



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

P.O. BOX 1200

FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## COPY

August 30, 2012

Thomas J. Borris, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court, County of Orange  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Responses to Grand Jury Report  
"Sex Trafficking of Girls"

Honorable Judge Borris,

In compliance with California Penal Code § 933(c), this letter serves as response by the Costa Mesa Police Department to findings and recommendations outlined in the 2011-2012 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Sex Trafficking of Girls." The seriousness with which the victimization of young girls for sexual exploitation must be dealt with cannot be emphasized enough. Although such incidents are few and far between in this community, what this agency has learned in dealing with such incidents is in direct correlation with the Grand Jury report.

Below please find the responses to each finding and recommendation as outlined in the Response Matrix for the Costa Mesa Police Department:

### FINDINGS:

**F1.** The Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) recognized that more law enforcement training is needed in sex trafficking.

✓ The respondent agrees with the finding

**F3.** 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 child related sex trafficking violations.

✓ The respondent agrees with the finding

**F4.** Trafficked minors often flee non-secure shelters. Law enforcement and prosecutors may request detention of a child to protect them from repeated exploitation by pimps.

✓ The respondent agrees with the finding

**F5.** Penal Code section §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 legally obtained. This provision allows law enforcement and the courts to hold the perpetrators, which may keep them from intimidating and victimizing young girls once released.

✓ The respondent agrees with the finding

**F7.** Currently no data base is available to law enforcement agencies to check and identify victim of sex trafficking.

✓ The respondent agrees with the finding (in that no single county-wide data base exists)

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**R1.** Police and Sheriff Departments should provide additional training for officers to clarify law enforcement's understanding and awareness of minor sex trafficking of girls.

✓ The recommendation has been implemented

For over four years, since early 2008, the Costa Mesa Police Department has been a participating agency in the Southern Central California Innocence Lost Task Force (SOCAIL TF). This federally funded, FBI led task force increases the local capacity to provide a rapid and effective investigative response to crimes involving the sexual victimization of children. It additionally strengthens the capabilities of our personnel through the training programs and investigative assistance it provides. As part of our commitment, two Costa Mesa Police Department investigators are participating members in the SOCAIL Task Force.

In addition, this agency has provided in-service training to our personnel, which more recently included briefing training for all officers in June of 2011 facilitated by an investigator from the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force, and DVD training produced by the same task force presented June of 2012 as part of regular monthly training.

**R2.** 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.

- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted, or is not reasonable

This recommendation is not reasonable for this agency, as development of a county wide data base would be outside the singular responsibility of any one agency. The varying array of records management systems in use by different agencies could result in confusion with the intended tracking, even if a single code or term were used to identify these particular victims. Usually, these victims are encountered as part of a separate criminal offense under investigation (i.e.: child endangerment, prostitution, or child abuse). Those incidents are entered into the records management system under the primary offense involved. A child involved in one of those incidents may not be identified as a victim of child sex trafficking until some time later. For those reasons, having a single, consistent label for the crime does not appear warranted. Once those victims have been identified, a requirement to have that information provided to a centralized agency, whether the County Sheriff's Department or Social Services, would be a more practical solution.

**R3.** 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.

- ✓ The recommendation has been implemented

The provisions of Penal Code §1275.1 have been utilized previously and, as necessary will be utilized again by this agency as a tool to help keep 'pimps,' and others arrested for sexually exploiting children, in custody.

Sincerely,



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**Paul Dondero**, Lieutenant  
Costa Mesa Police Department

Cc: Orange County Grand Jury