



CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY

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August 18, 2020

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

Dear Judge Nakamura:

In response to the 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve," the City of Fountain Valley and the Fountain Valley Police Department have listed the required response to the findings and recommendations.

In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the City of Fountain Valley is responding to the investigation entitled, "Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve," and the sections requested by the Grand Jury as follows:

Findings

Finding #1: "Peer Support Programs are effective in helping Peace Officers develop healthy coping techniques for themselves and their families."

The City of Fountain Valley agrees with the finding and have been effective in helping Peace Officers develop healthy coping techniques for themselves and their family. The Police Department provides personnel with education via videos, articles, handouts and personal interaction.

Finding #3: "The benefits in the Peer Support Statute, effective January 1, 2020, are important to Peace Officers and Peer Support Team Members."

The City of Fountain Valley agrees.

Finding #4: "It is important that Peer Support Team members receive periodic training."

The City of Fountain Valley agrees. The Police Department attends the annual Public Safety Peer Support Association training conference, as well as Orange County Association Peer Supporters meetings and independent training opportunities.

Finding #5: "Allocating a specific budget line item for Peer Support Programs help ensure adequate training and continuation of the programs."

The City of Fountain Valley agrees and has an allocated Peer Support budget of \$16,500 for the budget year 2020/2021 in order to cover the cost of training and Peer Support services.

Finding #6: "Continuous communication to Peace Officers about the Peer Support Programs is important to increase awareness and use of the Peer Support Programs."

The City of Fountain Valley agrees. The Police Department does this via email, handouts, and monthly one-page bulletins.

Recommendations

Recommendation #2: "The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that all Peer Support Programs be in compliance with the Peer Support Statute. (F3)"

Review of Assembly Bill 1117, the Police Department is in compliance with the statute; and the recommendations have been implemented.

Recommendation #3: "The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that Peer Support Team members receive periodic training and that completion of training is documented. (F4)"

The Police Department Peer Support Team receives periodic and on-going training, which is documented per Department policy.

Recommendation #4: "The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that all law enforcement agencies allocate a specific budget line item for their Peer Support Program. (F5)"

The Police Department has an allocation of an annual recurring budget line item of \$16,500 for our Peer Support Program.

Sincerely,



CHERYL BROTHERS
CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY, MAYOR