



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chief of Police

FILED

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

September 8, 2009

The Honorable Raymond A. Guadagni
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of the State of California
County of Napa
825 Brown Street
Napa, Ca. 94559

Subject: Response to 2008-2009 Grand Jury Final Report on Napa Valley Gangs

Dear Honorable Guadagni, and Members of the Grand Jury:

This letter is in response to the 2008-2009 Grand Jury Final Report, which was released on June 15, 2009 and is intended to fulfill the legal requirements for response. We appreciate the comments by the Grand Jury and the opportunity to respond.

Recommendation:

Establishment of a new County-wide multijurisdictional gang task force with a full-time coordinator, strike team and representatives from local and regional law enforcement jurisdictions, prevention, intervention agencies, school administrations and the community.

Response to Recommendation:

The St. Helena Police Department is in full support of the Grand Jury's recommendation to establish a county-wide multijurisdictional gang task force with a full-time coordinator, strike team and representatives from local and regional law enforcement jurisdictions, prevention, intervention agencies, school administrations and the community.

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The task force will allow for county-wide inclusion and collaboration amongst all the stakeholders to make an impact on gangs within Napa County. It should be noted that the task force could not move forward without taking in to consideration the poor economic times we currently face that have had an adverse affect on staffing levels, resources and funding. The stakeholders will need to work together in addressing these issues and finding alternatives to obtain additional resources and funding.

Recommendation:

Implementation of county-wide gang database and tracking system accessible by all law enforcement agencies and school officials.

Response to Recommendation:

The St. Helena Police Department does support the implementation of a county-wide gang database and tracking system accessible by all law enforcement agencies and school officials. Before moving forward, the issue surrounding law enforcement confidentiality in regard to law enforcement records would need to be visited.

Currently, St. Helena Police Department utilizes the Cal Gang database for disseminating and retrieving gang information from the California law enforcement agencies that participate in Cal Gang. Cal Gang is funded by the State of California. St. Helena Police Department continues to network with Napa County agencies on gang intelligence for information on local and visiting gangs within the county.

Recommendation:

Consideration of county-wide curfew for those under the age of eighteen as a law enforcement tool.

Response to Recommendation:

The City of St. Helena has in place a municipal code addressing curfew violations. No person under the age of eighteen may be on or about a public street or other public place between the hours of 10PM and sunrise the following day. A parent or guardian allowing this activity is in violation as well. Both offenses are infractions and violators can not be arrested. Only a citation may be issued. St. Helena Police Department uses the curfew violation as a law enforcement tool when appropriate.

Recommendation:

Consideration of the use of injunctions as a law enforcement tool against gang members.

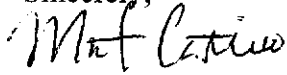
Response to Recommendation:

A gang injunction is a civil process where a court order is obtained declaring gang activity a public nuisance. The court order places rules on the gang activity. In smaller gang areas the court order has eliminated the gang nuisance in its entirety. It appears in larger gang areas the injunction doesn't eliminate the activity, but reduces it instead. The City of Los Angeles has initiated 37 injunctions which directly affect almost 60 gangs. The City of Los Angeles has experienced success with the injunction process.

As the county continues to monitor gang activity, it would make sense that the injunction process be considered as a short term resolution when applicable.

These comments are respectfully submitted for St. Helena Police Department, as approved by the St. Helena City Council at their regular meeting of September 8, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty Castillo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Monty Castillo
Chief of Police