

LOS ALAMITOS POLICE DEPARTMENT



Todd Mattern
Chief of Police

Bruce McAlpine
Captain

Cassandra Palmer
Support Services
Manager

September 11, 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 2012-2013 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "To Protect and To Serve: A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill". The following is the Los Alamitos Police Department's responses to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations:

Regarding F1 - *Although POST requires continuing education in the area of dealing with individuals who are mentally ill, it does not specify the number of hours or frequency of officer training; nor does it require that such training be documented.* **The Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with the finding.**

Regarding F2 - *Field officers desire more in-depth training in dealing with the mentally ill on the street.* **The Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with the finding.**

Regarding F3 - *There is one officer – in a very few instances two officers – for every one-thousand (1,000) citizens in a given city within the County who are expected to deal with the full range of law enforcement issues of that city.* **The Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with the finding.**

Regarding F4 - *Nationally accredited police departments police less than 10% of Orange County cities.* **The Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with the finding.**

Regarding F5 - *Not all Orange County cities have at least one officer trained in Crisis Intervention.* **The Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with the finding, based on the information provided in the report.**

3201 Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA
90720-5601

Telephone:
(562) 431-2255

FAX:
(562) 431-6499

Regarding F6 - *There is a broad spectrum of on-going training provided to patrol officers in order to develop their abilities and strategies in dealing with the mentally ill. Some departments provide minimal training; others have comprehensive programs in place.* **The Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with the finding, based on the information provided in the report.**

Regarding F7 - *Five departments have their patrol officers ride periodically with the homeless liaison officer. Seventeen do not.* **The Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with the finding, based on the information provided in the report.**

Regarding F8 - *Departments are reaching out – or beginning to reach out – to neighboring departments and to other skilled professionals, both in dialogue about the mentally ill and homeless issues in their cities, and to learn more effective strategies in dealing with these individuals.* **The Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with the finding, based on the information provided in the report.**

Regarding F10 - *All police departments adhere to written policy, procedure and/or protocol regarding contact with mentally ill persons.* **The Los Alamitos Police Department agrees with the finding, based on the information provided in the report.**

Regarding R1 - *Require specific continuing education for all police officers and sheriff's deputies in interacting with the mentally ill and homeless population...* **The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. In California, mandated training requirements for peace officers are established, certified and funded through the Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). POST conducts audits to ensure compliance with its standards and is responsive to social and legislative catalysts for identified training needs. The Los Alamitos Police Department is already committed to sending its officers to the 16-hour course, "Crisis Intervention for Law Enforcement – Understanding Mental Illness" and will continue to support training that enhances our ability to serve the community.**

Regarding R2 - *All Orange County City Police Departments and the Sheriff's Department shall be accredited with a national accreditation agency within five (5) years.* **The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. The accreditation process is costly in terms of the fiscal investment and use of personnel. The intended goals are already met under the California Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training. The Los Alamitos Police Department meets or exceeds those requirements established by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. Additionally, to assist our agency in remaining in compliance**

with current law, regulation and best practices, we subscribe to Lexipol for risk management resources that include a customized policy manual and daily training bulletins.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Mattern', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Todd Mattern
Chief of Police
Los Alamitos Police Department