



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT
Julian Harvey
Interim Chief of Police

December 21, 2020

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

Re: City of Huntington Beach Response
2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury Report
Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve

Honorable Presiding Judge Nakamura:

The City of Huntington received and reviewed the reference Grand Jury Report, and in accordance with the Grand Jury's request, approved the following responses to the report.

RESPONSES AND FINDINGS

F1. Peer Support Programs are effective in helping Peace Officers develop healthy coping techniques for themselves and their families.

Response: The City of Huntington 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 Huntington Beach agrees with this finding.

F4. It is important that Peer Support Team members receive periodic training.

Response: The City of Huntington Beach agrees with this finding.

F5. Allocating a specific budget line item for Peer Support Programs help ensure adequate training and continuation of programs

Response: The City of Huntington Beach agrees with this finding.

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 Huntington Beach agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R2. The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that all Peer Support Programs be in compliance with the peer support statute. (F3)

Response: The City of Huntington Beach Police Department's policy § 359.4 requires initial training for all Trauma Support Team members, which complies with California Government Code § 8669.6. Furthermore, policy § 359.1.2 recognizes communications between employees and Trauma Support Team members during a debriefing as privileged communications.

We are currently in the process of modifying our policy to include language reflective of California Government Code §§ 8669.1 – 8669.7.

R3. The 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that Peer Support Team members receive periodic training and that completion of training is documented. (F4)

Response: The City of Huntington Beach Police Department will ensure periodic training is documented and retained in team members' training files.

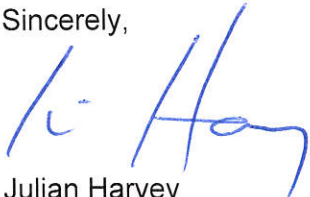
R4. The 2019 – 2020 Orange County Grand Jury recommends that all law enforcement agencies allocate a specific budget line item for their Peer Support Program. (F5)

Response: The City of Huntington Beach Police Department currently does not have a specific line item in the annual budget for our Trauma Support Team; however, the program is supported through our annual training budget, and through the use of professional service contracts in our Administrative Services budget. We currently have professional services contracts with Psychological Services Consulting and The Counseling Team International, both of which include counseling, crisis response, and training services.

The recommendation for a specific budget line item for our program will be evaluated in the upcoming budget cycle for FY 2021 – 2022.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure law enforcement officers have access to support programs to help them cope with stressors that affect their physical and mental wellness. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (714) 536-5902.

Sincerely,



Julian Harvey
Interim Chief of Police

Cc:
Oliver Chi, City Manager
Honorable Kim Carr, Mayor