



# MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 200, San Rafael, CA 94903

ROBERT T. DOYLE  
Sheriff - Coroner  
JAMIE SCARDINA  
Undersheriff

AREA CODE 415

24-HOUR NUMBER  
479-2311

FAX  
473-4126

ADMINISTRATION  
473-7250

CIVIL  
473-7282

COMMUNICATION  
SERVICES  
473-7243

CORONER  
473-6043

COURTS  
473-7393

EMERGENCY  
SERVICES  
473-6584

INVESTIGATIONS  
473-7265

JAIL  
473-6655

MAJOR CRIMES  
TASK FORCE  
884-4878

PATROL  
473-7233

RECORDS  
473-7284

WARRANTS  
473-7297

November 30, 2020

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

Reference: Response by the Marin County Sheriff's Office to the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Report Titled, "The Gun Next Door: Firearm Safety in Marin County"

Dear Foreperson Dilworth,

As required by Penal Code Section 933.05, I offer the following response to the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Report titled, "The Gun Next Door: Firearm Safety in Marin County."

This letter will serve as my response in my official capacity as the Sheriff-Coroner of Marin County.

Finding 1: A comprehensive public awareness campaign that reaches all Marin residents would be effective in reducing the risk from unsafely handled and stored guns.

Response: The Marin County Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding. This would be an effective strategy.

Finding 2: Marin residents should be reminded that firearms stored unsafely increase the potential for accidental injury or death.

Response: The Marin County Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

Finding 3: Firearms that are not stored in a gun safe pose an unacceptable risk of being stolen or used in crime.

Response: The Marin County Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

Finding 4: Marin residents should be reminded that a gun in a home increases the risk of suicide for all members of the household.

*"In Partnership with our Communities"*

[www.marinsheriff.org](http://www.marinsheriff.org)

Response: The Marin County Sheriff's Office agrees partially with this finding. The Marin County Sheriff's Office does not agree that simply having a gun in a residence increases the risk of suicide for all household members.

Finding 5: Gun buyback programs reduce the availability of lethal weapons to suicidal individuals, the risk of accidental injury or death, and the possibility that a gun will be stolen.

Response: The Marin County Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

Finding 6: Gun violence restraining orders can play an important role in keeping guns away from those who should not have them.

Response: The Marin County Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding. The implementation of the gun violence restraining order has played an important role in keeping firearms out of the hands of those who could harm themselves or others with guns.

Recommendation 2: 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.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented. While this has not been a past practice for the Marin County Sheriff's Office, there is great value in educating Marin County residents on safe handling and storage of firearms.

Recommendation 3: 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.

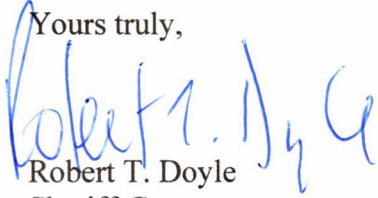
Response: This recommendation has already been partially implemented. The Marin County Sheriff's Office currently offers free gun locks at our Records Division front counter and at the Marin City Substation. The Marin County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer will develop public messaging regarding free gun locks and the procedures for residents to turn in unwanted weapons. These messages will be publicized on the Marin County Sheriff's Office's website as well as on other social media platforms.

Recommendation 4: 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.

Response: The Marin County Sheriff's Office agrees with this recommendation. In 2013 and 2016, the Marin County Sheriff's Office assisted the Marin County District Attorney with gun buy back events. In total, over one thousand five hundred (1,500) weapons were collected. The Marin County Sheriff's Office is prepared and willing to work in collaboration with the Marin County District Attorney on future gun buyback programs. At this time, the Marin County Public Health Officer recommends that law enforcement

not have a gun buy back program due to COVID concerns unless there is a specific site protection plan in place.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert T. Doyle". The signature is stylized and written over the printed name.

Robert T. Doyle  
Sheriff-Coroner

MARIN COUNTY  
COUNSEL'S OFFICE  
2020 DEC -4 P 11: 11

~~MARIN COUNTY  
COUNSEL'S OFFICE  
2020 DEC -3 P 11: 10~~