



# CITY of CYPRESS

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POLICE DEPARTMENT  
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JACKIE GOMEZ-WHITELEY  
Chief of Police

October 4, 2012

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

Honorable Thomas J. Borris:

In response to the 2011-2012 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Elder Abuse: The Perfect Storm," and request for response, the Cypress Police Department has made the following determinations pertaining to Finding No. 3 and Recommendation No. 5:

## FINDINGS

**F3.** *Reviewing procedures in law enforcement agencies, law enforcement academies under Orange County government jurisdiction and the District Attorney's Office could improve recognition of Elder Abuse.*

The Cypress Police Department **agrees** with this finding. Review and analysis of existing policies and procedures that guide our collective agency's efforts in Orange County affords us the opportunity to potentially improve upon our methods and practices. This also brings a level of awareness concerning this issue to the forefront of all involved agencies, which should logically produce change where needed.

## 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** by the Cypress Police Department. This agency has reviewed our policies and procedures concerning

Doug Bailey, Mayor

Prakash Narain, M.D., Mayor Pro Tem Phil Luebben, Council Member

Leroy Mills, Council Member Todd W. Seymore, Council Member

the response, identification, investigation, and reporting of Elder Abuse cases. We currently operate with the most contemporary policies in the state as updated through Lexipol, our contract policy service provider.

In 2011, our Crimes Against Persons detectives, who are assigned to investigate elder abuse cases, attended the 16-hour California Department of Justice Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse class. The course also offered an overview of the Peace Officer and Prosecutor's Guide to Combating Elder Abuse, a document developed and distributed to our agency through the Department of Justice.

Also in 2011, the Cypress Police detective, who is assigned to investigate fraud and financial crimes for this city, attended a 4-hour Financial Elder Abuse course. This will enable our police department to utilize contemporary methods and practices in the recognition and investigation of these crimes.

In 2012, the Cypress Police Department developed and employed a training bulletin on the topic of Elder Abuse to all employees in the department. This training was imparted to all patrol and investigative teams. The bulletin covered the topics of both physical and financial abuse so that our first responders can have the tools and understanding to better identify and investigate these crimes.

Should you have any questions regarding these responses, please contact me at 714/229-6621.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jackie Gomez-Whiteley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jackie Gomez-Whiteley, Chief of Police  
Cypress Police Department

cc: Orange County Grand Jury