

June 5, 2002

Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Dr., Rm. 303
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Grand Jury Members:

It has been a pleasure to work with you in regard to your study of the Victim Witness Program, located within the Marin County District Attorney's Office. Thank you for acknowledging the good efforts that we have been making, and for being sufficiently concerned about the victims of crimes to take up this topic for study in your very busy jobs as Grand Jurors. We all know that a victim going through the criminal justice system may be as traumatizing to the victim and their family as the original crime itself. It is for that exact reason that we, the Marin County District Attorney's Office, started our Victim Witness Program almost 25 years ago with grant funds from the Federal CETA program. As with any program or project, improvements may always be made. My personal philosophy is that learning is a lifelong experience and that you should not stagnate, but always aim for improvement. Your report can hopefully be used as a tool in our continuing efforts to make improvements in our program to help victims.

I am sorry that we did not have an opportunity to speak at the end of your study so that I could have given you additional information for your report which you then could have used in your findings. From the time I first spoke to you, the scope of your inquiry seems to have expanded, and I would have been able to provide you with additional information that would have helped to clarify some of your concerns. I am therefore taking this opportunity to provide you the additional information with regard to some of your findings.

While we are providing more services now than ever before for victims of crimes, if the public perception you received from outside agencies is that we are not, then we must make every effort to improve that perception, and to continue to improve services.

I apologize for the delay in responding to your report but unfortunately I have been waging a battle with pneumonia since the end of March. I would, however, very much like to present this additional material to you in person and discuss any matters that you feel remain outstanding and continue to make myself available as a resource to you.

Very truly yours,

Paula Freschi Kamena
District Attorney

PFK/jkh

Report Title: The Marin Victim Witness Program

Report Date: April 12, 2002

Response by: Paula Kamena Title: District Attorney

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 1, 3, 7, 8
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 2, 4, 5, 6

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 have been implemented.

(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

- Recommendations numbered 2, 7 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

- Recommendations numbered N/A require further analysis.

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)

- Recommendations numbered N/A will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 6/4/02 Signed:

Number of pages attached 12