



October 27, 2020

Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve"

Dear Presiding Judge of the Superior Court,

In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the City of La Palma is responding to each of the findings and recommendations in the 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury report as follows:

Response to Findings

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

The City agrees with this finding.

F2. A written policy documenting each agency's Peer Support Program helps ensure the program's continuation after changes in staff.

The City 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.

The City agrees with this finding.

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

The City agrees with this finding.

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

The City 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.

The City agrees with this finding.

Response to Recommendations

R1. The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that the four law enforcement agencies without a written policy on their Peer Support Program institute a policy. (F1, F2)

The La Palma Police Department has adopted a policy on its Peer Support Program (Policy #1004) prior to the publication of the 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury report. A copy of the written policy was submitted to the Grand Jury.

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

The La Palma Police Department's Peer Support Program is in compliance with the Assembly Bill 1117.

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

All members of the La Palma Police Department's Peer Support Team receive periodic training in addition to the required Basic Peer Support course. Completion of all training courses is documented as a matter of a standard Department protocol.

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)

The City currently does not have a specific line item in the budget for the Peer Support Program. The City will endeavor to do so in the future budgets.

Sincerely,



Conal McNamara
City Manager
City of La Palma