



August 9, 2016

The Honorable John Laettner
Presiding Judge of the Contra Costa Superior Court
A.F. Bray Court House, Department 25
1020 Ward Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: **Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: "Human Trafficking" (Report 1609)**

Dear Judge Laettner:

On behalf of the Antioch City Council, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: "Human Trafficking." The City Council authorized this response at its meeting on August 9th, 2016. Pursuant to California Penal Code § 933.05, the City will respond to the applicable 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."

The City agrees with this finding.

Finding # 2: "The emphasis in human trafficking cases has shifted from solely prosecution to a 'victim centered' approach in which the needs of the persons who have been trafficked receive equal consideration."

The City agrees with this finding.

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

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Wade Harper • Mayor Pro Tem Lori Ogorchock • Council Members Mary Rocha • Tony Tiscareno • Monica E. Wilson
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The City agrees with this finding.

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

The City agrees with this finding.

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."

The City agrees with this finding.

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

The City agrees with this finding.

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."

The City agrees with this finding.

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."

The City agrees with this finding.

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

The City agrees with this 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."

The City agrees with this finding.

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

The City agrees with this finding.

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."

The City agrees with this 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."

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented at such time when staffing improves to a level that could support assigning officers to trafficking related duties:

The City agrees that, in an ideal situation, assigning and training officers for human trafficking related duties could be of great benefit. However, at this time, the police department is still struggling to increase its staffing in order to resume even basic police services. At such a time police department staffing adequately improves, they would consider devoting resources/personnel to these types of activities.

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."

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but would be considered on a limited basis:

The City recognizes the value of collaboration with State and federal law enforcement and would direct the police department to participate in "sweep" and "sting" operations as time, resources, and personnel constraints permit.

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."

This recommendation has already been implemented:

The Antioch Police Department already has two multidisciplinary teams with their Special Operations Unit (SOU) and Gang Team that focus on (among other crimes) drug, gang, and prostitution activity in the city. These specialized teams regularly direct their efforts in the high crime areas of Antioch and are familiar with trafficking activities.

We trust the Grand Jury will find these responses helpful to its endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wade Harper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wade Harper
Mayor, City of Antioch

Cc: Michael Simmons, Contra Costa County Grand Jury Foreperson, 725 Court Street, Martinez, CA 94553

epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

Steve Duran, City Manager
Michael Vigilia, City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 2016/83

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANTIOCH
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO FORWARD A RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY
REPORT NO. 1609 - "HUMAN TRAFFICKING"**

WHEREAS, the City received Grand Jury Report No. 1609, "Human Trafficking" dated June 22, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, a written response to the Grand Jury Report is required under California Penal Code; and,

WHEREAS, a written response to the Grand Jury Report has been drafted and reviewed by the City Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Antioch hereby authorizes the Mayor to sign the written response to Grand Jury Report No. 1609 - "Human Trafficking" which is attached to this Resolution as "Exhibit 1".

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Antioch at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 9th day of August 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wilson, Ogorchock, Tiscareno, Rocha and Mayor Harper

ABSENT: None

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None



**ARNE SIMONSEN
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF ANTIOCH**