



CITY OF COSTA MESA

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

P.O. Box 1200

FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

July,30 2024

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

**Subject: Report of the Orange County Grand Jury – Law Enforcement’s Response
to Mental Health Calls for Service**

Dear Presiding Judge Hernandez,

The City of Costa Mesa appreciates the time and effort the Grand Jury spent on the development of their report, Law Enforcement’s Response to Mental Health Calls for Service.

The City Council has reviewed the report and authorized the attached response to the findings and recommendations noted in the report.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out me at 714-754-5663 or jlapointe@costamesaca.gov

Sincerely,

Joyce LaPointe, Deputy Police of Chief

Enclosure: City of Costa Mesa's Response to Findings and
Recommendations

cc: City of Costa Mesa Council,
Costa Mesa City Council
Lori Ann Farrell Harrison, City Manager
Cecilia Gallardo-Daly, Assistant City Manager
Raja Sethuraman, Public Works Director
Ron Lawrence, Chief of Police
Jason Chamness, Police Captain

City of Costa Mesa Responses to Finding & Recommendations: 2023-2023 Orange County Grand Jury report, Law Enforcement's Response to Mental Health Calls for Service.

Findings and Responses

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

Response - Agree

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

Response - Agree

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 - Agree

F4 People with mental illness respond more positively to "soft uniformed" police personnel, which can be effective in de-escalating situations.

Response - Agree

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

Response - Agree

Recommendations

R1 Based on its investigation, the 2023-2024 OCGJ has determined that law enforcement agencies throughout Orange County have developed unique techniques to adequately address mental health calls, thus this report does not contain recommendations.

City's Response:

Agrees with findings- No recommendations.