



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A NATIONALLY  
ACCREDITED LAW  
ENFORCEMENT  
AGENCY

KEVIN J. RANEY  
CHIEF OF POLICE

September 20, 2012

Hon. 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 2011-2012 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Sex Trafficking of Girls". The investigation of sexual exploitation of minor girls 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 you my responses.

## **FINDINGS**

F-1 The Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) recognized that more law enforcement training is needed in sex trafficking.

## **RESPONSE**

The Garden Grove Police Department agrees that there is always room for improvement when investigating any type of exploitation of minors.

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Garden Grove Police Department issued Departmental Training Bulletin #2012-17 titled, "Human Trafficking of Minors". The bulletin provided elements of the crime of Human Trafficking (Penal Code 236.1) and procedures for reporting such crimes. The training bulletin cited local contact information for the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force based at the Westminster Police Department.

Also Included in this training bulletin was the contact number to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), which is 24-hour toll-free hotline.

The NHTRC provides:

- To report a tip;
- To connect with anti-trafficking services in your area; or,
- To request training and technical assistance, general information or specific anti-trafficking resources.

### **FINDINGS**

F-3 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.

### **RESPONSE**

The training bulletin released to our officers on September 12, 2012, directed our officers to use all available resources to ensure all victims of the exploitation of minors are identified and handled appropriately. Officers have been trained to exhaust all possible means such as analyzing fingerprints, effective interview techniques, and querying existing databases to properly identify victims.

### **FINDINGS**

F-4 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.

### **RESPONSE**

The training video prepared by the HTTF and viewed by our officers instructed them to consider the most appropriate option for the protection of victims in sex trafficking cases to include the secure detention of minors into Juvenile Hall. The protection of the child is a priority. Officers were directed to seek assistance from the HTTF and our own experts in ensuring the child is placed in the most appropriate shelter.

### **FINDINGS**

F-5 Penal Code 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 illegally 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.

## **RESPONSE**

Two detectives from the Special Investigations Unit and one detective from the Gang Suppression Unit attended the eight-hour seminar on "Human Trafficking of Minors" in September of 2012, at the Westminster Police Department. These detectives will serve as liaisons to pass information from the Garden Grove Police Department to the Human Trafficking Task Force, and the district attorney's office in the investigation of the exploitation of minors. They will also serve as the Department "experts" on ensuring that the provisions of California Penal Code 1275.1 are used in the appropriate cases

These officer "experts" in the area of Penal Code 1275.1 will be able to recognize and testify to the probable cause and allow the courts to set the conditions on bail of perpetrators of sex traffickers.

## **FINDINGS**

F-7 Currently no database is available to law enforcement agencies to check and identify victims of sex trafficking.

## **RESPONSE**

We recognize the need for this database and when the Garden Grove Police Department identifies victims or proceeds with cases, we will forward that information to the HTTF, since they are the centralized repository for this information. Officers investigating possible human trafficking cases will coordinate with HTTF members during the investigation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

R-1 Police and Sheriff Departments should provide additional training for officers to clarify law enforcement's understanding and awareness of minor sex trafficking of girls.

## **RESPONSE**

All sworn police officers and police sergeants viewed the training video "Response to Human Trafficking of Minors", which was produced by the Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF).

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

R-2 The Sheriff's Department, city police departments, and responsible Orange County agencies should develop a database using a single term such as "Minor Sex Trafficking" to allow the trafficked victims to be systematically tracked with the result of proper identification and status as a victim of a crime. A consistent label for the crime would allow multiple agencies, communities and regions to research and intervene in a single coordinated effort.

**RESPONSE**

Currently, no database exists specifically for the tracking of victims in "Minor Sex Trafficking". The Garden Grove Police Department will begin to index "Minor Sex Trafficking" cases in our Record Management System, so cases can be easily identified and tracked.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

R-3 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.

**RESPONSE**

Two detectives from the Special Investigations Unit and one detective from the Gang Suppression Unit attended the eight-hour seminar on "Human Trafficking of Minors" in September of 2012, at the Westminster Police Department. These detectives will serve as a conduit to pass information from the Garden Grove Police Department to the Human Trafficking Task Force, and the district attorney's office in the investigation of the exploitation of minors. They will also serve as the department "experts" on ensuring that the provisions of California Penal Code 1275.1 are used in the appropriate cases.

Sincerely,



Kevin Raney  
Chief of Police



# GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

**To:** Chief Kevin Raney **Date:** September 4, 2012

**From:** Sergeant James Colegrove *S. Colegrove #1700*

**Subject:** **Orange County Grand Jury report on Sex Trafficking of Girls.**

The Garden Grove Police Department took the following actions in response to the Orange County Grand Jury's recommendation #R1, which was a recommendation that all Police and Sheriff Departments should provide additional training for officers to clarify law enforcements understanding and awareness of minor sex trafficking of girls:

- All sworn police officers and police sergeants viewed the video titled "Response to Human Trafficking of Minors", which was produced by the Human trafficking Task Force (HTTF)
- Two detectives from the Special Investigations Unit and one detective from the Gang Suppression Unit attended an 8-hour seminar on Human Trafficking of Minors in early September 2012 at the Westminster Police Department. These three personnel will serve as a reliable and credible source of information on Human Trafficking of Minors for other personnel within this department.