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MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

*Prevention \* Prosecution \* Protection*

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December 30, 2020

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

Re: Marin County District Attorney's Response to Grand Jury Recommendations  
2019-2020 Grand Jury Report: The Gun Next Door: Firearm Safety in Marin County.

Dear Ms. Dilworth:

Thank you for the recommendations and findings in the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report: The Gun Next Door: Firearm Safety in Marin County. The Marin County District Attorney's Office supports the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury report. Our specific responses to the report are noted on pages 2 and 3.

**FINDINGS:**

- F1. A comprehensive public awareness campaign that reaches all Marin residents would be effective in reducing the risk from unsafely handled and stored guns.**
- F2. Marin residents should be reminded that firearms stored unsafely increase the potential for accidental injury or death.**
- F3. Firearms that are not stored in a gun safe pose an unacceptable risk of being stolen or used in crime.**
- F4. Marin residents should be reminded that a gun in a home increases the risk of suicide for all members of the household.**
- F5. 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.**
- F6. Gun violence restraining orders can play an important role in keeping guns away from those who should not have them.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**R1.** The Marin County District Attorney should begin work, within six months from the date of this report, on a comprehensive, multimedia (including social media) public awareness campaign that includes information regarding the safe handling and storage of firearms, and the availability of gun violence restraining orders.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**RESPONSES TO FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Response to findings 1-4**

The Marin County District Attorney has partnered with local community leaders and have planned a yearlong gun safety and awareness campaign. (R1) Marin County's Police Chiefs and the Sheriff have indicated support for this program and a gun buyback program (R4). Other community organizations who will be involved in the social media program include: the Department of Health and Human Services, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and Brady, the Marin County Suicide Prevention Network, the Center for Domestic Peace. Program information will be posted on social media and official web sites. The program will feature a monthly educational focus including safe gun storage and handling (F1, F2, F3, R2, R3), the correlation between crimes of violence, gun ownership/access and suicide (F4) as well as gun safety data and Gun Violence Restraining Orders (F6).

The District Attorney's Office and law enforcement agencies have free gun locks and will continue to publicize that information on social media. Further, many Marin law enforcement agencies accept firearm turn-ins (appointments preferred) and that information will be publicized during the year.

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**Response to finding 5; and recommendation 4-Gun Buyback Program;**

The Chiefs of Police, the Sheriff and my office are supportive of a gun buyback program and had discussed the specifics of a program prior to the community challenges of fires, PSPS, and the COVID-19 pandemic. My office has consulted with the County Health Department and were advised by Dr. Santora, Marin County Deputy Public Health Officer, that at this time such a program is not recommended due to COVID-19. We are grateful that the County Health Department has offered to assist in developing and reviewing a site-specific protection plan when we are able to proceed safely with a gun buyback program.

Very truly yours,

  
LORI E. FRUGOLI  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

cc. The Honorable Judge Andrew Sweet

LEF/an