Eric G. Parra | Interim City Manager

Honorable Maria Hernandez Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court 700 Civic Center Drive, West Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: City of Huntington Beach Response 2023-2024 Orange County Grand Jury Report Law Enforcement's Response to Mental Health Calls for Service

Honorable Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez,

The City of Huntington Beach received and reviewed the reference Grand Jury Report, and in accordance with the Grand Jury's request, approved the following responses to the report.

F1: Mental Health training for law enforcement officers in Orange County exceeds the State's requirement, resulting in law enforcement applying these skills to better evaluate and handle mental health calls for service.

Response:

The City of Huntington Beach agrees with this finding.

F2: Law enforcement agencies in Orange County have developed unique ways to deal with mental health calls in their communities based on their particular needs and budgets, enabling law enforcement to better serve their communities.

Response:

The City of Huntington Beach agrees with this finding.

F3: Law enforcement collaboration with County PERT clinicians and Be Well mobile response units has been an effective tool when responding to mental health calls for service.

Response:

The City of Huntington Beach agrees with this finding.

People with mental illness respond more positively to "soft uniformed" police personnel, which can be effective in de-escalating situations.

Response:

The City of Huntington Beach agrees with this finding.

F5: Providing follow-up case management is not only necessary but critical for the wellbeing of people experiencing mental health issues.

The City of Huntington Beach agrees with this finding.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (714) 536-5902.

Sincerely,

Eric Parra Chief of Police

Cc: Honorable Gracey Van Der Mark, Mayor

Orange County Grand Jury