



CITY OF MANTECA

MANTECA CITY COUNCIL
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July 17, 2013

The Honorable David P. Warner
Presiding Judge
San Joaquin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 201022
Stockton, CA 95201

Re: Response to 2012-13 Grand Jury Case No. 0912
– “Crime - Budget Cuts + AB 109 ≠ Safe Communities”

Dear Judge Warner:

The City of Manteca is in receipt of the above-noted 2012-13 Grand Jury Case No. 0912. On July 16, 2013, the Manteca City Council voted to authorize me to send the City’s response to the above-referenced Grand Jury report, consistent with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05.

Findings:

F1.1. The staffing of all law and justice agencies in the County has been reduced increasing the threat to the safety of the citizens and their property.

Response: Police staffing in the City of Manteca has actually increased over the past few years. In July 2012, the Manteca City Council proactively increased Police staffing by three Officers and one Sergeant, due to an increase in aggravated assaults using firearms. These Officers were assigned to a Gang Suppression Unit. The Gang Suppression Unit had previously been disbanded in 2009 due to fiscal constraints. The City Council continues to monitor the City’s financial status, with a commitment to increasing public safety staffing when fiscally possible.

F1.4. Continued and increased use of current technologies would make law enforcement agencies more efficient and offset some of the decreased staffing.

Response: The Manteca Police Department uses “Government Outreach,” “Raidsonline,” “Nixle,” “Crossroads Collision Software” and “Coplogic” online reporting. These internet-based programs allow users to gain needed Police and other City information, report certain types of incidents, monitor up-to-date crime statistics for crime prevention and receive current event notifications. These programs are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, without increasing the demand for additional staffing. The use of these internet- and cellular-based programs increases staff’s available time for higher-priority tasks.

F3.1. The duplication of special units, specialized training and police functions (e.g., property room, dispatch, investigation technicians) cause inefficient use of limited resources.

Response: Each Police Department within San Joaquin County does maintain specific special units, which require specialized training. While it may appear up front to cause an inefficient use of limited resources, that does not hold true as a whole. In day-to-day operations, these units are actually more effective and efficient. There are "Memoranda of Understanding" in place, which cover joint cooperation within the cities of our County, if needed.

F3.2. There are examples of cooperation between different agencies in the County but each agency still operates autonomously most of the time.

Response: The reasons agencies operate autonomously is they accommodate the needs and style of each community and their respective City Councils. While it is agreed criminals do not operate within boundaries, there is more to public safety than just the criminal element. There are "Memoranda of Understanding" in place, which cover joint operations within the cities of our County.

Recommendations:

R1.1.2. Each City Council, before September 1, 2013, adopt a policy that states it is a priority of the City to increase law enforcement staffing.

Response: It has always been the policy of this and previous Manteca City Councils to explore avenues to increase law enforcement staffing. Each Council member has publicly stated their individual and cumulative desire to increase staffing levels. As recommended by the Grand Jury, however, the Manteca City Council will, prior to September 1, 2013, consider adopting a resolution reaffirming its commitment to increasing law enforcement staffing when fiscally possible.

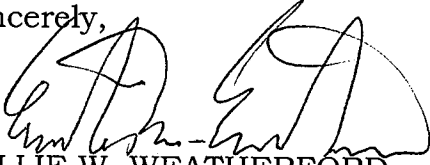
R1.4. The Sheriff's Department and each city's police department review their current use of crime prevention technologies and develop a plan to implement new technologies that could help increase the efficiency of their agencies.

Response: Currently, the county Police Chiefs, Sheriff, California Highway Patrol Commander, Chief Probation Officer and Chief Parole Agent meet on a monthly basis to discuss current events within each of their jurisdictions. These discussions do include, at times, crime prevention technology information. No later than September 30, 2013, the Police Department will amend its policy to reflect this recommendation.

R3. The Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Escalon, Lathrop, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Stockton and Tracy, before September 1, 2013, each appoint two representatives, one to represent law enforcement and one to represent the governing body or management, to form an *ad hoc* committee. The committee's purpose is to conduct a study on how to increase countywide efficiency of law enforcement agencies by taking a regional approach to some or all of their services. A preliminary report is to be released before December 31, 2013, of actions already taken to increase efficiency and additional actions that will be taken between January 2014 and June 2015.

Response: The City of Manteca disagrees with the need to form an ad hoc committee described above. Currently, the County Police Chiefs meet monthly to discuss issues of common interest to law enforcement agencies, including increasing the efficiency of law enforcement services on an ongoing basis. The group is represented by the Police Chiefs from each of the cities in San Joaquin County, the San Joaquin County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol, the San Joaquin County District Attorney, Deputy Chief in charge of Parole, and the Chief Probation Officer for San Joaquin County. The establishment of a separate ad hoc committee appears to be duplicative of this group's efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willie W. Weatherford', written over a large, stylized 'W' that serves as a background or initial.

WILLIE W. WEATHERFORD
Mayor

c: Manteca City Council
City Manager
City Attorney