

MAYOR  
Miguel A. Pulido  
MAYOR PRO TEM  
Juan Villegas  
COUNCILMEMBERS  
Phil Bacerra  
Nelida Mendoza  
David Penalzoa  
Vicente Sarmiento  
Jose Solorio



CITY MANAGER  
Kristine Ridge  
CITY ATTORNEY  
Sonia R. Carvalho  
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL  
Daisy Gomez

## CITY OF SANTA ANA

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
20 Civic Center Plaza • P.O. Box 1988  
Santa Ana, California 92702  
[www.santa-ana.org](http://www.santa-ana.org)

November 10, 2020

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

### **Subject: Response to “Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve” Report**

Honorable Judge Nakamura:

Please accept this letter as the City of Santa Ana's response to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report, published on June 30, 2020, entitled “Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve”. The Orange County Grand Jury conducted a study regarding officer wellness program availability in law enforcement agencies that serve Orange County communities. After the study, the Orange County Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations for the City of Santa Ana were as follows:

#### Findings

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

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

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

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

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

#### SANTA ANA CITY COUNCIL

Miguel A. Pulido  
Mayor  
[mpulido@santa-ana.org](mailto:mpulido@santa-ana.org)

Juan Villegas  
Mayor Pro Tem, Ward 5  
[jvillegas@santa-ana.org](mailto:jvillegas@santa-ana.org)

Vicente Sarmiento  
Ward 1  
[vsarmiento@santa-ana.org](mailto:vsarmiento@santa-ana.org)

David Penalzoa  
Ward 2  
[dpenalzoa@santa-ana.org](mailto:dpenalzoa@santa-ana.org)

Jose Solorio  
Ward 3  
[jsolorio@santa-ana.org](mailto:jsolorio@santa-ana.org)

Phil Bacerra  
Ward 4  
[pbacerra@santa-ana.org](mailto:pbacerra@santa-ana.org)

Nelida Mendoza  
Ward 6  
[nmendoza@santa-ana.org](mailto:nmendoza@santa-ana.org)

Recommendations

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

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)

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)

Responses

The City and the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) concurs with the Orange County Grand Jury's findings and recommendations. The SAPD understands that operational and organizational stressors are characteristics of police work. The Department's peer support team offers 24-hour assistance to employees in any situation or evolving crisis. The team is comprised of 17 members to include sworn, professional staff, and chaplains, who are trained to provide day-to-day emotional support, assist with a critical incident's after effects, and respond to mutual aid requests.

The SAPD's peer support team works closely with other agencies through the Orange County Association of Peer Supporters (OCAPS). The purpose of OCAPS is to provide regional support, advisement, response, and resources in the aftermath of a critical incident or traumatic loss impacting law enforcement professionals and family members in Orange County and the surrounding area. Our members, when requested, are responsive and willing to assist at a moment's notice.

The Department's peer support team currently does not have a specific budget line item. We support the finding and recommendation for a budget line item, which will be re-evaluated during the next budget cycle (FY 2021-2022).

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your report. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 714-647-5200.

Sincerely,



Kristine Ridge  
City Manager

C: Orange County Grand Jury  
David Valentin, Police Chief