



CITY OF LA HABRA

POLICE DEPARTMENT

September 19, 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, "Elder Abuse: The Perfect Storm," on June 11, 2012. The Department is pleased that the Grand Jury continues to focus its efforts to protect those most at risk and subject to mistreatment. The Department is honored to provide the following responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

The La Habra Police Department responds to the following Grand Jury Finding:

F3. Reviewing procedures in law enforcement agencies, law enforcement academies under Orange County government jurisdictions and the District Attorney's office could improve recognition of elder abuse.

The La Habra Police Department **agrees** with the finding. The Department makes every effort to train its officers and supervisors to ensure that elder abuse investigations are followed through and coordinated with outside agencies. An example of the Department's efforts is illustrated in a case occurring on September 11, 2012, in which an adult son victimized his elderly mother. Although the victim declined any prosecution, the Department arrested the suspect on felony charges. The Department followed through on the investigation by receiving an Emergency Protective Order for the victim, having the suspect committed on a psychological evaluation hold (WI 5150), coordinating a response with Adult Protective Services, and filing the criminal case the following day with the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

The Department recognizes that even given the exceptional service in this case, improving recognition of these cases should always remain our focus.

The La Habra Police Department responds to the following Grand Jury Recommendation:

R5. By December 31, 2012, the Sheriff's Department and city police departments should evaluate and update their programs on responding to elder abuse cases.

The La Habra Police Department **has implemented** this recommendation. The La Habra Police Department Policy Manual §326 provides members of the Department with direction and understanding of the responsibilities responding to an elder abuse case. Lieutenant Johnstone, the Investigation Bureau Commander, has reviewed Department Policy and met with the General Investigation Supervisor, Sergeant Quirarte, and Detective Bees. Lieutenant Johnstone has further tasked Sergeant Capelletti, Professional Standards Unit, with reviewing Policy updates to maintain best professional standards.

The Department has found that although policy and training have been effective in keeping the Department proficient in handling elder abuse cases, additional training should be conducted. The Department has scheduled Detective Bees and Detective Hentcy to attend specialized training, Elder Abuse Symposium presented by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, on October 30, 2012. Upon completion of this training, both detectives will meet with the Professional Standards Unit to provide an updated department training bulletin. This training bulletin will be distributed before December 31, 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 County and local partners to provide the highest level of service to those that are victims of elder abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Price".

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, October 1, 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.14.

III.A.11. Authorize the Police Chief to provide La Habra Police Department's response to the 2011-2012 Orange County Grand Jury report "Elder Abuse: The Perfect Storm".


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 8th day of October, 2012.


Tamara D. Mason, MMC, City Clerk