



January 15, 2013

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

Honorable Judge Borris:

I have received and reviewed the 2011- 2012 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Sex Trafficking of Girls." The following are La Palma Police Department's responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

F1. *The Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) recognized that more law enforcement training is needed in sex trafficking. The La Palma Police Department agrees with this finding.*

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 Palma Police Department agrees with this finding.*

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 Palma Police Department agrees with this finding.*

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 Palma Police Department agrees with this finding.*

F7. *Currently no data base is available to law enforcement agencies to check and identify victims of sex trafficking. The La Palma Police Department agrees with this finding.*

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 recommendation has been implemented by the La Palma Police Department. The OC Human Trafficking Task Force has provided briefing training and field resources to our officers. Officers have received POST training in "Response to Human Trafficking."

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 a 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 recommendation will not be implemented by the La Palma Police Department, because it is not reasonable due to the insufficient volume of these types of crimes. We would be in favor of participating in countywide effort.*

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 recommendation has been implemented by the La Palma Police Department. Officers are aware of the provisions of California Penal Code 1275.1 and will consider its use when applicable.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric R. Nuñez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "E" and "N".

Eric R. Nuñez
Chief of Police