



FERNDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bret A. Smith, Chief of Police

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August 11, 2013

Richard Yeider, Foreperson
2013-2014 Grand Jury
County of Humboldt
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Foreperson Yeider:

On behalf of the City of Ferndale and the Ferndale Police Department, I take this opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's request regarding "**How Do We Deal With Children in Crisis?**"

- R1. **Crisis Intervention Training.** The City of Ferndale and the Ferndale Police Department strongly support formal Crisis Intervention Training in Humboldt County. We appreciate the Citizen Enforcement Liaison Committee and Department of Health and Human Services' offer to pay for such training. However, for small departments such as Ferndale, with limited staffing and budget constraints, we must consider the cost of overtime compensation for officers either attending the training or covering for officers at the training. This is a variable for consideration when mandating such training.
- R2. **Crisis Intervention Training Curriculum.** The City of Ferndale and the Ferndale Police Department support adding curriculum that includes addressing responses to children in crisis younger than 16 years of age.
- R3. **Child Welfare Service as First Responders.** The City of Ferndale and the Ferndale Police Department support Child Welfare Services' involvement. However, our experience with Child Welfare Services has been earmarked with extended response times to request for assistance in the Eel River Valley. This may be due to Child Welfare Services offices and staff being located in Eureka. This lag time could be a realistic obstacle for Child Welfare Services participating as first responders.

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The City of Ferndale and the Ferndale Police Department appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's recommendations regarding "Children in Crisis."

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should need further information.

Sincerely,

Bret A. Smith
Chief of Police

c: Honorable Dale A. Reinholtzen, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501