RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: ***RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: Its Time Has Come in Marin County***

Report Date: **June 4, 2011**

Public Release Date: **June 7, 2011**

Response by: Jose H. Varela

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1-F13
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____
  (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 _____ 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: 6/5/12 Signed: _____

Number of pages attached ____

COUNTY OF MARIN

OFFICE OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER
Providing effective and innovative legal services

June 5, 2012

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Honorable Judge James Ritchie
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Michael Chernock, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275
San Rafael, CA 94903

RE: Restorative Justice: *Its Time Has Come in Marin County*

Dear Honorable Judge James Ritchie and Foreperson Chernock:

I write to commend the Marin County Civil Grand Jury for their fine work in the above-entitled report. The report is well-investigated and shares concrete examples of the profound effect that restorative justice solutions can have in our community.

Our office agrees with the findings enumerated in F-1 through F-13. We are especially impressed with the findings that highlight the dramatic decrease in suspensions at Davidson Middle School through their use of restorative justice solutions. Such programs show how conflict can be meaningfully resolved through a fair and inclusive system that holds individuals accountable and gives victims an important way to be heard.

We strongly support recommendations R-3 through R-6. We would encourage Marin County law enforcement officials to work with the court, probation and our office to create a meaningful citation hearing system that could resolve potential misdemeanor cases in a manner that holds individuals accountable, allows victims to be heard and achieves cost savings to the courts and to county government.

Please email me at jvarela@marincounty.org or call me at 415.473.6333 if you have any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,

Jose H. Varela
Marin County Public Defender

Cc: Edward Berbarian, Marin County District Attorney
Robert Doyle, Marin County Sheriff
Michael Daly, Marin County Chief Probation Officer
Matthew Hymel, Marin County Chief Administrative Officer