned to the Public Assistance Fraud Unit. Provided a source of funding to offset costs is provided, Respondent would assign additional Senior Inspector(s) and Deputy District Attorney(s) to the Public Assistance Fraud Unit in a manner commensurate with the workload.

Respectfully Submitted,

MARK A. PETERSON  
District Attorney



Steven J. Moawad  
Senior Deputy District Attorney

