



## CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY

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Daniel S. Llorens

Chief of Police

August 27, 2015

The Honorable Glenda Sanders,  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Central Justice Center  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE MENTALLY ILL

Dear Judge Sanders:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the most recent report issued by the Orange County Grand Jury entitled, "The Mental Illness Revolving Door: A Problem for Police, Hospitals, and the Health Care Agency," which I received on June 26, 2015.

As required by Penal Code §933 and 933.05, please consider this letter as my response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

### Findings

Finding #1: "Deputy Sheriffs and police officers receive insufficient training on how to evaluate and handle the mentally ill in the field."

*The Department disagrees. The Fountain Valley Police Department provides initial and then on-going training on how to evaluate and handle the mentally ill in the field. As part of our ongoing training, our Department is committed to sending all our sworn personnel to the Crisis Intervention Training sponsored by the Criminal Justice Training Center at Golden West College.*

Finding #2: "Deputy Sheriffs and police officers receive insufficient training regarding Laura's Law."

*The Department disagrees. The Fountain Valley Police Department provides initial and on-going training on Laura's law.*

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### **Recommendations**

Recommendation #1: "All law enforcement officers should receive at least 40 hours of comprehensive Crisis Intervention Training on how to handle and evaluate the mentally ill in the field with periodic refresher training."

*The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted nor is it reasonable. The Department believes that California's Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) is the organization best suited to set initial and on-going training requirements for Police Officers. Setting an arbitrary amount of hours for comprehensive Crisis Intervention Training without accounting for the individual needs of each Department is not helpful. In addition to the cuts made at the state level to POST, Departments are struggling to balance the training needs in a myriad of areas; and setting an unfunded mandate such as this one could cause unnecessary and unaccounted for displacement of resources and other areas.*

Recommendation #2: "All law enforcement officers should receive mandatory and specific training regarding Laura's Law."

*The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted nor is it reasonable. As I previously mentioned, setting unfunded mandates for City Police Departments is unhelpful and unnecessary.*

Judge Sanders, I would be remiss if I concluded my Department's response to the Grand Jury's comprehensive and admirable analysis without noting the foresight and compassion exemplified by Orange County law enforcement agencies as we train for and interact with the homeless and mentally ill in our County.

In my current role as President of the Orange County Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association, I am in constant contact with my counterparts; and we discuss and collaborate on emerging issues like this one. Over the last 28 years, I have seen substantial evidence of how Orange County has led the way in providing some of the best training available to our personnel in order to respond to complicated issues such as homelessness and mental illness among the people we serve.

Sincerely,



DANIEL S. LLORENS, Ed.D.  
CHIEF OF POLICE