



CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY

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August 21, 2012

The Honorable Thomas J. Borris,
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Borris:

On June 21, 2012, Chief Llorens received the Orange County Grand Jury report titled, "Sex Trafficking of Girls." The Grand Jury requested that the Fountain Valley Police Department respond to the following Findings:

Findings

Finding #1:

"The Human Trafficking Task Force recognized that law enforcement training is needed in sex trafficking."

The Department agrees.

Finding #3:

"Child victims of sex trafficking are often misidentified. Due to the lack of proper identification of the child's age, law enforcement agencies may be unable to charge the trafficker/pimp with sex related trafficking violations."

The Department agrees.

Finding #4:

"Trafficked minors often flee non-secure shelter. Law enforcement and prosecutors may request detention of a child to protect them from repeated exploitation by pimps."

The Department agrees.

Finding #5:

"Penal Code § 1275.1 allows the courts to set conditions on bail, including presenting probable cause that the bail money (or the security for the bond) was illegally obtained. This provision allows law enforcement and the courts to hold perpetrators, which may keep them from intimidating and victimizing young girls once released."

The Department agrees.

Finding #7:

"Currently no database is available to law enforcement agencies to check and identify victims of sex trafficking."

The Department agrees.

The Grand Jury also requested the Department respond to three of the report's Recommendations:

Recommendations

Recommendation #1:

"Police and Sheriff Departments should provide additional training for officers to clarify law enforcement's understanding and awareness of minor sex trafficking of girls."

This recommendation will be implemented in the next six months.

Recommendation #2:

"The Sheriff's Department, city police departments and responsible Orange County agencies should develop a data base using a single term such as "Minor Sex Trafficking" to allow the trafficked victims to be systematically tracked with the result of a proper identification and status as a victim of crime. A consistent label for the crime would allow multiple agencies, communities and regions to research and intervene in a single coordinated effort."


This recommendation requires further analysis; the Department believes this is a worthy goal and would be willing to participate in a regional effort. The Department believes a large agency should host the data base, once governance, privacy, and resource issues are addressed.

Recommendation #3:

"Law enforcement agencies and district attorneys should consider using the provisions of California Penal Code § 1275.1 more frequently if they have cause to believe that the source of bail money for a "pimp" or "john" was illegally obtained."

This recommendation has been implemented. The Chief has directed his Staff to re-familiarize themselves with this valuable law enforcement tool.

Sincerely,



JOHN J. COLLINS
MAYOR