

**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT**

Report Title: "A Community Divided" The Ripples of a Homicide in Arcata, CA

Report Date: 7/7/20

Response by: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

**FINDINGS**

1. The county partially disagrees with the finding numbered 13.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Recommendation numbered 5 requires more analysis.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages attached: \_\_\_\_\_



**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
**MANAGEMENT & BUDGET TEAM**

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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**FROM:** AMY S. NILSEN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
**SUBJECT:** RESPONSE TO 2019-2020 GRAND JURY REPORT "A COMMUNITY DIVIDED" THE RIPPLES OF A HOMICIDE IN ARCATA, CA  
**DATE:** 9/29/2020

In the Grand Jury Report, A Community Divided: The Ripples of a Homicide in Arcata, CA, the Grand Jury has requested that your Board respond to Finding 13 and Recommendation 5. I am proposing the following response as detailed below.

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**FINDINGS**

Finding 13: *A decentralized dispatch system hampered communication and added delays to the emergency and law enforcement response. (R5)*

**Response:** Partially disagree

While a centralized dispatch system could have helped coordinate the response to this crime, the response is still based on jurisdiction. The agency with jurisdiction, in this case the Arcata Police Department, first must assess the scene, then request more resources from outside their jurisdiction. The simple truth is that process takes time, even if the responding agencies share a facility or system. However, the Board realizes there are benefits to having a centralized dispatch system with other agencies and has requested that the Sheriff study the issue.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation 5: *The Humboldt Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County and local area cities establish a centralized dispatch communications center that would shorten response times. (F13)*

**Response: This recommendation requires more analysis**

The Board has requested the Sheriff to study the idea of a centralized emergency communications center to facilitate a consolidated dispatch center. The next step is to bring the results of the study, being commissioned by the firm Critical Mission Partners, to the Board for discussion. Staff anticipates bringing the study to the Board before the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

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