



August 9, 2019

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

Dear Judge Haakenson:

The Town of Ross has received the Grand Jury Report "School Resource Officers Revisited" dated May 23, 2019. The Grand Jury has requested a response to Recommendations R1, R2, R3, R7, R8, R10, R11 and R12. The report was reviewed and considered by Ross Town Council at their August 8, 2019 regular meeting. Enclosed please find the Town's response.

Please extend the Town's appreciation to the 2019 Grand Jurors for the important work they do on behalf of all the citizens of Marin County.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Brekhus
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: Pat Randolph, Foreperson ✓

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: School Resource Officer Revisited

Report Date: May 23, 2019

Agenda Date:

Response by: Erik Masterson

Title: Chief of Police

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered **R1, R2, R3, R7, R8, R10, R11, and R12** will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable (see attached for details).

Date: August 9, 2019

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 3

TOWN OF ROSS RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **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.**

We currently do not have an SRO position. There was an SRO position that was eliminated due to budget constraints several years ago. The SRO position had become less involved with the schools over time and had evolved into a Community Services Officer, spending very little time in the school (Ross School only). As there is little demand or necessity for an officer in the public school (which is a K-8 school), we do not see a compelling reason to implement this.

Even though there is not a dedicated SRO position, the Ross Police Department regularly interacts with the Ross School and the student population. The Ross Police Department maintains an active presence at the school and places a high priority on the safety of the students and staff of our schools. As Ross is a small community, many of the school staff and students are on a first name basis with the Town Police officers. The Police are present around the school throughout the school year and are involved in school functions.

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

We do not see this as a high priority for funding as the position was eliminated due to both funding issues as well as the role was not needed or desired. The public school is a K-8 school which is not traditionally served by an SRO. The Ross Police Department regularly interacts with the Ross School and the student population. The Ross Police Department maintains an active presence at the school and places a high priority on the safety of the students and staff of our schools. The high school in Ross is private and if having an SRO position is desirable, they will need to provide funding.

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

We do not have an SRO position, so this does not apply.

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

We do not have an SRO position, so this does not apply.

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

We do not have an SRO position, so this does not apply.

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

If the local school community requests an SRO and wants to take the lead in finding funding for a position, the Town would support the position.

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

If an SRO for Ross School was deemed as warranted, the Town would discuss funding the position. Any funding from the Town has to compete against other priorities for General Fund resources.

- **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.**

We do not have an SRO position to be part of a meeting by October 1, 2019. Regular meetings for SRO's would be implemented if an SRO position was implemented.