



David L. Maggard, Jr., Director of Public Safety
Public Safety - Irvine Police Department - (949) 724-7000

www.irvinepd.org

City of Irvine, One Civic Center Plaza, P.O. Box 19575, Irvine, California 92623-9575 (949) 724-6000

October 15, 2012

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

Honorable Judge Borris:

Our agency received a copy of the 2011-2012 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Sex Trafficking of Girls." The report was educational and illuminating on the topic of sex trafficking of juvenile females.

The Irvine Police Department is proud to contribute one Detective on a part-time basis to the work of The SAFE Team in Orange County. This team is made up of agents and officers with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. In addition to FBI agents in Orange County, SAFE Team members include agents with the California Department of Justice, deputies with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, investigators with the Orange County District Attorney's Office, agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Postal Inspection Service, officers with the Costa Mesa Police Department and prosecutors with the United States Attorney's Office and the Orange County District Attorney's Office, as well as a host of part-time law enforcement agencies.

The SAFE Team is part of the Orange County Cyber Crime Task Force, whose mission is to investigate violations of federal and state law including the sexual exploitation of minors including but not limited to sex crimes, child pornography and child abduction; and to prosecute those violations in federal and state court.

On numerous occasions over the past year, Irvine Detectives have assisted the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with undercover operations targeting sexual exploitation of minors.

Members of our Department have participated and shared information in meetings with the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force and will continue to do so.

The following is our response to the Findings and Recommendations areas of the Grand Jury report.

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FINDINGS:

F1 We are in agreement that more law enforcement training is needed in the area of sex trafficking.

F3 We are in agreement that lack of proper identification can cause law enforcement officials to misidentify the age of the person being trafficked. This could therefore cause charges lesser than child related sex trafficking violations to be charged on the trafficker/pimp.

F4 We are in agreement that in some cases it is necessary for law enforcement to request detention of a child to protect them from the trafficker/pimp.

F5 We agree that providing some discretion on the part of the Court in setting bail amounts may be helpful in the detention of offenders being charged, in that it may keep them from intimidating and victimizing young girls.

F7 We know of no database that is available to law enforcement agencies to check and identify victims of sex trafficking.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

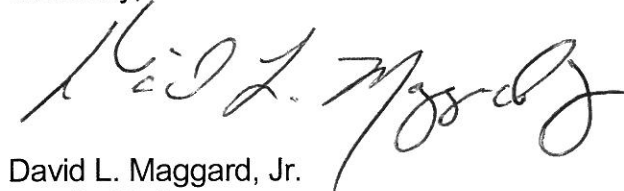
R1 & R3 Our agency is currently enrolling officers and detectives in local Human Trafficking courses presented by Community Services Programs, Inc. Part of our ongoing training will include the provisions of 1275.1 P.C. (source of bail money for "pimp" or "john" was legally obtained).

R2 Our agency will work with members of the OC Human Trafficking Task Force and other local agencies to develop a method of tracking trafficked victims.

Members of the Irvine Police Department appreciate the detailed and informative work done by the 2011-2012 Grand Jury. We will work toward increasing our knowledge about sex trafficking and working with local agencies to identify a manner in which to capture information about sex trafficking victims, so that we may better assist them.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (949) 724-7101.

Sincerely,



David L. Maggard, Jr.
Chief of Police

DM/SD/rm