

CITY OF CALISTOGA

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May 6, 2008

Honorable Francisca P. Tischer
Honorable Raymond Guadagni
Presiding Judges 2007/2008
Superior Court of the State of California County of Napa
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559

FILED

MAY 12 2008

Clerk of the Napa Superior Court
By: 
Deputy

RE: Grand Jury Report 2007/2008 D.A.R.E. Program

Dear Judges Tischer and Guadagni:

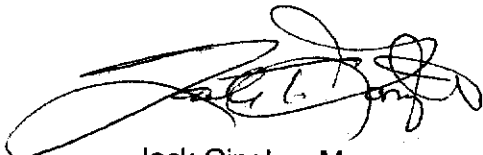
The City of Calistoga has received and reviewed the above referenced Grand Jury Report and pursuant to the provisions of the California Penal Code offers the following response to the recommendations contained therein.

In response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations, the City of Calistoga agrees wholeheartedly in the value of drug abuse prevention education. The City of Calistoga has been involved in such efforts with our young people with the Calistoga Joint Unified School District and with other public, private, and non-profit organizations for many years. The City of Calistoga actively participated in the D.A.R.E. program through our cooperation and partnership with our School District between 1996 and 2003. We did however cease the formal D.A.R.E program and substituted it with a superior program to better satisfy our local conditions.

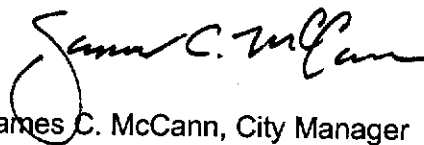
Since 2000 the City of Calistoga Police Department has provided a focused and highly successful Juvenile Diversion Program in coordination with Calistoga/St. Helena Boys and Girls Club and our School District. This program provides many of the same programs and education topics covered by the D.A.R.E program but goes much farther and provides greater outreach and services. I refer you to the attached memorandum from Jonathan Mills, Calistoga Chief of Police, which outlines in more detail our history with the D.A.R.E program and our more recent success through the partnership with our School District to provide the Juvenile Diversion Program.

The City of Calistoga sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury to identify success in government efforts and areas for improvement. We also appreciate the opportunity to bring this locally successful program, which benefits the Calistoga youth, to your attention.

Sincerely,



Jack Gingles, Mayor



James C. McCann, City Manager


(Signed by S. Snedden, City Clerk)

Jonathan Mills, Chief of Police

cc: File
Correspondence

Received
Napa Superior Court

MAY - 9 2008

Court Executive Office

CALISTOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 22, 2008
TO: Jim McCann – City Manager
FROM: Jonathan Mills – Chief of Police
RE: 2008 Napa County Grand Jury Report on D.A.R.E.

In response to the 2008 Napa County Grand Jury report on D.A.R.E., I have prepared this memorandum with information on the Calistoga Police Department's activity in regards to youth services. The Grand Jury report has stated that although there is no evidence to support that D.A.R.E. reduces drug, alcohol, or tobacco use, or that it prevents violence, the benefit of the program is that it increases familiarity and comfort between students and members of the police. Therefore the Grand Jury recommends that the public schools of Calistoga re-institute the D.A.R.E. program for the 2008-2009 school year.

The City of Calistoga ran the D.A.R.E. program in the elementary school from approximately 1996 to 2003. During this time the traditional D.A.R.E. curriculum was presented to 6th grade children for 16 weeks during the school year by a uniformed police officer. Beginning in 2000 the City of Calistoga moved from following the D.A.R.E. program to implementing a Juvenile Diversion Program as a measure to improve outreach to youth.

The Juvenile Diversion Program exists as an opportunity for the Police Department to intervene when a youth has been identified as being at risk of getting into trouble. A child so identified who has committed a minor offense can be put on diversion instead of formal probation. Diversion consists of a voluntary contract between the child, parents and the Police Department. The contract includes behavioral, academic and counseling components. The Juvenile Diversion Officer meets with the youth weekly throughout the 6 month term of the contract. When successful, the offense for which the youth was diverted is expunged.

The Juvenile Diversion Officer spends on average 16 to 24 hours a week on Calistoga School campuses.

The goal of the Juvenile Diversion Program is to help guide youth from making bad or wrong choices in future life and to develop within them the strength and life skills necessary to make good choices. The Juvenile Diversion Officer is a youth case manager from the Boys and Girls Club of Saint Helena and Calistoga. The Juvenile Diversion Officer is contracted from the Boys and Girls Club to work as a representative of the

Calistoga Police Department at both the Calistoga Elementary School and the Calistoga Junior/Senior High School. The cost of this program is \$25,000 annually.

In the Elementary School the Juvenile Diversion Officer teaches the Second Step Program to 5th and 6th graders. This program is recognized by the Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning. The program focuses on teaching empathy, anger management, personal safety, and bullying. The Second Step program is consistent with the stated goals of the Juvenile Diversion Program.

The Juvenile Diversion Officer visits the Junior/Senior High School to monitor youth on diversion contracts and to conduct intervention when referred by school officials, parents or other youth. Intervention issues range from classroom disruption, fighting/bullying, sexual inappropriateness and poor respect for parents and authority. So far this school year the Juvenile Diversion Officer has so served 41 children in Calistoga High School.

In my opinion, the Juvenile Diversion Program successfully integrates the Police Department with educational and preventative programs in our Calistoga schools. The on-campus presence of a the Juvenile Diversion Officer, a representative of the Calistoga Police Department, for 16 to 24 hours a week is well beyond what a D.A.R.E. officer would spend at a school.