



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

Steven R. Jones

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Council Member - District 5

Kim Bernice Nguyen

Council Member - District 6

September 8, 2020

Honorable Kirk H. Nakamura
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report, "*Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve*"

Dear Judge Nakamura:

The City of Garden Grove has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report, *Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve*. In compliance with California Penal Code 933 and 933.05, the City has responded to each of the findings and recommendations included in the report. Each finding and recommendation is listed below, followed by the City's response.

Findings

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

The City of Garden Grove 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. Garden Grove Police Department (GGPD) has had a Peer Support Team and written policy since 1997. Our current policy, Garden Grove Police Department General Order 2.23, last updated as of August 6, 2020 identifies a chain of command for the Peer Support Team. This chain of command consists of the Peer Support Team members, who report to a Peer Support Team supervisor. The supervisor is responsible for several duties, to include arranging training for team members, any

administrative duties, and keeping the Administrative Services Bureau Commander apprised of any call-outs or utilization of the team.

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

The City of Garden Grove agrees with this finding. All of GGPD's volunteer Peer Support Team members are sent to a Basic Peer Support training class prior to them responding to any personnel in need. The new statute helps to ensure confidentiality amongst Peer Support Team members and the employee in need.

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

The City of Garden Grove agrees with this finding. Each GGPD Peer Support Team member is mandated to attend a Basic Peer Support class put on by a psychologist familiar with Peer Support. Each member is also requested to attend quarterly ongoing training put on by GGPD's retained departmental psychologist that covers various Peer Support related topics.

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

The City of Garden Grove agrees with this finding. GGPD has established a specific budget for the Peer Support Team to assist with training and other administrative needs. The funds have been allocated toward contracts with professional service providers in the field and will continue to be allocated for the foreseeable future. If a Peer Support Team member is activated then his/her pay will be taken from their regular budget.

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

The City of Garden Grove agrees with this finding. GGPD Peer Support Team members periodically go to the various units and briefings to talk with employees about the Peer Support Team and its function. The supervisors are reminded periodically about the Peer Support Team and when they might be needed during traumatic incidents. The Peer Support Team also has flyers available throughout the police department with documentation about the Peer Support Team as well as the names of the members. This flyer also contains various support organizations and their respective phone numbers,

to include the phone numbers to the organizations that we contract with for psychological services.

Recommendations

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

The recommendation has been implemented. The Garden Grove Police Department General Order 2.23 – Peer Support Team has been modified to reflect the current laws directed under California Penal Codes 8669.1 – 8669.7. (See attached General Order 2.23 – Peer Support Team)

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)

The recommendation has been implemented. The Peer Support Team has been receiving quarterly training for the past few years. This training is conducted by the contracted departmental psychologist and is approximately two hours in length. The Peer Support supervisor currently keeps notes as to the topics of the training and which Peer Support Team members were present. The Garden Grove Police Department is currently undergoing a change in our training records and in the future this training will be kept on our training records database.

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 recommendation has been implemented. The Garden Grove Police Department has budgeted funds towards professional peer/trauma support training since approximately 2012. The funds have been allocated towards contracts with professional service providers in the field and will continue to be allocated for the foreseeable future. This training budget is a specific line item for training and administrative duties in the amount of \$15,000 per year. If a Peer Support Team member is activated then his/her pay will be taken from their regular budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's report. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Maria Stipe, Assistant City Manager, at (714) 741-5106 or by email at marias@ggcity.org

Respectfully submitted,

Steven R. Jones
Mayor

Attachment: General Order 2.23 – Peer Support Team

C: Orange County Grand Jury