



CITY OF LA HABRA

POLICE DEPARTMENT

September 13, 2012

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

Dear Judge Borris:

The La Habra Police Department received the Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Sex Trafficking of Girls," on June 19, 2012. The Department is pleased that the Grand Jury continues to focus its efforts to protect those most at risk and subject to exploitation. The Department is honored to provide the following responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

The La Habra Police Department was requested to respond to the following Grand Jury Findings:

F1. The Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) recognized that more law enforcement training is needed in sex trafficking.

The La Habra Police Department **agrees** with the finding. The Department has provided its officers with training from the Human Trafficking Task Force and provides quick reference cards to officers that identify questions, definitions and resources. The Department recognizes that sex trafficking of girls continues to be a growing trend and requires additional training.

F3. 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.

The La Habra Police Department **agrees** with the finding. The Department recognizes that many contacts of potential sex trafficking victims are difficult to establish the age and identity due to lack of identification and language barriers. The Department has also experienced complications in prosecution of a case due to lack of cooperation from the victim (1999).

F4. 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.

The La Habra Police Department **agrees** with the finding. The Department has experienced a case involving a minor fleeing from non-secure detention within the County to seek the company of a sexual predator (1999). The Department works closely with outside agencies to safely house minors within legal definitions.

F5. 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.

The La Habra Police Department **agrees** with the finding. The Department encourages its officers to seek bail enhancements and proof of legally obtained money in these and other cases. The Department provides the statements of probable cause to the Judicial Hearing Officer.

F7. Currently no data base is available to law enforcement agencies to check and identify victims of sex trafficking.

The La Habra Police Department **agrees** that no such database exists. The Department recognizes that such a database would assist officers encountering potential victims.

The La Habra Police Department was requested to provide a response to the following Grand Jury Recommendations:

R1. Police and Sheriff Departments should provide additional training for officers to clarify law enforcement's understanding and awareness of minor sex trafficking of girls.

This Grand Jury Recommendation **has been implemented** by the La Habra Police Department. The La Habra Police Department has maintained a relationship with the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force. The task force members have presented briefing trainings to all patrol and investigative officers throughout the years. The Department provided briefing training to all personnel in July 2011 and January 2012. OCTTF investigators presented the material for the July 2011 training. The Department has also participated in training provided jointly by OCTTF and Orange County Social Services. The Department's Investigations Bureau Commander, a Crimes Persons Detective, and a Crimes Property Detective attended. In addition to the training mentioned, the Department will implement additional training through a Training Bulletin provided to all Department officers by December 2012.

R2. The Sheriff's Department, city police departments and responsible Orange County agencies should develop a data base 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 crime. A consistent label for the crime would allow multiple agencies, communities and regions to research and intervene in a single coordinated effort.

This Grand Jury Recommendation **has not been implemented**. The magnitude and scope of establishing a database that supports county and regional information exchange exceeds the capabilities of the Department. The Department supports the identification of a victim by a single consistent label to allow agencies to research and intervene in a single coordinated effort. The Department is unable to implement this recommendation until such a database is created, preferably by a County or Task Force agency.

R3. 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.

This Grand Jury Recommendation **has not been implemented**. The Department encourages its officers and detectives to use California Penal Code §1275.1 in these and other appropriate cases. The Department has not had an opportunity to use this tool, as it has not encountered a case of human trafficking in recent years. The Department will provide this law as training in the material to be presented by December 2012.

The La Habra Police Department wishes to thank the Grand Jury for its research and presentation of material that is important to the community. The Department will continue to work with its Federal, State, County, and local partners to provide the highest level of service to those that are victimized by sex traffickers.

Sincerely,



Jerry Price
Acting Chief of Police

GSJ/gsj



City of La Habra

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

"A Caring Community"

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**CERTIFICATION OF EXCERPT OF MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA HABRA**

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Habra was held on Monday, September 17, 2012.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: GOMEZ, BLAZEY, ESPINOZA, BEAMISH, SHAW
COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

III. CONSENT CALENDAR:

MOVED by Mayor Pro Tem Beamish, seconded by Councilmember Espinoza, and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0 TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS III.A.1 THROUGH III.A.12.

III.A.11. Authorize Police Chief to provide La Habra Police Department's response to 2011-2012 Orange County Grand Jury report "Sex Trafficking of Girls."


Said motion CARRIED by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: BEAMISH, ESPINOZA, GOMEZ, BLAZEY, SHAW
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) SS.
CITY OF LA HABRA)

I, Tamara Mason, City Clerk of the City of La Habra, County of Orange, State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of the minute entry on record in this office.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, dated this 18th day of September, 2012.


Tamara D. Mason, MMC, City Clerk