



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SHERIFF-CORONER DON BARNES

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

September 9, 2020

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

RE: Response to 2019-20 Orange County Grand Jury report, "*Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve.*"

Dear Judge Nakamura:

In accordance with Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, enclosed please find my response to the 2019-20 Orange County Grand Jury report, "*Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve.*"

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Barnes".

Don Barnes
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Grand Jury Foreperson
Members, Orange County Board of Supervisors
Frank Kim, County Executive Officer

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Response to Findings and Recommendations
2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury Report
"Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve"

FINDINGS

F.1.

Peer Support Programs are effective in helping Peace Officers develop healthy coping techniques for themselves and their families.

Response: *Agrees with finding.*

F.3.

The benefits in the peer support statute, effective January 1, 2020, are important to Peace Officers and Peer Support Team members.

Response: *Agrees with finding.*

F.4.

It is important that Peer Support Team members receive periodic training.

Response: *Agrees with finding.*

F.5.

Allocating a specific budget line item for Peer Support Programs help ensure adequate training and continuation of the programs.

Response: *Agrees with findings.*

F.6.

Continuous communication to Peace Officers about the Peer Support Programs is important to increase awareness and use of the Peer Support Programs.

Response: *Agrees with finding*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R.2.

The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that all Peer Support Programs be in compliance with the peer support statute.

Response: *This recommendation has already been implemented.*

The Orange County Sheriff's Department is in compliance with the 2020 Peer Support Statute and will continue to follow future laws and legislation as it pertains to our Peer Support Training.

R.3.

The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that Peer Support Team members receive periodic training and that completion of training is documented.

Response: *This recommendation has already been implemented.*

The Orange County Sheriff's Department is in compliance with the 2020 Peer Support Statute and will continue to follow future laws and legislation as it pertains to our Peer Support Training

R.4.

The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that all law enforcement agencies allocate a specific budget line item for their Peer Support Program.

Response: *The recommendation has not been implemented and requires further analysis*

While the Department agrees that the Peer Support Program needs to be fully funded, it is unclear if having a specific line budget item would benefit or hinder the program. It is currently an ancillary duty paid for by each specific division that has and utilizes Peer Support. This spreads out the cost for the program and allows more freedom to the team members. The Administrative Services Command is analyzing the cost of the program and if it would be advantageous to having a line budget item for Peer Support.