



CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

(714) 593-4485 • FAX (714) 593-4453

10200 SLATER AVENUE • FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 92708-4736

Paul A. Sorrell

Chief of Police

September 19, 2006

Ms. Bette Flick, Foreperson
Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Ms. Flick:

My office has received the Orange County Grand Jury report on "Oversight of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies, Resolving a Dichotomy!" Per the request detailed in the report, I have compiled responses to Findings 6.1 through 6.4, as well as Recommendations 7.1 through 7.3.

Response to Findings

6.1 Best Practices Goal

We disagree wholly. The Fountain Valley Police Department has adopted the principles in sample policies drafted and approved by the Orange County Chiefs and Sheriff's Association after appropriate legal review and the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST). We believe those policies and related procedures rise to the level of best practices. Additionally, my office retains a legal firm to serve as our Department's Police Legal Advisor. In addition to reviewing and advising regarding specific issues, this firm also is contracted to provide continuous review of current law and case decisions that apply to our policies and procedures.

6.2 Independent Reviews of LEAs

We disagree wholly. The policies and practices of the Fountain Valley Police Department are under regular scrutiny and review by the State and Federal Judicial systems, the City Manager and City Council, the City Attorney's Office, our management staff, as well as our Police Legal Advisor.

6.3 Orange County is Changing

We disagree partially. The County will continue to change and grow. As a result, we believe that law enforcement agencies will continue to face new challenges. While crime may increase from the current relatively low level, we disagree with the assertion that crime will increase to similar levels of surrounding counties.

6.4 LEA Self Assessment

We disagree partially. With regard to LEA monitoring, we already have sufficient procedures in place, along with both internal and external review to ensure we are following best practices. As a result, it is not agreed that independent audits (at public expense) would provide sufficient levels of improvement in this area to warrant the additional expenditures required through an external unfunded mandate. In reality, Orange County law enforcement routinely engages in self assessment utilizing a variety of management techniques. Our policymakers (City Manager and City Council) have the authority to call for audits when they are not satisfied with the Department's performance in the community. With effective policies and checks and balances already in place, we disagree that an unfunded mandate requiring independent audits would improve LEA monitoring.

Response to Recommendations

7.1 Best Practice Guidelines

The recommendation has been implemented. The Fountain Valley Police Department receives regular recommendations from legal advisors and from professional law enforcement organizations, such as the Orange County Chiefs and Sheriff's Association, the California Police Chiefs' Association and POST, on a variety of topics, such as oversight and training in the handling of citizen complaints to the Police Department. In conjunction with our City Attorney and Police Legal Advisor, we adopt those best practices and recommendations on model policies.

7.2 Near-Term, Independent Review of LEA Policies, Procedures and Compliance

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is the belief of the Fountain Valley Police Department that it is not warranted at this time. Our position is supported by the results of periodic and spontaneous review of our policies, procedures and compliance by the courts, as well as through checks and balances inherent in municipal government. These checks and balances include the City Manager, City Attorney, District Attorney's Office and our own Police Legal Advisor.

7.3 Periodic, Independent Reviews of LEA Compliance to Policies and Procedures

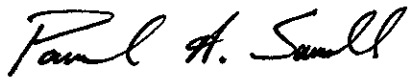
This recommendation will not be implemented for the same reasons stated in Recommendation 7.2.

On behalf of the Fountain Valley Police Department, I would like to express my appreciation for your interest in ensuring responsive and effective law enforcement throughout Orange County. On-going examination of these types of issues will only serve to enhance the effectiveness and professionalism of Orange County law enforcement.

Ms. Bette Flick, Foreperson
Orange County Grand Jury
Page 3
September 19, 2006

Should you wish to contact me, I can be reached at (714) 593-4454.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul A. Sorrell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

PAUL A. SORRELL
CHIEF OF POLICE