

LOS ALAMITOS POLICE DEPARTMENT



Michael R. McCrary
Chief of Police

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November 10, 2006

Nancy Wieben-Stock, Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Orange County Grand Jury Report: Oversight of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies, *Resolving a Dichotomy*.

Dear Judge Weiben-Stock:

I am responding to the Orange County Grand Jury's request for responses to certain elements of the Orange County Grand Jury Report: Oversight of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies, *Resolving a Dichotomy*!

Response to Findings:

Finding 6.1 Best practices goal: We disagree. The Los Alamitos Police Department adheres to the policies and practices of the Orange County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association, the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, and many other professional organizations. The City's legal counsel provides oversight and recommendations, which include the review of current law and case decisions, as applicable to our policies and procedures, ensuring they are consistent with best practices.

Finding 6.2 Independent Reviews of LEAs: Disagree. The Los Alamitos Police Department practices, policies and procedures are continually subject to the scrutiny of independent reviews. These reviews originate from both internal and external sources, including audits by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, State and County agencies, attorneys, consultants and City staff.

Finding 6.3 Orange County is Changing: Agree. The County is continually growing and changing in socio-economic status and ethnic diversity which results in new challenges as law enforcement addresses constantly evolving crime trends.

Finding 6.4 LEA Self-assessment: Partially Agree. The Los Alamitos Police Department has an on-going practice of engaging in self-assessment to ensure that we achieve the Department's mission in accordance with our values. We already have in place sufficient procedures, along with internal and external reviews, including citizen feedback, to ensure we are following best practices.

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Also, the City Council and City Manager have the authority to request additional auditing if they are not satisfied with current practices. With these practices in place, fiscal impacts should be considered before additional assessments are imposed.

Response to Recommendations:

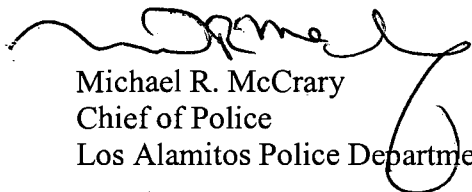
Recommendation 7.1 Best practice guidelines: The Los Alamitos Police Department already receives recommendations from various professional organizations such as the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, the Orange County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association, and our City's own legal advisors. The Department is always willing to review or consider new or additional best practice guidelines.

Recommendation 7.2 Near-term, independent review of LEA policies, procedures, and compliance: This recommendation will not be implemented. The expenditure of funds for additional near-term independent reviews would be redundant to existing control mechanisms. I believe the policies put in place by the Los Alamitos Police Department already rise to the level of best practices.

Recommendation 7.3 Periodic, independent review of LEA compliance to policies and procedures: This recommendation will not be implemented for the same reason stated in recommendation 7.2. The current internal and external systems of checks and balances in place are functioning effectively and there is no evidence to suggest that there is a need for costly, additional reviews as recommended by the Orange County Grand Jury. I believe that the independent legal reviews that the Los Alamitos Police Department currently utilizes provide effective guidance consistent with the level of best practices.

On behalf of the men and women of the Los Alamitos Police Department, I would like to thank the Orange County Grand Jury for their dedicated service and for the opportunity to respond to the recommendations in the 2005/2006 report, "oversight of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies, Resolving a Dichotomy."

Sincerely,


Michael R. McCrary
Chief of Police
Los Alamitos Police Department