



Farrah N. Khan, Mayor

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cityofirvine.org

949-724-6233

September 14, 2023

The Honorable Maria Hernandez
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: 2022-2023 Orange County Grand Jury Report
School Shooting: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?
City of Irvine Response

To the Honorable Maria Hernandez:

In accordance with California Penal Code section 933.05, the Orange County Grand Jury has requested the City of Irvine respond to findings and recommendations in the 2022-2023 Orange County Grand Jury report entitled: "*School Shooting: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?*"

FINDINGS

F1

Law enforcement, first responders, and other stakeholders have demonstrated a strong interest in working cooperatively with Orange County public schools to mitigate the risk of an active shooter incident; establishment of MOUs between law enforcement and school districts would strengthen this cooperation.

Response to F1

The City of Irvine partially disagrees with this finding. The Irvine Police Department (IPD) and the Tustin and Irvine Unified School Districts have an incredibly strong collaborative working relationship. IPD provides School Resource Officers, a Middle School Officer and DARE Officers to work at schools in both districts without the establishment of an MOU. However, IPD has entered into an MOU with the Irvine Unified School District to facilitate access to the District's 2,500 cameras in the event of an emergency.

F8

School Resources Officers (SROs) are a valuable asset for school safety, yet many cities/districts do not allocate sufficient funds to hire needed officers.

Response to F8

The City of Irvine is unable to comment on budget matters and SRO staffing for other jurisdictions and districts. However, in the IPD Youth Services Unit, there are eight (8) full-time Irvine police officers assigned to the middle and high schools; four (4) full-time Irvine police officers assigned to the DARE program at the elementary schools; and one (1) Irvine police sergeant assigned to lead the Youth Services Unit. Irvine is in the unique position of continuing to grow. As the population continues to increase and our districts add campuses, IPD continuously evaluates our staffing levels and the need for additional personnel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1

Each Orange County school district should arrange for local law enforcement to do an annual safety inspection of each school. The written safety checklist should include an audit of the integrity of site boundaries and a review of safety plans and policies. This annual safety audit should commence with the 2023-24 school year by October 1, 2023, and annually thereafter. (F1, F10, F11)

Response to R1

The recommendation has been implemented.

On an annual basis, the Irvine Police Department works collaboratively with our districts to assess security measures, as well as response protocols and practices at each school site.

R3

Each Orange County school district, in conjunction with law enforcement, should develop and implement tabletop exercises to be conducted in district schools by December 31, 2023, and annually thereafter. (F2)

Response to R3

The recommendation has been implemented.

For many years, IPD has been an active participant in the Irvine Unified School District's *Emergency/Safety Partnership (E/SPAR)*. E/SPAR brings together representatives from each of the District's schools and facilities on an ongoing basis to discuss emergency plans and procedures. During the 2021/22 and 2022/23 school years, the IPD helped facilitate tabletop exercises to respond to, and recover from, violent intruder incidents.

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Additionally, IPD conducts individually tailored violent intruder trainings at each campus using aerial maps of the school and surrounding community.

R4

Each Orange County school district should work with local law enforcement to plan and conduct a district-wide active shooter drill by July 1, 2024, and at least every other year thereafter. (F2)

Response to R4

This recommendation has been implemented.

The Irvine Unified School District has a long standing practice that each school will undergo violent intruder training with members of the Irvine Police Department every two (2) years. Additionally, the Irvine Unified School District requires each school to conduct a lockdown drill each school year.

R12

Each Orange County School District should assess the need for SROs or additional SROs, reaching out to appropriate community partners to facilitate funding by July 1, 2024. (F8)

Response to R12

The recommendation has been implemented.

IPD continually assesses staffing needs as the City of Irvine continues to grow. As appropriate, IPD has added additional personnel in the Youth Services Unit to keep pace with the growth of the surrounding community and the addition of school campuses. Open lines of communication remain in place with our school districts to ensure IPD understands and meets their needs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Irvine Police Department Lieutenant Bill Bingham at 949-724-7117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Farrah Khan", written in a cursive style.

Farrah N. Khan
Mayor

cc: Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701