



CITY OF STOCKTON

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Hall • 425 N. El Dorado Street • Stockton, CA 95202-1997 • 209/937-8212 • Fax 209/937-7149
www.stocktongov.com

August 13, 2013

Presiding Judge
San Joaquin Superior Court
222 East Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95202

CITY OF STOCKTON RESPONSE
2012-13 CASE NO. 0912 – AMENDED REPORT 5/23/13
CRIME – BUDGET CUTS + AB 109 #SAFE COMMUNITIES

In accordance with Sections 933 and 933.05 of the California Penal Code, the City Council of the City of Stockton responds to the Grand Jury Report on the above-referenced case as follows:

FINDINGS

F 1.1 The staffing of all law and justice agencies in the County has been reduced increasing the threat to the safety of citizens and their property.

***Response:** The respondent agrees with this finding. To mitigate the impact, the Stockton Police Department eliminated most of its special teams and reduced response to calls for service. The Department has developed innovative practices and partnerships to do more with less and to strategically deploy resources where they are more necessary. In particular, the Police Department initiated the Violence Reduction Strategy and is participating in the Community Corrections Task Force. The Department has also supported other initial efforts associated with the Marshall Plan on Crime including early implementation of Operation Ceasefire. The Department remains committed to responding to all in progress crimes and emergencies. Other initiatives that address this issue include refocusing the Department to target guns and gangs, and emphasis on the four “P”s: Pursuit, Predict, Prevent, and Partner.*

F 1.2 The Stockton Police Department has maintained an aggressive recruitment program but has not been able to increase its staffing due to the number of officers leaving the department.



Response: *The respondent agrees with this finding. The Stockton Police Department has now hired an unprecedented 111 police officer trainees/recruits since January 2012. However, the Department has only realized a small net gain of officers through retirements, terminations, and resignations. This has also resulted in a significantly less-experienced workforce overall. The retention problem seems to be subsiding but remains a hindrance to the Department's ability to fill its ranks. We are now at full general fund staffing levels and are recruiting to fill the 17 grant funded positions. The Department has been actively engaged in researching potential retention strategies and has employed those efforts best suited to our situation.*

F 1.4 Continued and increased use of current technologies would make law enforcement agencies more efficient and offset some of the decreased staffing.

Response: *The respondent agrees with this finding and remains committed to employing advanced technologies to improve efficiencies. The Stockton Police Department has a long-standing Technology Steering Committee, which meets monthly to evaluate new and existing technologies. The Committee makes recommendations to the Chief of Police as to the Department's purchase, implementation and use of technology, and provides a technology roadmap for the future. This has institutionalized the Department's commitment to enhancing efficiency through technology. Examples of cutting edge technology the Stockton Police Department is using at little to no cost to the City are the Fusion latent fingerprint device, a handheld mobile device that captures and submits latent prints remotely and identifies persons of interest at crime scenes in near real-time (through a partnership with Homeland Security); BAIR Analytics software services which provides the necessary tools to analyze real-time data and predictive analysis; and the Shotspotter gunshot detection program which uses audio sensors installed in designated coverage areas to accurately identify and locate gunshots, sends alerts to the police department (usually within one minute), and plots the shot locations on a map.*

F 3.1 The duplication of special units, specialized training and police functions (e.g., property room, dispatch, investigation technicians) cause inefficient use of limited resources.

Response: *The respondent agrees with this finding in that duplication of certain functions can cause inefficient use of limited resources; however the special units, task forces, and teams are actually a highly effective and efficient use of limited personnel and funding. The Stockton Police*

Department takes a regional approach and shares resources in their efforts to combat crime, specifically illegal gun and gang violence. Examples are our participation in the FBI Violent Crime Task Force, U.S. Marshals Fugitive Apprehension Task Force, ATF Task Force, Countywide Gang Task Force, Countywide Metro Narcotics Task Force, and Countywide Firearms Reduction Consortium. In addition, for auto theft, we participate in the Delta Regional Auto Theft Task Force. The existing and evolving cooperative law enforcement efforts in San Joaquin County are currently very progressive and robust. These specialized units and task forces are actually ideal as most agencies depend solely on the services of task forces to address specific types of crimes.

With all due respect to the Grand Jury report, it should also be noted that the County actually has a Metropolitan Explosive Ordinance Team. Several cities within the County have their own bomb technicians and direct control over those personnel and some pieces of equipment, however the team shares control over the major pieces of equipment, regularly conducts joint training, shares resources, and responds to assist one another throughout the County when the need arises.

Additionally, investigation technicians from the Stockton Police Department and San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office are jointly assigned to the unique/specialized work of conducting ballistics analysis utilizing the Integrated Ballistics Identification System. This work is done alongside a certified Firearms Examiner contracted through grant funding administered by the county Firearms Reduction Consortium.

F 3.2

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

Response: *The respondent agrees with this finding. The individual organizations must maintain a degree of separation because they are required to respond to the specific needs and/or requests of their local communities and elected leaders. Stockton is unique when compared to Tracy or Lodi for example. However, the culture of all the agencies within the county is very cooperative and open. Communication is frequent due in large part to the numerous existing task forces and combined specialized units that have fostered solid personal working relationships amongst agency personnel. Additionally, there are numerous ongoing meetings of countywide agency partners to share information on a vast range of crime/criminal justice related issues.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R 1.1.2 Each City Council, before September 1, 2013, adopt a policy that states it is a priority of the City to increase staffing for law enforcement, including patrol and probation.

***Response:** The Stockton City Council endorsed the Marshall Plan Project Report on April 2, 2013, which specifically recognizes the need for additional police officers as part of its comprehensive crime reduction strategy. The Council also placed a funding measure for the Marshall Plan on the November 5th ballot.*

- R 1.2 The Stockton City Council, before December 31, 2013, identify provisions that promote the retention of law enforcement staff and approve a plan for the implementation of the retention provisions identified.

***Response:** The Stockton Police Department has maintained an aggressive recruitment effort resulting in an unprecedented number of new officers being hired. The loss of more tenured officers through resignations and retirements was substantial and acute during 2012, but has since slowed significantly. The City recognizes the need to retain and expand current staff within the police department and will remain cognizant of this issue as it proceeds through its severe fiscal challenges.*

As noted in the response to F 1.2, the Police Department has been actively engaged in researching potential retention strategies. These strategies have been reviewed with the City Council and the Police Department has employed those efforts that are best suited to our situation.

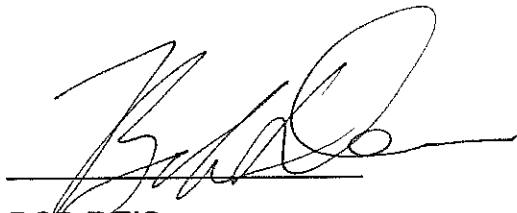
- R 1.4 The Sheriff's Department and each city's police department review their current use of crime prevention technologies and develop a plan to implement new technologies that could help increase the efficiency of their agencies.

***Response:** As noted in the response to Finding F 1.4, the Stockton Police Department has an existing, long-standing Technology Steering Committee that fulfills this recommendation.*

- R 3 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 respondent partially agrees with this recommendation. In principal, the City of Stockton is supportive of efforts to increase the collaboration and efficiency between partner agencies. Because the City is supportive of these efforts, Stockton has been very engaged in recent years with the County and numerous agencies associated with public safety. A key tenet of the Marshall Plan on Crime is for all parties in the criminal justice system to collaborate and address crime from a comprehensive systems approach. The City of Stockton submits that that Marshall Plan on Crime is in fact an already completed study and analysis of ways to improve countywide efficiency of law enforcement. The Marshall Plan represents a series of recommendations developed by a stakeholder group over the past year. This stakeholder group was made up of not only elected officials and law enforcement executives from the City and County, but from included representatives from the business community, schools, community organizations and faith based organizations. The Marshall Plan contains elements that will revitalize the entire criminal justice system and put in place evidenced based approaches that are proven to be effective. The City of Stockton submits that the Marshall Plan on Crime is and will continue to fulfill the intent of this recommendation. The City is fully committed to moving forward with implementation of the Marshall Plan on Crime.*



BOB DEIS
CITY MANAGER

BD:EJ