



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

CALIFORNIA 92648

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Kenneth W. Small  
Chief of Police

June 22, 2004

Frederick P. Horn  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Orange  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Horn:

RE: Response to Grand Jury Identity Theft Findings

The Orange County Grand Jury issued a report entitled "Identity Theft: What Are Local Law Enforcement and Prosecutors Doing to Combat the Problem?" In the Grand Jury report, the Huntington Beach Police Department was specifically requested, pursuant to Penal Code 933.05 (f), to respond to three listed findings (findings 3-5). Below are the findings and our recommended responses to those findings for your review and comments.

## FINDING

3. "The Orange County District Attorney, the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department and the city police departments in Orange County take steps to form and actively participate in a countywide Regional Identity Theft Task Force comprised of representatives of each of these agencies. The task force should seek the cooperation and participation of the United States Postal Inspector, the United States Secret Service, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Federal Trade Commission. (Finding 3)"

## RESPONSE

The Huntington Beach Police Department has four investigators trained and assigned to investigate identity theft crimes. Once a determination has been made that an identity theft crime has been committed, we have a wealth of resources to utilize, including the federal government, state government, as well as county and local law enforcement. We also utilize a wide variety of private resources.

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Our investigators attend monthly meetings with the Orange County Financial Crimes Investigators Association, and with the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators. These meetings are attended by local and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as many representatives from various private entities.

The Huntington Beach Police Department does see some merit in the formation of a regional task force to investigate identity theft crimes; however, we do not see this as an overwhelming need. Much of what the task force would accomplish already exists in a less formal manner.

Also realize the Huntington Beach Police Department is facing critical personnel shortages, as well as challenging fiscal concerns. Assigning a full time investigator to the task force would place a hardship upon our organization; therefore, we do not see an identity theft regional task force as an immediate need for the Huntington Beach Police Department.

It has been brought to our attention the Grand Jury is contemplating quarterly identity theft meetings with local law enforcement agencies. We concur this is a beneficial proposal and we would be willing to participate.

#### FINDING

4. "Orange County city police departments and the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department work cooperatively to develop standardized public information materials, possibly modeled after excellent pamphlets that now exist, for use by all departments. (Finding 4)".

#### RESPONSE

The Huntington Beach Police Department has two informative identity theft pamphlets available to the public. We are currently in the process of installing an identity theft information page on our website.

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We would prefer to distribute our own pamphlets because it allows us to quickly and easily modify them when we see a need to do so.

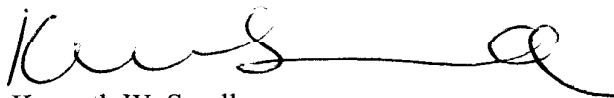
#### FINDING

5. "Orange County city police departments and the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department adopt a standardized identity-theft crime-reporting form, possibly modeled after forms now in use by several police departments. (Finding 5)".

#### RESPONSE

The Huntington Beach Police Department does not have a report form dedicated solely to identity theft. All of our identity theft reports are taken on our standardized crime report form. The form is filled out by our trained personnel and we prefer to continue doing so to insure we obtain all the information we need to complete our investigation.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth W. Small  
CHIEF OF POLICE

KWS/IPF/go

#### Attachments

c: Cathy Green, Mayor, Huntington Beach  
Penny Culbreth-Graft, City Administrator, Huntington Beach  
City Council, Huntington Beach