



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

P.O. BOX 1200

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FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

December 6, 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  
"Elder Abuse: The Perfect Storm"

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, "Elder Abuse: The Perfect Storm." As law enforcement professionals, our obligation to help safeguard those who are among the most vulnerable and defenseless cannot be understated. Ensuring that our personnel are well trained and equipped to address and investigate crimes committed against our elder citizens is an obligation we take with significant seriousness. Although such incidents are fortunately infrequent in this community, what this agency has learned in dealing with such elder abuse 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:**

**F3.** Reviewing procedures in law enforcement agencies, law enforcement academies under Orange County jurisdiction and the District Attorney's office could improve recognition of elder abuse.

- ✓ The respondent agrees with the finding

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**R5.** By December 31, 2012, the Sheriff's Department and city police departments should evaluate and update their programs on responding to elder abuse cases.

- ✓ The recommendation has been implemented

The Costa Mesa Police Department has regularly evaluated our departmental policies and procedures with regard to incidents of reported elder abuse. This agency has provided in-service training to our personnel, which more recently included briefing training for all officers in July of 2012. Additional training and resources have been obtained and made accessible to our investigative personnel through the Orange County Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, as well as the University of California, Irvine, Program in Geriatrics.

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Orange County Grand Jury