



## CITY OF FULLERTON

Police Department

August 2, 2013

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

Reference: Grand Jury Report – A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill

Honorable Judge Borris,

On June 19, 2013, the Orange County Grand Jury released a report on *A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill*. In compliance with California Penal Code 933 and applicable subsections, the Fullerton Police Department is forwarding its response to you:

Grand Jury Findings for F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8 & F10:

1. **POST requires continuing education in dealing with mentally ill individuals but does not specify the number of hours, frequency or require that it be documented:** Training at the Fullerton Police Department occurs during briefing and during POST telecourses. We require all new officers to ride 10 hours with a Homeless Liaison Officer. The training is documented within the Field Training Officer (FTO) Manual and by the Training Assistant.
2. **Field officers desire more in-depth training in dealing with the mentally ill on the street:** Since 1986 the Fullerton Police Department has recognized the need for patrol officers to be provided in-depth training in dealing with the mentally ill on the street. Between 1986 and 2010 we sent 12 patrol officers to Crisis Intervention Training, between 2003 – 2012 we sent 11 patrol officers to Effective Police Contacts with the Mentally Ill and in 2013 we sent 5 patrol officers to Emergency Personnel's Response to Individuals with Mental Illness.
3. **There is typically one officer expected to deal with the Homeless/Mentally Ill issues within their city:** The Fullerton Police Department has 4 full-time officers assigned to our Homeless Liaison Unit. Two work day shift and two work night shift.

**THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY**



4. **Less than 10% of the law enforcement agencies in Orange County are Nationally Accredited:** We currently have a contract with Lexipol, which is America's leading Risk Management resource. We use Lexipol to maintain a policy manual that is up to date and aligns with new case law.
5. **Not all cities have officers trained in Crisis Intervention:** In October of 2013 the Fullerton Police Department had 190 employees, sworn and non-sworn, attend an 8 hour block of Crisis Intervention Training. This training is also required for all new police officers.
6. **There is a broad spectrum of training provided to patrol officers in order to develop their abilities and strategies in dealing with the mentally ill:** As stated above, in 2013, the Fullerton Police Department had 190 employees, sworn and non-sworn, attend an 8 hour block of Crisis Intervention Training. This training is also required for all new police officers. In addition to this training, during 2012 there were 9 Briefing Trainings that specifically dealt with strategies in dealing with the homeless and mentally ill. We also continue to send patrol officer to, Effective Police Contacts with the Mentally Ill and Emergency Personnel's Response to Individuals with Mental Illness.
7. **Five departments have their patrol officers ride periodically with the homeless liaison officer:** We have recently updated our Field Training Manual which now requires all new officers to ride with a Homeless Liaison Officer for at least 10 hours. We have also implemented a program that requires patrol officers ride with our Homeless Liaison Officers periodically.
8. **Departments are reaching out to neighboring departments and to other skilled professionals about the mentally ill and homeless issues in their cities to learn more effective strategies in dealing with these individuals:** We have been involved in the Orange County Homeless taskforce since its inception. In addition, we have partnered with Orange County Mental Health and have a clinician that rides with our Homeless Liaison Officers at least once a week. We also work with several non-profit organizations within our city: Coast to Coast Foundation, Pathways to Hope and Mercy House. All three of these non-profit organizations have specific programs to assist the homeless and mentally ill.
9. **Response not required**
10. **All police departments adhere to written policy, procedure and/or protocol regarding contact with mentally ill persons:** There are many processes in place. All officers are graduates of a POST Academy. Part of the academy involves a three day block of training on Dealing with the Mentally Ill. There is also Learning Domain (LD) 37 specific to dealing with People with Disabilities. LD-37's chapter 4 deals specifically with Mental Illness. Within the Fullerton Police Policy Manual are two sections that apply, §418 – Mental Illness and §464 – Homeless Persons. All

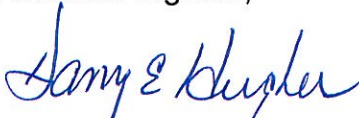
agencies all also governed by Penal Code §13515.25. Our Training Assistant tracks all classes and hours of training for all personnel.

**11. Response not required**

Grand Jury Recommendations for R1 & R2:

1. **Require specific continuing education for all police officers in interacting with the mentally ill and homeless population:**
  - a. **The Orange County Chiefs and Sheriff's Association shall set the type, hours and frequency of this supplemental training which will include Crisis Intervention Training and the training is to be documented:** The Fullerton Police Department will implement the type, hours and frequency of any supplemental training as decided upon by the Orange County Chiefs and Sheriff's Association.
2. **All Orange County City Police Departments and Sheriff's Department shall be accredited with a national accreditation agency within (5) five years:** The Fullerton Police Department currently contracts with Lexipol to maintain an up to date Policy Manual. While we do see a potential advantage to CALEA, our current budget cycle does not include the funding necessary for this recommendation. We also do not have personnel available to allocate to this full-time assignment and accreditation. We are hopeful we will accomplish this recommendation during our next budget cycle.
3. **Response not required.**
4. **Response not required.**

With best regards,



Dan Hughes,  
Chief of Police