



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

922 Machin Avenue
Novato, CA 94945
415/899-8900
FAX 415/899-8213
novato.org

Mayor
Denise Athas
Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Eklund
Councilmembers
Eric Lucan
Amy Peele
Susan Wernick

City Manager
Adam McGill

July 16, 2020

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

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report " Cyberattacks: A Growing Threat to Marin Government,"

Dear Judge Sweet,

At its regular meeting of July 14, 2020, the Novato City Council reviewed the above report which requests they City of Novato respond to Recommendations R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, and R9 of the report. The City's response to all is attached.

If the members of the Grand Jury require additional information, please contact City Manager Adam McGill at amcgill@novato.org.

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

Sincerely,

Denise Athas
Mayor
City of Novato

Cc: Lucy Dilworth, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

REPORT TITLE: "Cyberattacks: A Growing Threat to Marin Government"

REPORT DATE: May 11, 2020

RESPONSE BY: City of Novato

GRAND JURY FINDINGS

- The City of Novato agrees with the findings numbered: **F3, F7 and F10.**
- The City disagrees wholly or partially with the findings numbered **F4, F5, F6, F8, and F9**

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered **R4, R7, R8** have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered **R5, R6 and R9** have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.
- Recommendations numbered **N/A** requires further analysis.

Date: __ August 5, 2020 _____ Signed: Denise Athas

**ATTACHMENT A: RESPONSE OF THE CITY OF NOVATO TO GRAND JURY
REPORT “CYBERATTACKS: A GROWING THREAT TO MARIN GOVERNMENT”**

GRAND JURY FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

The responses below have been made from the perspective of the City of Novato’s experience with cybersecurity. We do not have full insight on the cybersecurity practices of other Cities and Towns in Marin County.

F3. Transparency is lacking regarding cybersecurity because past breaches have not been publicly disclosed, and city and town councils have not facilitated public discussion of cybersecurity issues.

Response: Agree

The City will develop a mechanism and policy that clarifies public reporting of breaches.

F4. Most elected officials in Marin’s cities and towns are not sufficiently engaged in ensuring robust cybersecurity policies and procedures are in place.

Response: Disagree

The Novato City Council has supported, through its annual budget, IT services and infrastructure that address cybersecurity measures and would be supportive of further actions in this area. In addition, the City has regularly made the maintenance and upgrade of cybersecurity practices a part of the City’s annual goals and objectives. Over the past several years, the City Council and City Manager have received periodic updates on the status of the City’s cybersecurity goals and programs. These updates include past, ongoing, in-progress, and upcoming efforts regarding security for network infrastructure, desktop, mobile devices, users, internal processes, and disaster recovery. They also include information about known attempted ransomware attacks.

F5. County and municipal officials and managers have been generally unaware of breaches that have occurred outside their own agencies in Marin and therefore have not felt the need to collaborate on measures to improve cybersecurity.

Response: Disagree partially

The City of Novato has not consistently been made aware of breaches outside of our agency, however issues of cybersecurity have been discussed by the Marin Managers Association

F6. Municipalities have been lax in following FBI guidance that cybersecurity breaches be reported to federal law enforcement

Response: Disagree

The City of Novato maintains Department of Justice compliant network connectivity to serve our Police Department and have a process for reporting breaches to federal authorities.

F7. Marin’s cities and towns have not made a concerted effort to standardize around a common set of best practices with respect to cybersecurity.