



August 12, 2016

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

Dear Judge Simmons:

The Ross Town Council has received the Grand Jury Report – “Marin’s Hidden Human Sex Trafficking Challenge: It’s Happening In Our Backyard” dated June 23, 2016. The Grand Jury has requested a response to Findings F1 – F13, and Recommendations R1 – R7. Our response to the report’s findings and recommendations were approved by the Town Council at their meeting on August 11, 2016, and are attached.

Thank you for addressing this important issue on behalf of the citizens of Marin County. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on it.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hoertkorn
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: John Mann, Foreperson ✓

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Marin's Hidden Human Sex Trafficking Challenge: It's Happening In Our Backyard

Report Date: June 23, 2016

Agenda Date: August 11, 2016

Response by: Erik Masterson

Title: Chief of Police

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F3, F5, F6, F8, F9, F10, F12
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings number: F1, F2, F4, F7, F11, F13

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R1, R2 have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered R3, R4, R5, R6, R7 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

The above recommendations cannot be implemented because the Town of Ross does not have control over these agencies.

Date: August 12, 2016

Signed: _____

Number of pages attached 4

TOWN OF ROSS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDINGS:

F1: Human sex trafficking is mostly unrecognized, under-reported, and rarely subject to intervention in Marin.

Response: We disagree. As there is insufficient data on the extent of the trafficking in Marin, we are not able to make this determination.

F2: A significant number of human sex trafficking victims are from Marin, not just transients imported from other areas.

Response: We disagree. As there is insufficient data on the extent of the trafficking in Marin, we are not able to make this determination.

F3: Reports from two Marin County victim advocate organizations show that approximately 30% of the victims they aid are under the age of 18.

Response: We agree.

F4: Some Marin County law enforcement officers still believe some human trafficking victims are criminals.

Response: We disagree. Officers are trained in recognizing human trafficking victims and investigating these cases for successful prosecutions. They are also trained to provide assistance to victims of crime, including trafficking victims.

F5: State law mandates that officers receive two hours of training on human trafficking and some Marin agencies may not be complying with the law.

Response: We agree.

F6: Training of Marin County law enforcement on the *Marin County Uniform Law Enforcement Protocol for Human Trafficking* has been inconsistent across agencies.

Response: We agree.

F7: Law enforcement officers and others who are closest to human trafficking believe the California mandated two-hour POST training video on human trafficking is not sufficient.

Response: We disagree. The training mandated by POST offers our line personnel education on this issue and a resource for investigative tools and victim advocacy.

F8: Marin law enforcement agencies rarely use multidisciplinary training, incorporating collaboration between Children Family Services (CFS), the District Attorney, law enforcement experts, and possibly victims.

Response: We agree.

F9: Training for firefighters and EMS professionals in recognizing human trafficking victims and reporting crime is inconsistent in Marin.

Response: We agree.

F10: It is difficult to determine the extent of human trafficking in Marin because of inconsistent classification and definitions of the crime, as well as the lack of a central clearinghouse for this data.

Response: We agree.

F11: The Marin County school districts do not provide education on a systematic basis for students, parents and teachers in recognizing signs of human trafficking.

Response: We disagree. We are not able to determine what training the schools provide in this area.

F12: Human trafficking outreach has been fragmented and is currently insufficient in reaching critical audiences.

Response: We agree.

F13: The Marin County Coalition to End Human Trafficking Coalition needs dedicated resources to make it more effective.

Response: We disagree. There is insufficient data to support this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1: All law enforcement officers should be consistently trained in the *Marin County Uniform Law Enforcement Protocol for Human Trafficking*.

Response: The Ross Police Department has included this protocol into our ongoing training cycle.

R2: All Marin law enforcement agency heads should ensure their officers receive the California mandated two hour human trafficking training.

Response: This has been done.

R3: The Board of Supervisors should convene a local group of human trafficking experts (including CFS, law enforcement subject experts, FBI, victim advocates, DA's, and perhaps a victim) to create a multidisciplinary training presentation. This training should include the unique roles of all County personnel, resources, and processes in addressing human trafficking. Additional resources will be needed to support this training as none are devoted to this task now. This training should include information on the trafficking of females and males, as well as LGBTQ .

Response: This recommendation cannot be implemented as it is outside the scope of authority of the Town of Ross.

R4: Once this multi-disciplinary training package is completed, Marin County law enforcement agencies should ensure that all Marin law enforcement officers be trained.

Response: This recommendation cannot be implemented as it is outside the scope of authority of the Town of Ross.

R5: Marin County fire departments should ensure that all EMS personnel are trained in recognizing human trafficking and how to report it, and incorporate this in their annual training.

Response: This recommendation cannot be implemented as it is outside the scope of authority of the Town of Ross.

R6: The Board of Supervisors should fund the creation of a database that systematically tracks adult and minor victims, using consistent classification and shared definitions to properly identify the victim and the crime, as well as document its prevalence. Data should be gathered from any organization dealing with trafficking victims, including law enforcement agencies, government agencies (e.g. Marin County Health & Human Services), civic organizations, and victim advocate organizations.

Response: This recommendation cannot be implemented as it is outside the scope of authority of the Town of Ross.

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: This recommendation cannot be implemented as it is outside the scope of authority of the Town of Ross.