



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council **DATE:** December 2, 2019

FROM: Matthew Bronson, City Manager

PREPARED BY: John Peters, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Follow-Up Response to the Grand Jury Report Regarding “Inspection Report for San Luis Obispo County Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities”

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the follow-up response to the Grand Jury report and authorize the Chief of Police to execute a letter to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on behalf of the Governing Body and a separate letter on behalf of the Mayor as required.

BACKGROUND

On June 18, 2019, the City received a report from the 2018-2019 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury regarding “Inspection Report for San Luis Obispo County Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities.” The report is focused on various aspects of the California Men’s Colony, the Sheriff’s Office, and local Police Department detention facilities. At the end of the report, a series of findings and recommendations were made. One of the recommendations, listed in R6, stated the *“Crime Lab should provide the same training to city law enforcement agencies for handling DNA evidence as they do for Sheriff Deputies.”*

On July 15, 2019, Council approved a response to the Grand Jury report be submitted on their behalf by the Chief of Police. The Mayor also approved a separate response to the Grand Jury report as required. In summary, both responses stated the Police Department staff would explore options with the Sheriff’s Office staff in order to accommodate the recommendation in R6 for additional police officer training as it relates to DNA evidence. The original response also required a follow-up response to the Grand Jury to be completed by December 20, 2019 explaining what the Police Department was able to accomplish in regard to the additional training.

During the month of November the Police Department hosted the San Luis Obispo County Crime Lab personnel for multiple training courses on DNA evidence. At the completion of the month, all active police officers of the Grover Beach Police Department have been trained consistent with the County Sheriff Deputies on the handling of DNA evidence. As a result, the Grover Beach Police Department has completed Grand Jury recommendation R6.

Response to Recommendations

Below is the language for Recommendation R6 and the City’s proposed follow-up response:

Recommendation R6. “Crime Lab should provide the same training to city law enforcement agencies for handling DNA evidence as they do for Sheriff Deputies.”

Staff is pleased to report back to the Grand Jury that as a result of the cooperation of the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office and County Crime Lab all active Grover Beach police officers have completed the additional DNA evidence training as of November 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from this action.

ALTERNATIVES

The City Council has the following alternatives to consider:

1. Approve the response to the Grand Jury report and authorize the Chief of Police to execute a letter to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on behalf of the Governing Body and a separate letter on behalf of the Mayor as required; or
2. Modify the response to the Grand Jury report and authorize the Chief of Police to execute a letter to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on behalf of the Governing Body and a separate letter on behalf of the Mayor as required; or
3. Provide direction to staff.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Mayor's follow-up response to the Grand Jury report.
2. Draft follow-up response from the City Council and Chief of Police.

[Draft letter – for review by City Council 12/2/2019]

December 2, 2019

Presiding Judge Ginger Garrett
Superior Court of California
1035 Palm Street, Room 355
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-1000

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT – “INSPECTION REPORT FOR SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DETENTION FACILITIES”

Dear Judge Garrett:

On July 15, 2019, I reviewed the June 20, 2019, Grand Jury report regarding “Inspection Report for San Luis Obispo County Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities” and have prepared the following follow-up response to the recommendation listed in the report.

Follow-Up Response to Recommendation R6

Crime Lab should provide the same training to city law enforcement agencies for handling DNA evidence as they do for Sheriff Deputies.

The recommendation has been implemented. I am pleased to report back to the Grand Jury that as a result of the cooperation of the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Office and County Crime Lab all active Grover Beach police officers have completed the additional DNA evidence training as of November 2019.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding the response contained herein.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Lee
Mayor

Enclosure: Agency Response Form and Chief of Police Response

c: San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury
via first-class mail: P.O. Box 4910, San Luis Obispo, CA 93402
via e-mail: GrandJury@co.slo.ca.us

City of Grover Beach



Mayor Jeff Lee Mayor Pro Tem Mariam Shah
Council Member Karen Bright, Council Member Desi Lance, Council Member Barbara Nicolls

Matthew Bronson
City Manager

December 2, 2019

Presiding Judge Ginger Garrett
Superior Court of California
1035 Palm Street, Room 355
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-1000

Dear Judge Garrett,

On July 15, 2019, the Grover Beach City Council and I have received the 2018-2019 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury report titled "Inspection Report for San Luis Obispo County Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities" and have prepared the following follow-up response to the recommendation.

Follow-Up Response to Recommendation R6

R6. Crime Lab should provide the same training to city law enforcement agencies for handling DNA evidence as they do for Sheriff Deputies.

The recommendation has been implemented. We are pleased to report back to the Grand Jury that as a result of the cooperation of the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office and County Crime Lab all active Grover Beach police officers have completed the additional DNA evidence training as of November 2019.

Sincerely,

John Peters
Chief of Police

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Administrative Services/Water (805) 473-4550 ❖ City Council/City Manager (805) 473-4567 ❖ City Clerk (805) 473-4568
Community Development - Building, Planning & Economic Development (805) 473-4520 ❖ Human Resources (805) 473-4564
Parks & Recreation (805) 473-4580 ❖ Police/Non-Emergency (805) 473-4511 ❖ Public Works (805) 473-4530