



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A NATIONALLY
ACCREDITED LAW
ENFORCEMENT
AGENCY

KEVIN J. RANEY
CHIEF OF POLICE

July 5, 2013

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

Dear Judge Borris:

I have reviewed the 2012-2013 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "To Protect and To Serve: A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill". The issue of Homeless Mentally Ill persons is of concern to our police department, our community, and society as a whole. After much deliberation and study with my command staff of the findings and recommendations set forth by the Grand Jury, I am pleased to forward to you my responses.

FINDINGS

F-1 Although POST requires continuing education in the area of dealing with individuals who are mentally ill, it does not specify the number of hours or frequency of officer training; nor does it require that such training be documented.

RESPONSE

The Garden Grove Police Department agrees that there is always room for additional training outside of the POST requirement. Currently the Garden Grove Police Department (GGPD) conducts updated training, approximately four (4) hours every three years. The training consists of videos, handouts and lecture as well as on-going training from Paul Hoang, the Orange County Mental Health Association representative. The training is documented in an electronic database that is maintained by our Administrative Services Bureau.

FINDINGS

F-2 Field officers desire more in-depth training in dealing with the mentally ill on the street (Interviews).

RESPONSE

The Garden Grove Police Department agrees that due to the complex nature of police work, most officers would like to see more in-depth training on a multitude of subjects. We take pride in the amount of training we do provide with regard to the mentally ill, however we know there is always room for improvement. The issue with most departments is the allocation of time and resources. The Garden Grove Police Department is constantly looking for more efficient and effective ways to train our sworn and civilian personnel.

FINDINGS

F-3 There is one officer- in a very few instances two officers – for every one-thousand (1000) citizens in a given city within the County who are expected to deal with full range of law enforcement issues of that city.

RESPONSE

The Garden Grove Police Department disagrees with the finding. The Garden Grove Police Department has the lowest ratio in the county, if not the state of California when it comes to police officers to residents. Currently the Garden Grove Police Department deploys approximately **.8** officers per **1000** citizens. This is below the national and county average of **1** officer per **1000** citizens. Currently we employ **154** sworn officers for a population of approximately **176,000** residents.

FINDINGS

F-4 Nationally accredited police department's police less than 10% of Orange County Cities.

RESPONSE

The Garden Grove Police Department agrees with the finding, and is one of two police departments in the county that is accredited nationally by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). We have been accredited since 1988 and have been through the reaccreditation process eight (8) times. Currently we are recognized by CALEA as a "Flagship" agency with regard to compliance, policy development, file maintenance and delivery of police services.

FINDINGS

F-5 Not all Orange County cities have at least one officer trained in Crisis Intervention.

RESPONSE

The Garden Grove Police Department agrees with the finding. The Garden Grove Police Department has a "Trauma Response Team". The team is composed of a sergeant, five (5) sworn officers and two (2) civilian employees. This team initially received twenty-four (24) hours of training from a licensed psychologist, dealing specifically with crisis intervention techniques and strategies. The team also receives an additional four (4) hours of updated training four times a year. In addition, the Garden Grove Police Department utilizes its own Interfaith Volunteer and Chaplain Program as part of our field operations. The program was established in 1992 and its members represent the Christian, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Non-denominational religions. The program is designed to offer professional spiritual assistance to members of the community who are faced with crisis situations. Police Chaplains accompany patrol officers during their duty shifts and spend a great deal of time in the field.

FINDINGS

- F-6 There is a broad spectrum of on-going training provided to patrol officers in order to develop their abilities and strategies in dealing with the mentally ill. Some departments provide minimal training; others have comprehensive programs in place.

RESPONSE

The Garden Grove Police Department agrees with the finding. Our department does receive a significant amount of training with regard to this topic. Orange County Mental Health Association employee Paul Hoang provides quarterly training for our patrol officers and is a resource in the field. This training covers topics such as 5150 W&I Assessment Techniques, Intervention Strategies, and Community Resources available to the officers. Due to the complexities associated with mental illness and the officer safety issues inherent with these types of police responses; it is important that we continue to look for opportunities to strengthen our ability to properly respond to these types of calls for service.

FINDINGS

- F-7 Five departments have their patrol officer's ride periodically with the homeless liaison officer. Seventeen do not.

RESPONSE

The Garden Grove Police Department agrees with the finding. Our department partners with Orange County Mental Health Association to assist us in responding to incidents involving the mentally ill. Currently Orange County Mental Health worker Paul Hoang rides with our patrol officers thirty to forty (30-40) hours a week. His primary responsibility is to assist officers in the field and to provide on-going training associated with the mentally ill.

FINDINGS

F-8 Departments are reaching out – or beginning to reach out – to neighboring departments and to other skilled professionals, both in dialogue about the mentally ill and homeless issues in their cities, and to learn more effective strategies in dealing with these individuals.

RESPONSE

The Garden Grove Police Department agrees with the finding. Our department is constantly looking for better more efficient ways to address policing issues in the field. We will continue to partner with agencies like Orange County Mental Health as well as other police agencies to find better ways to deal with the problems associated with the homeless mentally ill.

FINDINGS

F-10 All police departments adhere to a written policy, procedure and/or protocol regarding contact with mentally ill persons.

RESPONSE

The Garden Grove Police Department agrees with the finding. General Order 5.9 (Mental Illness & 5150 WIC Bookings) establishes the procedure for the handling of persons who suffer from mental illness. The guidelines are very comprehensive and cover topics such as: 1) Mental Illness Recognition, 2) Intervention Strategies, 3) 5150 Bookings and 4) Training Guidelines.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1 Require specific continuing education for all police officers and sheriff's deputies in interacting with the mentally ill and homeless population:
- Orange County City Police Chiefs and the Sheriff-Coroner shall corroborate with the Orange County Chiefs and Sheriffs Association to set the type, hours and frequency of this supplemental training; Include Crisis Intervention Training (perhaps the Memphis model); Training will be documented. (F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F10)

RESPONSE

The topic of the Homeless Mentally Ill was discussed at the August 7, 2013 meeting. The Orange County Sheriff's Department and all of the municipal police agencies have deputies/officers who have attended the class entitled "Crisis Intervention Training for Law Enforcement". This sixteen (16) hour training class is offered through the Golden West College Criminal Justice Training Center. The Orange County Chief's and Sheriff's Association recognizes this course as a continuing education option for their officers/deputies to attend. Approximately 1,796 officers/deputies have attended the training since its inception. The Garden Grove Police Department will continue to encourage officers to attend this training as part of their on-going education requirement. Our department's Administrative Services Bureau will document this training.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-2 All Orange County City Police Departments and the Sheriff's Department shall be accredited with a national accreditation agency within five (5) years.

RESPONSE

The recommendation has been implemented. The Garden Grove Police Department has been accredited through CALEA since 1988 and we are currently considered a "Flagship Agency". We have recently completed our eighth on-site reaccreditation process and have applied for CALEA's highest award of "Accreditation with Excellence". The department will be attending the CALEA conference in November, where we anticipate receiving our award.

Sincerely,



Kevin Raney
Chief of Police