



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Jim Hogeboom
Superintendent

August 16, 2016

The Honorable Kelly V. Simmons
Presiding Judge
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4900

John Mann, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Judge Simmons and Mr. Mann,

Attached is Novato Unified School District's response to the 2015-2016 Marin Civil Grand Jury Report entitled **Marin's Hidden Human Sex Trafficking Challenge: It's Happening in Our Backyard** that was released on June 23, 2016.

While Grand Jury reports address important issues, practices and conditions in our community, this subject is one which is not on the minds of many residents in Marin County. We commend the Grand Jury for providing the background and information as well as providing findings and recommendations on a topic that is destructive to the very foundation of our civil society.

In response to the specific Findings and Recommendations in this report, it should be noted that schools do not have sufficient information or expertise to serve as a basis for a response to the specific items. While we have addressed the issue in a number of ways, there is more we can do and we are committed to working with our schools districts and community partners to expand our support in this area. We will report back to the 2016-2017 Marin Civil Grand Jury on what actions have been taken by December, 2016.

We continue to appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury and the time and commitment made by the members of this important body. You can be assured of our partnership continuing with Grand Juries yet to come.

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,


Jim Hogeboom
Superintendent

Attachment: Response Form

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Marin's Hidden Human Sex Trafficking Challenge: It's Happening in Our Backyard

Report Date: June 23, 2016

Agenda Date: August 16, 2016

Response by: Jim Hogeboom Title: Superintendent

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1 - F13
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: _____

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.

(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

- Recommendations numbered R7 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)

- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8/16/2016 Signed: 

Number of pages attached 1

Novato Unified School District Response to Grand Jury*"Marin's Hidden Human Sex Trafficking Challenge: It's Happening in our Backyard"***FINDINGS****F-1 through F-13:****Response:**

Agree with all findings, assuming the facts as set forth in the Grand Jury's Report are accurate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R7: Marin County Office of Education should work with the Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership to develop educational programs to ensure that students, parents, and teachers are trained in recognizing the signs of human trafficking and where they can find help.

Response: The Novato Unified School District believes it would be worth reviewing the educational programs offered to broaden the reach and make trainings more consistent. The Novato Unified School District will work with the Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership to develop educational programs to ensure that students, parents, and teachers are trained in recognizing the signs of human trafficking and where they can find help.

The Novato Unified School District publicized and encouraged staff, student and parent attendance (when applicable) at countywide events that were offered over the course of the past two years including:

- Human Trafficking and Child Abduction Forum on September 14, 2015
- Missing Children and On-Line Predators, April 29, 2015
- School/Law Enforcement Partnership discussion led by the District Attorney's Office on October 21, 2015 and January 16, 2016 during which presentations related to sex trafficking took place
- A countywide forum which the Marin County Office of Education supported and advertised was held on Thursday January 21, 2016 by the Marin Child Abuse Prevention Council
- The District actively participates on the School/Law Enforcement Partnership.
- The District will participate in any efforts to continue developing programs to ensure that students, parents and teachers are trained in recognizing the signs of human trafficking and where they can find help.

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