



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

July 12, 2023

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

RE: Response to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report, *School Shooting: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?*

Dear Judge Hernandez,

In accordance with Penal Code 933.05(a) and (b), the City of Garden Grove submits the following response to the report, findings, and recommendations of the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report, *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: The City of Garden Grove agrees with the above finding. The City of Garden Grove is fully committed to collaborating with the Garden Grove Unified School District, Westminster School District and Orange Unified School District.

In June 2019, the City executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Garden Grove Unified School District. The Garden Grove Unified School District currently funds two full time School Resource Officers with additional funding added this month to add one additional officer bringing the total number of funded officers to three. In total, The City of Garden Grove will have six full time School Resource Officers for the coming school year.

The current sergeant overseeing the School Resource Officer program is also in constant contact with Orange Unified School District and the Westminster School District. Both those municipalities have schools within the city limits of Garden Grove.

F8. School Resource Officers (SROs) are a valuable asset for school safety, yet many cities/districts do not allocate sufficient funds to hire needed officers.

Response: The City of Garden Grove agrees with the above finding.

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 comment with the 2023-24 school year by October 1, 2023, and annually thereafter. (F1,F10,F11)

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Safety inspections of each school has been implemented for several years now and continues each new school year. The audits are completed with school resource officers and administrative staff 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: The recommendation has been implemented. During the 2022-2023 school year, all school site administrators and additional staff were taught the CSTAG (Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines) threat assessment model. A large portion of the course were table top exercises related to threats to school sites.

R4. Each Orange County School District should work with local law enforcement to plan and conduct district-wide active shooter drill by July 1, 2023 and at least every other year thereafter. (F2)

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. This recommendation was completed in January of 2023 for all Garden Grove Unified School District Administrators. The drill utilized multiple officers from Garden Grove along with critical care being demonstrated by multiple members of The Orange County Fire Authority. The City is fully committed to continuing our collaboration with the Garden Grove Unified School District and its fellow municipalities by holding bi-annual district wide active shooter drills.

R12. Each Orange County School Districts should assess the need for SRO's or additional SRO's, reaching out to facilitate funding by July 1, 2024. (F8)

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. In June 2019, the City executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Garden Grove Unified School District. The Garden Grove Unified School District currently funds two full time School Resource Officers with additional funding added this month to add one additional officer bringing the total number of funded officers to three. In total, The City of Garden Grove will have six full time School Resource Officers for the coming school year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven R. Jones
Mayor of Garden Grove