

**Report Title: A Crisis Brewing
Housing for Public Health and Safety Employees**

Report Date: June 30, 2003

Response by: Town of Tiburon Title: Town of Tiburon Town Council

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 1, 2, 4
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 3
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered 1, 2, 3 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ 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 _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 9/18/03 Signed: _____

Number of pages attached 3

September 18, 2003

The Honorable Lynn O'Malley Taylor
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Conrad Kloh
Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Dr., Room 303
San Rafael, CA 94903

**Re: Response to Grand Jury Report 2002-2003 – A Crisis Brewing?
Housing for Public Health and Safety Employees**

Dear Honorable Judge Taylor and Foreperson Kloh:

This letter explains in detail the Town of Tiburon's response to the Grand Jury Report dated June 30, 2003. The Report directs all city and town councils to respond to all Findings and Recommendations.

Finding Nos. 1, 2, and 4:

- The Town of Tiburon Town Council agrees with Findings 1, 2, and 4.

Finding No. 3:

- The Grand Jury found that the county, the cities and the towns have not exercised their legislative authority to develop policies leading to programs making housing affordable to first responders. The Town disagrees with this Finding insofar as it applies to the Town of Tiburon.

Over the past several years, the Town of Tiburon has purchased six (6) affordable housing units, adjacent to downtown Tiburon, which are made available for Town employees to rent. Each of these units was obtained through the use of the Town's legislative authority. Although there is no policy providing preferential consideration to public health and safety employees, three of the units' current occupants are employees who could be considered public health and safety employees or first responders: one from the Fire District, one from the Sanitary District, and one from the Public Works Department. Therefore, the effect of the Town's policy and program to own affordable housing units, and to make them available to Town and other public employees, has led to making housing affordable for first responders.

Additionally, the Town's Draft Housing Element includes a policy to "identify opportunities for local government employees (*especially public safety personnel*) to find housing locally through such efforts as construction of workforce housing at public facilities or parking lots, establishment of preferences, or subsidizing mortgages or rents." (emphasis added) This policy will be adopted by legislative action as well.

Furthermore, in recognition of the affordable housing issue for employees, the Town Council has established an Employee Housing Fund which contains approximately \$400,000 at present.

Recommendation No. 1:

This recommendation is directed at the county to take the lead, with the co-operation of the cities and towns, in developing definitions for the positions of first responders and to establish a rank order of their need to be close by in time of crisis.

The Town Council agrees that defining a class of employees as first responders and public safety personnel would be a worthwhile exercise. Furthermore, the Town agrees that the county is the appropriate lead, as they are uniquely situated to bring together the variety of local agencies and public and private organizations which provide emergency services for the whole county.

The Town will participate within any schedule developed by the county.

Recommendation No. 2:

After defining which employees are the first responders and public safety personnel, the Town Council agrees that the definitions should be used on a county-wide basis to determine the housing need for those positions. The Town will co-operate with the county and other cities and towns to accomplish this objective, following the process of developing the definitions referred to in Recommendation 1.

Recommendation No. 3:

Within the framework for interagency coordination that was started by the Marin Housing Workbook project, the Town will work with the county, other cities and towns, and other public and private organizations to develop overarching policies that will enable first responders to be able to live within a reasonable distance in or near the community in which they work. This would be a logical extension of work done based on Recommendations 1 and 2.

* * * * *

The Tiburon Town Council reviewed and approved this response on September 17, 2003. If you have further questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

ALEX D. McINTYRE
Town Manager

c: Town Council
Town Attorney
Director of Community Development