

June 20, 2018

Mr. Peter L. Hertan, Foreperson
2017-18 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Foreperson Hertan:

This letter transmits the City of Mountain View's response to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2017-18 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury's Final Report entitled, *Police and the Mentally Ill: Improving Outcomes*, based on Council action June 19, 2018.

On behalf of the City of Mountain View and the Mountain View City Council, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Grand Jury and ensure the jurors that the City Council and City staff take the responsibility for sound and comprehensive policies seriously.

I am pleased to report that the Mountain View Police Department has already had a significant number of personnel who have taken Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and are already taking steps to comply with the Grand Jury's recommendations.

Please find enclosed the City's response to the Grand Jury's report, which was approved for transmittal by the City Council on June 19, 2018. The City appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's report and commends the work of the Grand Jury members.

Sincerely,

Leonard M. Siegel
Mayor

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Enclosure: City Response to Grand Jury Report

**RESPONSE TO THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT,
POLICE AND THE MENTALLY ILL: IMPROVING OUTCOMES**

The City of Mountain View has the following response to the Findings and Recommendations in the report, *Police and the Mentally Ill: Improving Outcomes*:

Finding 1

The County's AB 71-required criminal justice reporting surpasses that of many nationwide. However, the presence of mental illness in a given incident report is not mandated by AB 71. Reporting this data would assist law enforcement agencies in understanding the relationship between mental illness and officer-involved shootings and help in revising their training programs.

City Response: The City of Mountain View agrees with this finding. The Police Department has been collecting this data since 2016 if the police report narrative mentions mental health factors in a use-of-force case. Training and policy updates will formalize this process, directing Officers to include mental health factors on all use of force cases.

Recommendation 1

Law enforcement agencies submitting AB 71-required data should report, to the extent possible, whether mental illness was involved in their use-of-force data, starting in 2019.

City Response: While no formal policy requires it, the Police Department, since 2016, has tracked use of force cases involving mental illness if the police report narrative mentions mental health factors during an incident. Training and policy updates will formalize this process, directing Officers to include mental health factors on all use-of-force cases.

Finding 2

The Grand Jury found that training in crisis intervention and deescalation techniques beyond what is included in the POST Basic Police Academy helps improve the outcome of law enforcement contacts with the mentally ill.

City Response: The City of Mountain View agrees with this finding. Topics such as tactical communication, deescalation, and mental health training and awareness have been, and continue to be training topics in the Police Department training calendar.

Recommendation 2A

The law enforcement agencies of Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and San Jose, and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office should prepare a plan to ensure that all their officers receive POST-approved Crisis Intervention Training and Deescalation technique training, beyond the training included in the POST Basic Police Academy, by the end of calendar 2018.

City Response: The City of Mountain View agrees. Crisis intervention training (to include mental health awareness, tactical communication, and deescalation techniques) is on the Police Department's POST Perishable Skills Program (PSP) training cycle that starts on January 1, 2019 and ends December 31, 2020.

Recommendation 2B

The law enforcement agencies of Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and San Jose, and Santa Clara County should provide funding for their law enforcement agencies to complete POST-approved Crisis Intervention Training and Deescalation technique training, beyond the training included in the POST Basic Police Academy, by June 30, 2019.

City Response: The City of Mountain View agrees. Police Department staff will examine the training budget and make recommendations for funding in the Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget which will allow Officers and Dispatchers to attend ongoing crisis intervention, deescalation, and tactical communication training as part of the department training plan.

Recommendation 2C

The following law enforcement agencies should execute their plan to ensure that all officers receive POST-approved Crisis Intervention Training and Deescalation technique training, beyond training included in the POST Basic Police Academy, by June 30, 2020: Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and San Jose, and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office.

City Response: The City of Mountain View agrees. Crisis intervention training (to include mental health awareness, tactical communication, and deescalation techniques) is on the Police Department's POST Perishable Skills Program (PSP) training cycle that starts on January 1, 2019 and ends December 31, 2020. As part of the 2018 POST PSP training cycle, all Officers have already completed a two-hour Tactical Communications training block, which includes elements of crisis intervention training and concepts.

Recommendation 2D

The following law enforcement agencies should include Crisis Intervention Training and Deescalation technique training in their Continuing Professional Perishable Skills and Communications training: Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, and the following law enforcement agencies: Campbell, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose and Santa Clara.

City Response: The City of Mountain View agrees. Crisis intervention training (to include mental health awareness, tactical communication, and deescalation techniques) is on the Police Department's POST Perishable Skills Program (PSP) training cycle that starts on January 1, 2019 and ends December 31, 2020.

Recommendation 2E

The law enforcement agencies in the cities of Gilroy, Milpitas and Mountain View should expand their Crisis Intervention Training and Deescalation technique training to include all of their officers, not just their Field Training Officers.

City Response: The City of Mountain View agrees and notes that the Police Department already expands crisis intervention training and deescalation technique training to all Officers and Dispatchers. To date, 33 sworn Officers and 7 Dispatchers have taken said training beyond what is mandated for Field Training Officers.

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