



City of Martinez

525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA 94553-2394

(925) 372-3505
FAX (925) 229-5012

September 22, 2016

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
2015-2016 Contra Costa County Grand Jury
725 Court Street
PO Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

RE: Grand Jury Report No. 1615, "Truancy and Chronic Absence in Contra Costa County Schools"

Dear Mr. Simmons:

On behalf of the Martinez City Council, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: "Truancy and Chronic Absence in Contra Costa County Schools" (Report 1615). The City Council authorized this response at its meeting on September 21, 2016.

According to page 27 of the Report, the City is required to respond to Finding F12 as well as to Recommendation R17. Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05, the City will respond to each finding and to each recommendation individually.

CITY'S RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY FINDING F12

GRAND JURY FINDING #12

"The City that has and enforces a daytime curfew sees less daytime and juvenile crime."

Response:

The City agrees with this finding.

CITY'S RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION 17

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #17

"The City should consider adopting a policy to promulgate, enforce, and promote a daytime curfew."

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Response:

The City agrees with this recommendation, and will explore avenues to assist in decreasing truancy, but it will not be implemented at this time as it is not warranted. The Martinez Unified School District (MUSD) reports an 11% truancy rate, well below the State average (31.1%). The Martinez Police Department works closely with the MUSD on many different levels, to include issues related to truant students. The police department does not currently have a School Resource Officer (SRO) due to staffing issues, but we do anticipate having an officer assigned to the SRO position as resources allow; this future endeavor may hinge on support from the Martinez Unified School District. The SRO would help to improve the working relationship we currently have with the school district and provide additional resources toward truant/chronic absent students. The SRO will also be a part of the MUSD Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) process. Should this information change, we will collaborate with the MUSD and School Board on ways to best address the problem.

It should be noted that the City does have a Curfew Ordinance (Martinez Municipal Code 9.80.010) in place; however, it does not specifically apply to a daytime curfew. The current ordinance focuses on a curfew for minors between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Sincerely,

Robert Schroder
Mayor

c: City Council
Brad Kilger, City Manager
Jeffrey Walter, City Attorney
Manjit Sappal, Chief of Police