



LOS ALAMITOS POLICE

CHIEF ERIC R. NUÑEZ

November 9, 2020

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

Judge Nakamura:

I am writing you in response to the October 23, 2020 letter from Foreperson Scott Kelly of the 2020-2021 Orange County Grand Jury regarding their report entitled, "Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve." Foreperson Kelly requested responses to various findings and recommendations specified in the report. See below for the requested information:

F1 – Peer Support Programs are effective in helping Peace Officers develop healthy coping techniques for themselves and their families: The Los Alamitos Police Department has a robust Peer Support Program in place in support of a culture that recognizes the importance of supporting each other and our families.

F3 – The benefits in the peer support statute, effective January 1, 2020 are important to Peace Officers and Peer Support Team members: The Los Alamitos Police Department supports and complies with the recently enacted statute. Aside from our formal Peer Support Program, the Department contracts with The Counseling Team International so that all our members have access to support and services designed for first responders.

F4 – It is important that Peer Support Team members receive periodic training: Team members receive ongoing training and additionally participate in recurring local and regional team meetings.

F5 – Allocating a specific budget line item for Peer Support Programs help ensure adequate training and continuation of the programs: Training and program continuation is currently supported by budget line-items for Training, Travel and Dues. These line items are recurring in various sections of our budget so that Department members falling in different budget categories can receive training and participate in Peer Support meetings.

F6 – Continuous communication to Peace Officers about the Peer Support Programs is important to increase awareness and use of the Peer Support Programs: With only twenty-one sworn officers, both formal and

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

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informal peer support effectively occurs each day. Peer Support is routinely discussed in briefings and team contact information is posted throughout the station.

R2- The 2019-2020 orange County Grand Jury recommends that all Peer Support Programs be in compliance with the peer support statute: The Los Alamitos Police Department Policy 1034 – Peer Support Team and Program is in compliance with peer support statute.

R3 – The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that Peer Support Team members receive periodic training and that completion of training is documented: Current team members have completed basic peer support training. Tenured members have also received updated and additional training as well. All training is documented by our Department Training Coordinator.

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: The 2021-2022 Budget will have a Peer Support Program line item parceled out in the Police Administration budgetary section.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report entitled, “Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve.” Please reach out should you have questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Nuñez, Chief of Police
Los Alamitos Police Department

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