

July 21, 2022

Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury  
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Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury:

Please find below the City of Arcata requested response to the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury's report SILVER TSUNAMI WARNING: Safeguarding Our Seniors. The requested responses from the Arcata Police Chief are below.

## **FINDINGS**

F1. Reporting elder abuse is needlessly difficult, which results in its underreporting. (R1, R2)

**Police Chief Response:** The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Crime in general is underreported. Regarding elder abuse, the Arcata Police Department adheres strictly to state law and Department policy that mandate reporting and investigating elder abuse crime. California Welfare and Institutions Code section 15630 identifies local law enforcement agencies as mandated reporters of Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse. APD policy 326 states, in part, "The Arcata Police Department will investigate all reported incidents of alleged adult abuse and ensure proper reporting and notification as required by law." Reporting elder abuse crime is similar to reporting any other crime type. The process itself is not difficult. The challenge perhaps is in recognizing when elder abuse occurs. This requires knowing what the elements are of each type of elder abuse crime.

F2. We can better protect seniors by making it as easy as possible for the public at large, and seniors specifically, to understand what elder abuse is and how to report it. (R1, R2)

**Police Chief Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

R1. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends all law enforcement agencies add a prominent elder abuse reporting link and phone number to APS and other appropriate agencies on their websites by December 31, 2022. (F1, F2)

**Police Chief Response:** This recommendation has been implemented. Located on the APD website is a link (<https://www.cityofarcata.org/977/Elder-Abuse-Reporting>) to crime reporting phone numbers as well as contact information for Adult Protective Services, 211 Humboldt, Area One Agency on Aging, Humboldt Senior Resource Center, Providence Community Resource Centers Blue Lake office and Redwood Coast Village.

(a) For purposes of [subdivision \(b\) of Section 933](#), as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

(1) The respondent agrees with the finding.

(2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.

(b) For purposes of [subdivision \(b\) of Section 933](#), as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

(1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.

(2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.

(3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.

(4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor.

(c) However, if a finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the board of supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the board of supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decisionmaking authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department.