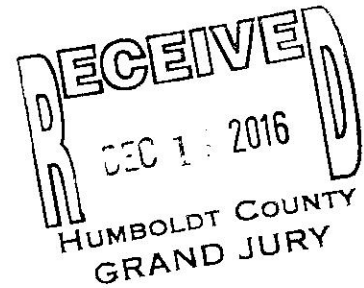


December 14, 2016

The Honorable Judge Joyce D. Hinrichs, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501



Honorable Judge Hinrichs,

I write in response to the letter that I received from you dated June 30, 2016. Hopefully, the enclosed information will answer the request that you have made but if not, please feel free to contact me.

Guardians Before Warriors

Findings:

The Fortuna Police Department agrees wholly with findings numbered F1, F2, F3 and F4

Recommendation R1: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand jury recommends that the County law enforcement agencies work with mental illness stakeholders (clients, families and advocates) and the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services to create and offer consistent, comprehensive, relevant and culturally-sensitive crisis intervention and de-escalation training program, F1, F2*

The Fortuna Police Department is a strong supporter of formal Crisis Intervention Training within Humboldt County. We have a total staff of 25 (sworn and non-sworn) of which 20 have received CIT training. Each year we review our training files and register any staff members who have not received this training when our training budget and staff levels permit. In April, 2011, Chief Dobberstein received a Certificate of Recognition for his commitment to this training program. The certificate from CIT states "He understands the delicate nature of crisis negotiation and continues to support and educate his officers and dispatchers in working with mentally ill citizens who come to their attention". The FPD believes that consistency in the training being offered is key to allow all personnel to attend this type of training.

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Recommendation R2: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that all County crisis intervention and de-escalation training programs be available to all Sheriff's Office and municipal police department dispatchers Countywide. F3*

The Fortuna Police Department agrees with this recommendation.

Recommendation R3: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that some continuing education course on interactions with persons with mental, behavioral, substance use or intellectual disabilities be offered regularly for every dispatcher and every law enforcement officer who is assigned to patrol duties or who supervise patrol officers in the County. F1, F2, F3, F4*

The Fortuna Police Department agrees with this recommendation.

Recommendation R4: *The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Eureka Police Department present the De-escalation Intervention Respose Training program to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training when the program is ready to be implemented. F3, F4*

The Fortuna Police Department agrees with this recommendation.

I hope that the information provided meets your request. If you should need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



William Dobberstein
Chief of Police
City of Fortuna

CC: Jim Glover, Foreperson
2016-2017 Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

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