

The Honorable Kelly V. Simmons
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

John Mann, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

August 10, 2016

Dear Judge Simmons and Mr. Mann:

Attached to this letter is the response from the Mill Valley School District (MVSD) to the findings and recommendations of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's report "Marin's Hidden Human Sex Trafficking Challenge: It's Happening in Our Backyard" that was released on June 23, 2016. The District read your through report and the issues related to the healthy well being and social emotional relationships of the students in the MVSD and the County of Marin.

As Stated in the Grand Jury's report, the awareness of the prevalence of human sex trafficking in Marin County is low and needs to be publicized. The Mill Valley School District commends the Grand Jury for addressing this important issue that affects the children of Marin as well as providing findings and recommendations that can start the conversation for creating a task force that could work throughout the county.

In response to the specific Findings and Recommendations in this report, it should be noted that the Mill Valley School District does not have sufficient information or expertise to serve as a basis for a response to the specific items. While the District has addressed the emotional wellbeing of the whole child in a number of ways, there is more we can do in the area of protecting our students from sexual predators and dealing with the victims of human sex trafficking. The Mill Valley School District is committed to working with our neighboring schools districts, MCOE and community partners to expand our support in this area. We will report back to the 2016-2017 Marin Civil Grand Jury on what actions have been taken by December, 2016.

The Mill Valley School District continues to appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury in addressing important issues that occur in Marin County and advocating for resources to combat the problems that affect all of it's citizens. The District looks forward to continuing the partnership in future Grand Jury reports.

Sincerely,



Robin Moses
Board President



Paul Johnson
Superintendent

Findings:

F-1 through F-13

Response: The Mill Valley School District agrees with all findings, assuming the facts set forth in the Grand Jury's report are accurate.

Recommendations:

R7: Marin County Office of Education should work with the Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership to develop educational programs to ensure that students, parents, and teachers are trained in recognizing the signs of human trafficking and where they can find help.

Response: The Mill Valley School District has worked collaboratively with the Marin County Office of Education on various issues that impact the students in Marin County and believes that the recommendation has been implemented. However, it would be worth reviewing the educational programs offered to broaden the reach and make trainings more consistent.

The Mill Valley School District has always publicized and encouraged staff and parents to attend MCOE trainings and countywide events that were offered over the past two years. The Middle School has also successfully collaborated with the Marin County School/ Law Enforcement Partnership on various trainings to support students.

Among the events and trainings that MCOE has offered include:

- Human Trafficking and Child Abduction Forum on September 14, 2015
- Missing Children and On-Line Predators, April 29, 2015
- School/Law Enforcement Partnership discussion led by the District Attorney's Office on October 21, 2015 and January 16, 2016 during which presentations related to sex trafficking took place

- A countywide forum which the Marin County Office of Education supported and advertised was held on Thursday January 21, 2016 by the Marin Child Abuse Prevention Council

The Mill Valley School District will continue to participate in any conversations, trainings, and outreach to ensure that the students, parents, and staff in the district are trained to recognize the signs of human trafficking and where they can find help.