

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

January 7, 2021

**Subject: Mill Valley City Council Response to “The Gun Next Door: Firearm Safety in Marin County”, Marin County Civil Grand Jury, October 30, 2020**

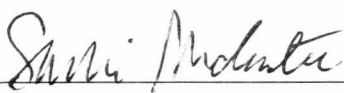
Dear Ms. Dilworth:

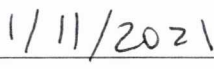
At their regular meeting on January 7, 2021, the Mill Valley City Council reviewed the report: “The Gun Next Door: Firearm Safety in Marin County”, dated October 30, 2020.

The Council understands the importance of addressing firearm safety in the home, especially during a time when our citizens are in constant close quarters due to working, learning, and quarantining at home. In the attached statement, the City has commented on the findings in the report and responded to recommendations R2, R3, and R4 as requested.

Should the members of the Grand Jury require any additional information, please contact City Manager Alan Piombo at 415-388-4033 or [apiombo@cityofmillvalley.org](mailto:apiombo@cityofmillvalley.org).

Sashi McEntee  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Cc: Andrew Sweet, Presiding Judge  
Kelsey Rogers, City Clerk/Administrative Analyst  
Richard N. Benson, Assessor – Recorder – County Clerk



**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM  
CITY OF MILL VALLEY**

**Report Title:** The Gun Next Door: Firearm Safety in Marin County  
**Report Date:** December 14, 2020  
**Public Release:** January 7, 2021  
**Response By:** City of Mill Valley

**FINDINGS**

- I (we) agree with the finding numbered: F1 – F6
- I (we) disagree partially with the finding numbered: N/A
- I (we) disagree wholly with the finding numbered: N/A

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations numbered R2 and R3 have been implemented.

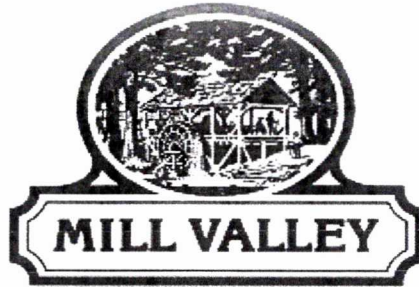
Recommendations numbered R4 have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

Recommendation numbered N/A will not be implemented.

**Signed:** Sarhi Mohantle

**Date:** 1/11/2021

**Number of Pages Attached:** 3



**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM  
CITY OF MILL VALLEY**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**R2. Each town, city, police authority, as well as the sheriff, should, at least annually, beginning in fiscal year 2020–21, send reminders to its residents regarding the need for safe handling and storage of firearms, and this reminder should be posted on official websites and social media platforms.**

Recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation and implemented the recommendation on October 22, 2020. The Mill Valley Police Department delivered to the community their public service announcement flyer “Gun Storage and Children,” via the department’s Instagram account, Nextdoor account, as well as Facebook account.

This educational public service announcement was then posted on the Mill Valley Police Department’s website on November 20, 2020 and included the following messaging:

*These days, both children and adults are spending much more time at home to try and prevent the spread of the Coronavirus in their communities. The Mill Valley Police Department would like to remind all firearm owners of laws and key tips for proper at home storage. Please read over the attached flyer and share it with friends and other family members who may own a firearm. If you find yourself in need of a firearm lock, please come to the Mill Valley Police Department and we would be happy to provide you one, free of charge. If you are looking to dispose of a firearm, please contact our department at 415-389-4100 so we can safely help you with this process.*

This recommendation was repeated and expanded on December 10, 2020 by means of the City’s MV Connect electronic news publication, Mill Valley Police Department’s new webpage titled “Firearm Safety”, and on December 11, 2020 via Nixle public alerts and messaging.

**R3. Each town, city, police authority, as well as the sheriff should, within six months of the date of this report, offer free gun locks and publicize a procedure for residents to turn in unwanted weapons. This message should also be posted on official websites and social media platforms.**

Recommendation has been implemented.



The City of Mill Valley agrees with this recommendation as the Mill Valley Police Department has offered free gun locks to the public for the past 15+ years.

On October 22, 2020, the Mill Valley Police Department relayed messaging to the community offering free gun locks at the police department, as well as opportunity to turn in any unwanted firearms. This messaging was posted on the Department's Instagram, Facebook, and Nextdoor social media accounts.

To meet the recommendation, on November 20, 2020, the Mill Valley Police Department posted a news items on their webpage addressing safe gun storage, free gun locks at the police department, and the process of voluntarily surrendering a firearm to the Mill Valley Police.

This recommendation was further repeated and expanded on December 10, 2020 by means of the City's MV Connect electronic news publication, Mill Valley Police Department's new webpage titled "Firearm Safety", and December 11, 2020 via Nixle public alerts and messaging.

**R4. The Marin County district attorney should work with other law enforcement agencies to continue to offer gun buyback programs, funded by public donations or grants.**

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

In September 2016, the Mill Valley Police Department in cooperation with the Marin County District Attorney's Office, Tiburon Police, Sausalito Police, and Belvedere Police sponsored a one-day gun buyback event. On that day, a total of 101 firearms were relinquished to law enforcement. The Mill Valley Police Department will continue to seek further opportunities to host or participate in a gun buyback program in cooperation with the Marin County District Attorney's office.