



THE CITY OF
NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

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City Manager

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July 24, 2019

Pat Randolph, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275
San Rafael CA 94903

Re: Response to Civil Grand Jury Report Entitled,
"School Resource Officers Revisited"

Dear Mr./ Ms. Randolph:

At the regular Novato City Council meeting of July 23, 2019, the City Council reviewed the above report which requests that the City of Novato respond to Recommendations R1-R3, R7-R8, and R1-R12. The City's response is attached.

If members of the Grand Jury require additional information, please contact Novato Police Captain Matt McCaffrey at (415) 897-7002

We appreciate the work of the Grand Jury and thank you for your service to our residents and Marin County.

Sincerely,

Eric Lucan
Mayor
City of Novato

Cc: The Honorable Judge Paul Haakenson
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael CA 94913-4988

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

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Novato and Novato Police Department understand the importance of making SROs in the schools a budgetary priority. The Novato Unified School District also understands that the safety and security of their students is a primary responsibility and a very high priority. In the 2018-2019 school year, the City of Novato funded two SRO's for NUSD with the understanding that NUSD will fund one of the SRO in 2019-2020. In the 2019-2020 school year, the City of Novato will continue to fund 1 SRO and NUSD will fund the other.

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

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

The Novato Police Department employs fixed rotations for specialty assignments, including SRO. The SRO assignment is three years with a fourth year option, at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

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

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

Both Novato Police Department SRO's have completed SRO POST training. The Novato Police Department strives to provide all applicable POST training prior to assignment. When not possible, training is provided within one year of assignment.

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

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

The Novato Police Department actively identifies training opportunities that will enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of the SRO program.

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

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

NUSD and the Novato Police Department collaborated on a grant proposal to the Department of Justice Tobacco Grant Program in 2018. NUSD was awarded a grant at the end of 2018 that will fund an SRO for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. Both NUSD and the Novato Police Department will continue to explore grant and other funding opportunities to continue the SRO program.

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

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

NUSD and the City of Novato agree with sharing the costs and services of SRO Programs. In the 2018-2019 school year, the City of Novato funded two SRO's for NUSD with the understanding that NUSD will fund one of the SRO in 2019-2020. In the 2019-2020 school year, the City of Novato will continue to fund 1 SRO and NUSD will fund the other. In 2018, NUSD and the Novato Police Department collaborated on a grant proposal to the Department of Justice Tobacco Grant Program. NUSD was awarded a grant at the end of 2018 that will fund an SRO for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. Both NUSD and the Novato Police Department will continue to explore grant and other funding opportunities to continue the SRO program.

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.

Response: Further analysis is required.

The two Novato Police Officers assigned to the SRO program regularly attend the School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) meetings with other SRO's from other Marin County jurisdictions. The City of Novato and Novato Police Department agree that regularly scheduled meetings to exchange information, ideas, and maintain communication across jurisdictions will also benefit our SRO program.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS / OBJECTIVES

This item is brought to the City Council as a response to the listed Grand Jury report as required by Penal Code Section 933.05. Additionally, this issue directly relates to the City's **Strategic Plan Goal 1: Living Well Together under Objective 2**, namely "Develop, coordinate, and promote programs that engage at risk youth."

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize responses as provided above be forwarded to the 2018-2019 Marin County Grand Jury.

ALTERNATIVES

Do not authorize responses as provided above be forwarded to the 2018-2019 Marin County Grand Jury.

ATTACHMENTS

1. City of Novato response to Grand Jury report
2. Grand Jury report

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 Novato**

Agenda Date: **TBD**

Response by: **Eric Lucan**

Title: **Mayor**

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, R3, R7, R8, R10** and **R11** 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 **R12** require further analysis.
While the City of Novato and the Novato Police Department cannot compel other agencies to participate in a regular meeting as described, we are open to opportunities for our SRO's to participate and will encourage the involvement of our allied agencies.

- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: _____ Signed:  _____

Number of pages attached _____

