



Mayor

Will O'Neill

Mayor Pro Tem

Brad Avery

Council Members

Joy Brenner

Diane Brooks Dixon

Marshall "Duffy" Duffield

Jeff Herdman

Kevin Muldoon

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Kirk H. Nakamura
Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

SUBJECT: CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH RESPONSE TO THE
2019-2020 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY
REPORT ENTITLED, "PROTECTING THOSE WHO
PROTECT AND SERVE."

Dear Judge Nakamura:

The City Council of the City of Newport Beach has authorized me to submit the City's response to the 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury report regarding the implementation of formal Peer Support Programs in all law enforcement agencies in Orange County. In accordance with the California Penal Code, the following response addresses the Grand Jury Report findings and recommendations pertaining to the City of Newport Beach.

Response to Finding F1, F3, F4, F5 and F6

Finding F1: Peer Support Programs are effective in helping Peace Officers develop healthy coping techniques for themselves and their families.

Response: The City of Newport Beach agrees with this finding as of the June 30, 2020 Grand Jury Report.

Finding F3: The benefits in the peer support statute, effective January 1, 2020, are important to Peace Officers and Peer Support Team members.

Response: The City of Newport Beach agrees with this finding as of the June 30, 2020 Grand Jury Report.

Finding F4: It is important that Peer Support Team members receive periodic training.

Response: The City of Newport Beach agrees with this finding as of the June 30, 2020 Grand Jury Report.

Finding F5: Allocating a specific budget line item for Peer Support Programs help ensure adequate training and continuation of the program.

Response: The City of Newport Beach agrees with this finding as of the June 30, 2020 Grand Jury Report.

Finding F6: Continuous communication to Peace Officers about the Peer Support Programs is important to increase awareness and use of the Peer Support Programs.

Response: The City of Newport Beach agrees with this finding as of the June 30, 2020 Grand Jury Report.

Response to Recommendations R2, R3 and R4

Recommendation R2: The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that all Peer Support Programs be in compliance with the peer support statute.

Response: The City of Newport Beach has implemented this recommendation. The Newport Beach Police Department policy manual provides guidelines with regard to a Peer Support Team Program. The guidelines are in accordance with the recent peer support statute (AB-1117).

Recommendation R3: The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that Peer Support Team members receive periodic training and that completion of training is documented.

Response: The City of Newport Beach has implemented this recommendation. All Peer Support Team members are required to attend a California POST certified Basic Peer Support course which meets the requirements of the peer support statute. Team members are also provided additional training in Critical Incident Stress Management, as well as on-going training opportunities at the annual Public Safety Peer Support Association (PSPSA) conference. All training documentation and records are maintained in each employee's electronic training file, which is maintained by the Personnel and Training Section of the Newport Beach Police Department.

Recommendation R4: The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that all law enforcement agencies allocate a specific budget line item for their Peer Support Program.

Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. A specific line item in the budget will be requested during the FY22 budget process. If approved by the City Manager and City Council, this line item would be funded on July 1, 2021.

The City of Newport Beach appreciates this opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations contained in the Orange County Grand Jury's report.

Sincerely,



Will O'Neill
Mayor, City of Newport Beach

cc: City Council
Orange County Grand Jury