



CITY OF
Los Alamitos
California

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August 20, 2024

Honorable Maria Hernandez, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Orange
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2023-2024 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT
“LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH CALLS FOR
SERVICE”**

Dear Judge Hernandez:

The City of Los Alamitos (City) has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report titled “Law Enforcement Response to Mental Health Calls for Service.” As required by California Penal Code §933 and §933.05, the City is responding to the findings and recommendations included within the report. The required responses are contained below:

Findings and Responses:

F1. Mental health training for law enforcement officers in Orange County exceeds the State's requirements, resulting in law enforcement applying these skills to better evaluate and handle mental health calls for service.

Response: Agree

The Los Alamitos Police Department currently has four Homeless Liaison Officers (HLOs), all of whom have completed this mental health training. The City of Los Alamitos and the Los Alamitos Police Department have invested and will continue to invest in mental health training for employees and officers.

F2. Law enforcement agencies in Orange County have developed unique ways to deal with mental health calls in their communities based on their particular needs and budgets, enabling law enforcement to better serve their communities.

Response: Agree

The City of Los Alamitos and the Los Alamitos Police Department are invested in devising new and unique ways of handling homeless calls for service. The Los Alamitos Police Department regularly collaborates with surrounding agencies, such as the Long Beach Police Department, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, to more seamlessly and comprehensively address issues that affect all agencies.

- F3. Law enforcement collaboration with County PERT clinicians and Be Well mobile response units has been an effective tool when responding to mental health calls for service.**

Response: Agree

The City of Los Alamitos and the Los Alamitos Police Department have collaborated and will continue to collaborate with County PERT clinicians. Additionally, the Los Alamitos Police Department has used the Be Well Orange campus and found it to be a valuable resource.

- F4. People with mental illness respond more positively to "soft uniformed" police personnel, which can be effective in de-escalating situations.**

Response: Agree

Currently, the Los Alamitos Police Department's Homeless Liaison Officers (HLOs) are full-time patrol officers who function as HLOs on an ancillary basis. If the Department is able to designate an officer as a full-time HLO in the future, serious consideration will be given to outfitting them in a "soft uniform."

- F5. Providing follow-up case management is not only necessary but critical for the wellbeing of people experiencing mental health issues.**

Response: Agree

The City of Los Alamitos and the Los Alamitos Police Department have implemented and will continue to provide follow-up case management services in collaboration with County PERT.

Recommendations and Responses:

Based on its investigation, the 2023-2024 OCGJ determined that law enforcement agencies throughout Orange County have developed unique techniques to adequately address mental health calls, thus this report does not contain recommendations.

In the event that you need additional information regarding the City's responses, please contact City Manager, Chet Simmons, via email at csimmons@cityoflosalamitos.org.

Sincerely,

CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

Signed by:

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Jordan Nefulda
Mayor