



November 3, 2020

Presiding Judge
Kirk Nakamura
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Ref: "Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve"

Dear Honorable Presiding Judge Nakamura,

The Laguna Beach Police Department is in receipt of the Orange County Grand Jury request for responses related to their study entitled "Protecting Those Who Serve and Protect." Please see the requested responses below.

Findings:

- F1: *Peer Support Programs are effective in helping Peace Officers develop healthy coping techniques for themselves and their families.*
 - Response: The City Laguna Beach agrees with this finding.
- F3: *The benefits in the peer support statute, effective January 1, 2020, are important to Peace Officers and Peer Support Team members.*
 - Response: The City of Laguna Beach agrees with this finding.
- F4: *It is important that peer Support Team members receive periodic training.*
 - Response: The City of Laguna Beach agrees with this finding.
- F5: *Allocating a specific budget line item for Peer Support Programs helps ensure adequate training and continuation of the programs.*
 - Response: The City of Laguna Beach partially disagrees with this finding. The City of Laguna Beach agrees that funding Peer Support Programs is important, however this can be accomplishing through the Police Department's training fund, not necessary a specific line-item for Peer Support.
- F6: *Continuous communication to Peace Officers about the Peer Support Programs is important to increase awareness and use of the Peer Support Programs.*

- Response: The City of Laguna Beach agrees with this finding.

Recommendations:

- R2: *The 219-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that all Peer Support Programs be in compliance with the peer support statute. (F3)*
 - Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. The City of Laguna Beach is currently reviewing this statute in its entirety and expects to have a determination within six months.
- R3: *The 219-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends Peer Support Team members receive periodic training and that completion of training is documented. (F4)*
 - Response: The City of Laguna Beach agrees with, and is currently in compliance with, this recommendation. All training that is attended by all Police Department employees is documented. This includes both sworn and professional staff, which includes the Peer Support Team members.
- R4: *The 219-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends all law enforcement agencies allocate a specific budget line item for their Peer Support Program. (F5)*
 - Response: The City of Laguna Beach partially disagrees with this finding. The City of Laguna Beach agrees that funding Peer Support Programs is important; however, this can be accomplished through the Police Department's training fund. It is not necessary to have a specific line-item for the Peer Support team. This is how the Laguna Beach Police Department's Peer Support Team is currently funded.

If you should have any further questions, please feel free to call us at 949-497-0385.

Respectfully,

Laura Farinella

Laura Farinella
Chief of Police
Laguna Beach Police Department