



City of Ripon
259 N. Wilma Avenue
Ripon, California 95366
Phone: (209) 599-2108
Fax: (209) 599-2685

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Vice-Mayor

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Dean Uecker

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August 13, 2019

VIA U.S. MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honorable Linda L. Lofthus
Presiding Judge San Joaquin County Superior Court
180 E. Weber Avenue, Suite 1306J
Stockton, California 95202
E-mail: grandjury@sjcourts.org

Re: San Joaquin County Grand Jury Cold Cases in San Joaquin County: On the Back Burner
2018 – 2019 Case #0318

Dear Judge Lofthus:

The Ripon City Council has been directed by the San Joaquin County Grand Jury to provide certain responses to the Grand Jury's report in Case #0318, entitled "Cold Cases in San Joaquin County: On the Back Burner". Specifically, the City Council has been directed to respond to Findings and Recommendations R1, R2, R8 and R10.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1: Each law enforcement agency in San Joaquin County develop a plan to define, prioritize, and digitally track cold case investigations no later than December 31, 2019. Prioritization will emphasize available physical evidence and utilize emerging DNA testing techniques.

Response to R1: In response, the City Council agrees with the Grand Jury's Finding and Recommendation R1. The Police Chief has adopted, and the City Council hereby supports, Department Order #600-01 entitled "Cold Case Investigations". Pursuant to this Order, the Department will utilize its computerized Records Management System database to define, prioritize and digitally track cold case investigations using emerging DNA testing techniques.

R2: Each law enforcement agency in San Joaquin County expand their definition of "cold case" to include missing persons with suspicious circumstances, and sexual assault (forcible rape and attempted rape), in addition to homicide no later than December 31, 2019.

Response to R2: In response, the City Council agrees with the Grand Jury's Finding and Recommendation R2. The Police Chief has adopted, and the City Council hereby supports, Department Order #600-01 entitled "Cold Case Investigations". Article II of said Department Order includes a new definition of "Cold Case Investigations" which is consistent with Recommendation R2.

R8: Each law enforcement agency in San Joaquin County sign a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the newly formed Cold Case Task Force no later than March 31, 2020.

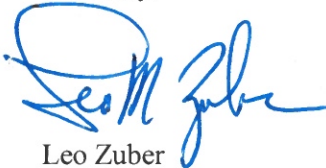
Response to R8: In response, the City Council agrees with the Grand Jury's Finding and Recommendation R8. The Police Chief has adopted, and the City Council hereby supports, Department Order #600-01 entitled "Cold Case Investigations". Relative to Recommendation R8, Department Order 600-01 states: In the pursuit of successful collaboration, the Ripon Police Department will sign a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the newly formed San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office Cold Case Task Force."

R10: Each law enforcement agency in San Joaquin County develop a procedure and practice for maintaining periodic contact with family members of cold case victims no later than March 31, 2020.

Response to R10: In response, the City Council agrees with the Grand Jury's Finding and Recommendation R10. The Police Chief has adopted, and the City Council hereby supports, Department Order #600-01 entitled "Cold Case Investigations". Relative to Recommendation R10, Department Order 600-01 establishes a procedure and practice for maintaining periodic contact with family members of cold case victims.

The City Council appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury in connection with the aforementioned report, and the opportunity to provide this response.

Sincerely,



Leo Zuber
Mayor