



# City of St. Helena

*"We will conduct city affairs on behalf of our citizens  
using an open and creative process."*

1480 Main Street  
St. Helena, Ca 94574  
Phone: (707) 967-2792  
Fax: (707) 963-7748  
www.sthelenacity.com

July 14, 2008

The Honorable Francisca P. Tisher  
The Honorable Raymond A. Guadagni  
Presiding Judges 2007-2008  
Napa County Superior Court  
825 Brown Street  
Napa, Ca. 94559

# FILED

JUL 16 2008

Clerk of the Napa Superior Court  
By: C. B.  
Deputy

Subject: Response to 2007-2008 Grand Jury

Dear Honorable Judges Tisher, Guadagni, and Members of the Grand Jury:

This letter is in response to the 2007-2008 Grand Jury Final Report, which was released on April 14, 2008 and is intended to fulfill the legal requirements for response. We appreciate the comments by the Grand Jury and the opportunity to respond.

**Finding:**

"The public schools in St. Helena have not utilized the D.A.R.E. program for several years."

**Response to Finding:**

The City of St. Helena agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation:**

"The public school district of St. Helena re-institute the D.A.R.E. or similar program within the elementary school curriculum, beginning in the 2008-2009 academic school year."

**Response to Recommendation:**

The D.A.R.E. curriculum was implemented into the St. Helena school district in 1994. Officers were instructing D.A.R.E. in both the elementary and middle schools respectively. The D.A.R.E. program was in place for approximately six years before the program was terminated in 2000.

Currently, the Police Department has a Police Officer that is designated as a School Resource Officer (SRO) as well, who spends time in all four public schools in the district. Although a specific preventative program is not in place, the SRO interacts constantly with the students throughout the school year. The following are activities that bring the SRO, students and staff together as relationships are being developed and enhanced.

- (1) The SRO attends all home games for both football and basketball
- (2) The SRO attends the homecoming dance

Document1

Received  
Napa Superior Court

JUL 16 2008

Court Executive Office

- (3) The SRO attends peer court three times per year
- (4) The SRO attends the Winter Formal, Prom, Halloween dances at the High School
- (5) The SRO attends two dances at the Middle School each year
- (6) Primary school yard duty when available
- (7) St. Helena Elementary School yard duty when available

The following are school presentations given by the SRO:

- (1) Middle School back-to-school program
- (2) St. Helena High School back-to-school night
- (3) Montessori Family Center "stranger danger"
- (4) St. Helena High School Drivers Education class-4 times yearly
- (5) St. Helena High School Government class-2 time yearly
- (6) St. Helena High School Physics class
- (7) Dads to donuts reading at Primary school
- (8) St. Helena Elementary School reading program
- (9) St. Helena Catholic School presentations

It should be noted that the SRO conducts the above activities simultaneous with his/her patrol duties.

The St. Helena PD has a Juvenile Diversion Program. This program is in place to intervene and provide guidance to minor offenders and their families without involving the court system. Early intervention in juvenile offender's lives is a strategy in crime prevention and can foster relationships between the PD, offender and family.

The SRO works directly with the Juvenile Diversion Program Director who is a non-sworn civilian and who represents the St. Helena Police Department. The Program Director is the primary contact for the minor and their parents and works with the offending juvenile to provide them with community service opportunities, discuss strategies to improve school performance and to assess any additional needs of the juvenile. The Program Director acts as the day-to-day resource for the juvenile and helps keep them accountable to the Diversion Program. The Director also meets with the juvenile and family on a weekly basis.

Currently, the St. Helena Police Department and the St. Helena Unified School District are working in conjunction to fund an added position that will perform SRO duties only. Along with this position there will be a specific preventative program implemented into the St. Helena schools that will be agreed upon by all involved parties. It is anticipated that the new position will be in place for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Grand Jury Report stated, "D.A.R.E. has an important secondary benefit. It utilizes uniformed police officers and Sheriff's deputies and/or retired police officers to conduct the classes. The consequence of the interaction between these law enforcement figures and the students allows them to develop a familiarity with officers and deputies, which can have a long-

term, positive impact on the students' relationship with law enforcement." The City of St. Helena believes that the current interactions between the SRO and students, along with the responsibilities of the Juvenile Diversion Program Director meet the above objective.

These comments are respectfully submitted for the City of St. Helena, as approved by the St. Helena City Council at their regular meeting of July 8, 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Scalabrini".

Karen Scalabrini  
Acting City Manager