

Mayor
JEREMY B. YAMAGUCHI

Mayor Pro Tem
CRAIG S. GREEN

Council members
SCOTT W. NELSON
CONSTANCE M. UNDERHILL
CHAD P. WANKE

Interim City Administrator
DAMIEN R. ARRULA



Chief of Police
WARD L. SMITH

401 East Chapman Avenue – Placentia, California 92870
Placentia Police Department
(714) 993-8164

February 8, 2016

Charles Margines, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Orange County Grand Jury Report, ***The Mental Illness Revolving Door: A Problem for Police, Hospitals, and the Health Care Agency.***

Honorable Judge Sanders,

To the extent the Orange County Grand Jury's correspondence seeks responses to two "Findings" and two "Recommendations", this letter shall serve as the response to their request required to be provided by the Placentia Police Department pursuant to Penal Code 933.05(a) and (b). I will respond to each portion of the request, as identified in the report.

F1: Deputy Sheriffs and police officers receive insufficient training on how to evaluate and handle the mentally ill in the field.

Disagree. Although additional training in any subject area may be beneficial, it is my belief that the Crisis Intervention Training for Law Enforcement courses (CIT 1 & CIT 2) provided by the Golden West College Criminal Justice Training Center provides a sufficient level of training for our officers to effectively evaluate and handle the mentally ill.

F2: Deputy Sheriffs and police officers receive insufficient training regarding Laura's Law.

Disagree. The Crisis Intervention Training for Law Enforcement course (CIT 1) provided by Golden West College Criminal Justice Training Center provides a sufficient level of Laura's Law training for our officers.

R1: 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. (F1.)

Disagree. I believe that the 16 hours of training provided in the Crisis Intervention Training for Law Enforcement (CIT 1) course coupled with the 8 hours of training provided in the Crisis Intervention Training for Law Enforcement (CIT 2) course is sufficient.

R2: All law enforcement officers should receive mandatory and specific training regarding Laura's Law. (F2.)

Partially agree. The Crisis Intervention Training for Law Enforcement course (CIT 1) provided by Golden West College Criminal Justice Training Center provides a sufficient level of Laura's Law training for our officers. We expect to have all of our officers to have completed the training by end of summer 2016.

This concludes my response to the Grand Jury report. Please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter further, if you like. My office number is (714) 993-8191 or you may contact me at wsmith@placentia.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ward L. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Ward L. Smith
Chief of Police