

Jim Wickham
Mayor
Sashi McEntee
Vice Mayor
John McCauley
Councilmember



Jessica Jackson
Councilmember
Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Councilmember
James C. McCann
City Manager

July 1, 2019

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

Pat Randolph, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 275
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Subject: Mill Valley City Council Response to “School Resource Officers Revisited”, Marin County Civil Grand Jury, May 23, 2019

Dear Judge Simmons and Foreperson Randolph:

At their regular meeting on July 1, 2019, the Mill Valley City Council reviewed the report: “School Resource Officers Revisited.”

The Council understands the important role School Resource Officers (SROs) have in maintaining a positive and proactive law enforcement presence within our local schools. The City has commented on the findings in the report and responded to recommendations R1-3, R6-8, and R10-12, as requested:

R1. SRO programs in Marin County should be retained or expanded where they now exist. SRO programs should be established to cover those school districts where they do not exist.

Recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation and recently converted the previous juvenile detective position into a traditional SRO position. The SRO position will continue to work with all schools within the City of Mill Valley.

R2. Municipalities, school districts, and law enforcement agencies in Marin County should make SRO programs a high budgetary priority.

Recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation and the SRO position is already funded in the current budget. As stated in R1, the previously budgeted juvenile detective position was converted into a traditional SRO position and remains funded in the current budget.

R3. To insure continuity, each SRO should be assigned to serve for at least a four-year term.

Recommendation will not be implemented.

The City of Mill Valley partially agrees with this recommendation. While the City of Mill Valley agrees continuity in the SRO position is important, we feel a four-year commitment is restrictive to the professional growth of the individual assigned to SRO position and also limits access of other officers interested in the position. The current SRO was selected for a three-year assignment.

R6. Mill Valley should employ a full-time SRO who regularly visits its schools rather than simply assigning an officer to be on call for its schools.

Recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation. As stated in R1, the previous juvenile detective position was recently converted into a traditional SRO position. The SRO position will continue to work with all schools within the City of Mill Valley.

R7. All SROs should complete SRO POST training by July 1, 2020

Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation. This was already considered standard training for the previous juvenile detective position and will remain as required core training for the newly selected SRO. Completion of this recommendation will be dependent on the availability of POST-certified SRO training courses in the future.

R8. Law enforcement agencies should fund additional training for SROs that will help them keep up with and handle their responsibilities.

Recommendation has already been implemented.

The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation. The previous juvenile detective position was supported with additional training, which included, but was not limited to criminal investigations core course, child abuse investigations, sexual assault investigations and child forensic interviews. These courses will remain as required core training for the newly selected SRO. Completion of this recommendation will be dependent on the availability of the listed training courses in the future.

R10. School districts and municipalities should explore funding sources such as grants, bond issues, special taxes, and other sources.

Recommendation has already been implemented.

*City of Mill Valley Response Letter
to 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report, "School Resource Officers Revisited"*

The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation. While the current SRO position is already funded within the existing budget, we will continue to explore funding sources to supplement current costs.

R11. School districts and municipalities should consider sharing the costs and services of SRO programs.

Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation. While the current SRO position is already funded within the existing budget, we are willing to consider potential cost-sharing or shared-service agreements with school districts or other municipalities.

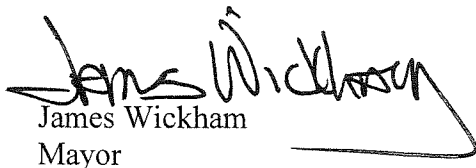
R12. County law enforcement agencies should provide the time and facilities for the SROs to meet regularly to exchange information, ideas, and discuss new trends by October 1, 2019.

Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation. There have been occasional ad-hoc meetings among the current SROs within the County of Marin. We intend to make time available for our SRO to attend regular meetings and are willing to further support this recommendation by offering to schedule and host the meetings.

Should the members of the Grand Jury require any additional information, please contact City Manager Jim McCann at 415-388-4033 or jmccann@cityofmillvalley.org.

Sincerely,


James Wickham
Mayor

Cc: Mill Valley City Council
City Manager
File

AGENCY RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: **School Resource Officers Revisited**

Report Date: **May 23, 2019**

Response Date: **August 23, 2019**

Agency Name: City of Mill Valley

Agenda Date: July 1, 2019

Response by: Alan Piombo

Title: Chief of Police

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: Not Requested
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: Not Requested
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: Not Requested

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R1, R2, R6, R8 and R10 have been implemented. (Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R7, R11 and R12 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

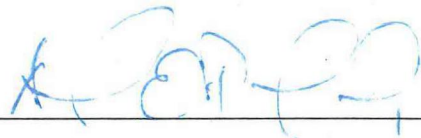
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

- 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 R3 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 07.01.19 Signed: _____



Number of pages attached 3