

November 17, 2015

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

Subject: ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT, *The Mental Illness Revolving Door: A Problem for Police, Hospitals, and the Health Care Agency*

Dear Judge Sanders:

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

In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, please find our response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

Findings:

1. "Deputy Sheriffs and police officers receive insufficient training on how to evaluate and handle the mentally ill in the field."
 - The Department agrees with the finding based on the Grand Jury's Report
2. "Deputy Sheriffs and police officers receive insufficient training regarding Laura's Law."
 - The Department agrees with the finding based on the Grand Jury's Report

Recommendations:

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 at this time, however, that is not to say it will not be implemented in the future. Due to lack of funding, it is not possible for the La Palma Police Department to provide *40 hours* of comprehensive Crisis Intervention Training on how to handle and evaluate the mentally ill in the field with periodic refresher training to its personnel. As our current schedule permits, the La Palma Police Department currently sends its police officers to a 16 hour Crisis Intervention Training Course (CIT 1) offered by the Golden West College Criminal Justice Center and an eight hour update (CIT 2).
- We believe that the hours of police academy training regarding interactions with persons with disabilities, and the 24 hours of POST Certified Crisis Intervention Training (CIT 1 & 2) that the department will be sending its employees to, combined with the informal training our employees receive through our partnership with Orange County Mental Health, provides our officers with sufficient training for the officers to effectively evaluate and handle calls that involve the mentally ill.

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

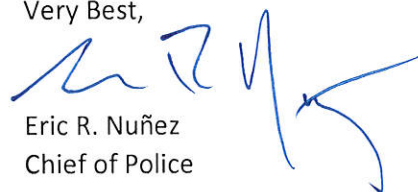
- I am in agreement. This recommendation has not been implemented, however, this department intends on implementing this training in the future. Incorporating training on Laura's Law into ongoing standardized training would be beneficial and act as a force multiplier in dealing with those in a sustained mental crisis.

It is the policy of the La Palma Police Department to provide POST Approved advanced officer training on interaction with mentally disabled persons.

I would like to thank the Orange County Grand Jury for their work on behalf of the citizens of the community and for allowing us an opportunity to respond to the recommendations listed in the Grand Jury Report.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Very Best,



Eric R. Nuñez
Chief of Police