



CITY OF COSTA MESA

P.O. BOX 1200, COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

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

Re: City of Costa Mesa Response
2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury Report
Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve

Honorable Presiding Judge Nakamura:

The City of Costa Mesa City Council received and reviewed the referenced Grand Jury Report, and in accordance with the Grand Jury's request, approved the following responses to the report.

RESPONSES TO FINDINGS

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

Response: The City of Costa Mesa agrees with this 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 Costa Mesa agrees with this finding.

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

Response: The City of Costa Mesa agrees with this finding.

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

Response: The City of Costa Mesa agrees with this 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 Costa Mesa agrees with this finding.

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

R2. *The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that all Peer Support Programs be in compliance with peer support statute. (F3)*

Response: This recommendation is being analyzed for areas that can be implemented to enhance the City of Costa Mesa Police Department's current Peer Support Program. A report to the City Council will be made on this issue no later than February 28, 2021.



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R3. *The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that Peer Support Team members receive periodical training and that completion of training is documented. (F4)*

Response: This recommendation is being analyzed for implementation. The City of Costa Mesa Police Department provides peer support training to members of the Crisis Negotiations Team, which also consists of the Department's Peer Support Program. All training received by officers is documented and any additional periodical training will be documented once completed. A report to the City Council will be made on this issue no later than February 28, 2021.

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. (F5)*

Response: The recommendation is being analyzed for implementation. The City of Costa Mesa allocates funding in the Police Department's budget specifically for advance officer training, which includes peer support training. Additional peer support training will continue to be funded through the Department's designated training budget. Other related Peer Support Program needs and/or expenses are funded through the Police Department's Administration and Patrol Services program accounts. A report to the City Council will be made on this issue no later than February 28, 2021, prior to adoption of the City's next budget.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Lori Ann Farrell Harrison
City Manager