

LOS ALAMITOS POLICE DEPARTMENT



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September 24, 2015

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

Honorable Judge Sanders:

I have received and reviewed the 2014-2015 Orange County Grand Jury Report, *The Mental Health Illness Revolving Door: A Problem for Police, Hospitals, and the Health Care Agency*. The following are the Los Alamitos Police Department's responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations:

Regarding F.1., *Deputy Sheriffs and police officers receive insufficient training on how to evaluate and handle the mentally ill in the field*, **the Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with this finding.**

Regarding F.2., *Deputy Sheriffs and police officers receive insufficient training regarding Laura's Law*, **the Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with this finding.**

Regarding R.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 or is not reasonable.** The Los Alamitos Police Department is committed to preparing our officers on how to handle and evaluate the mentally ill. We currently require that our officers attend the 16-hour course, "Crisis Intervention for Law Enforcement – Understanding Mental Illness" and we will evaluate additional training that is available; however, our focus will be on the quality of the training and how it stands to enhance our effectiveness in the field as opposed to a 40-hour benchmark.

Regarding R.2., *All law enforcement officers should receive mandatory and specific training regarding Laura's Law*, **the recommendation has been implemented.** Information specifically related to Laura's Law has already been incorporated into briefing/roll-call training, and will be on a continuing/periodic basis.

Sincerely,

Todd Mattern
Chief of Police
Los Alamitos Police Department