

EXHIBIT 4

FY 2014-2015 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

RESPONSES TO FINDINGS (FI) AND RECOMMENDATIONS (R)

Report Number (& Date)	Report Title	Respondents (With FI and R #)
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REPORT NO. 04 April 28, 2016

Title: Phoenix School Safety

Required Respondent: Sheriff's Office
(for information) (FI-03, FI-04, FI-05, FI-07, and FI-08 plus R-01 and R-03)

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- GEOFF DEAN
Sheriff
- GARY PENTIS
Undersheriff
- STEVE DE CESARI
Assistant Sheriff
- GUY STEWART
Assistant Sheriff

800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CA 93009 PHONE (805) 654-2380 FAX (805) 645-1391

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

COPY

Report Title: Phoenix School Safety

Report Date: JUNE 10, 2016

Response by: Geoff Dean Title: Sheriff

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: NONE
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: FI - 03,04,05,07,08
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered NONE have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered NONE have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered RI-01 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 RI-03 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: June 10, 2016 Signed: Geoff Dean

Number of pages attached: 3

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June 10, 2016

The Honorable Judge Donald D. Coleman
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Grand Jury Report, Phoenix School Safety

Dear Judge Coleman:

This letter is in response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations pertaining to the Phoenix School Safety report as it relates to the Ventura County Sheriff's Office.

Finding: FI-03. The collaborative relationship between the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) and law enforcement is not as strong as the best practice recommended by the National Education Association.

Response: The Ventura County Sheriff's Office does not agree with this finding and has a very good partnership with VCOE. The Sheriff's Office / Camarillo Police Department assists VCOE with regular training for their staff including active shooter training, disaster response drills, and IEP (individualized education program) for students who need assistance. Recently the Sheriff's Office / Camarillo Police Department partnered with VCOE and developed a Student Citizen's Academy to give more insight into the daily operations of law enforcement and a better understanding of a career in public service. In researching "Best Practice" as it pertains to the NEA (National Education Association), the Sheriff's Office was unable to locate any specific findings which recommend standards regarding law enforcement and their relationship with schools.

Finding: FI-04. The Grand Jury expressed concern why law enforcement was called to the Phoenix campuses for disturbances when there are so many highly trained personnel on the campus on a daily basis.

Response: The Ventura County Sheriff's Office does not agree with this finding. The VCOE staff is highly trained and deals effectively with most situations at the Phoenix schools. However, when law enforcement is called to respond it is predominantly for disturbances by students acting out violently toward staff and possibly to other students.

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Grand Jury Response

Law enforcement is better equipped to handle violent confrontations and general disturbances as they are given extensive training in this area. When law enforcement responds to disturbances, deputies assess if a crime has been committed and they have the authority to complete a 5585 W&I application should the student need to be hospitalized for a mental health evaluation.

Finding: FI-05. The Grand Jury cited that the SRO should be dedicated to a particular school to work most effectively with both students and faculty, in particular with special education students. The Grand Jury feels that the SRO should concentrate their attention on developing relationships and acting as a mentor / educator rather than a law officer.

Response: The Ventura County Sheriff's Office does partially agree with this finding when there is an SRO assigned to a specific school such as the current practice with the high schools. The SRO's currently work extremely well everyday establishing relationships with schools and students. The SRO's attend sporting events, are present for drop off and pick-ups, lunch, and all break periods. This is done to break down the barriers and build relationships with the students as well as with the parents and staff. Several school campuses in Camarillo have special education students and our SRO's take the time to help these students in times of crisis. However, the amount of calls at the Phoenix Schools are minimal and when our staff is called upon, care and concern for the student is of paramount importance. Given the low amount of overall calls for service, the Sheriff's Office asserts that a full time dedicated SRO is not warranted at this time for the Phoenix schools.

Finding: FI-07. The Grand Jury was concerned regarding the deputies who were responding to the Phoenix campuses and they were not CIT trained. The Grand Jury was concerned that the lack of training may escalate situations rather than de-escalate them.

Response: The Ventura County Sheriff's Office does not fully agree with this finding. Approximately 72% of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office deputies have completed CIT training (Crisis Intervention Team). The goal is to have 100% of all Sheriff's Office deputies trained in CIT, however, due to employee turnover, CIT training is ongoing. Sheriff's Dispatch makes an effort to send CIT trained deputies to calls that require a specific response for emotionally disturbed subjects. However, all deputies are trained in the police academy and in-service training on how to handle calls for service with emotionally distraught subjects. The goal is to de-escalate the situation and to get help for the subject.

Finding: FI-08. The Grand Jury found that a formally trained and dedicated SRO would be more effective at preventing or de-escalating volatile situations than a patrol officer with only CIT training.

Response: The Ventura County Sheriff's Office does not agree with this finding. All Ventura County Sheriff's deputies undergo extensive training in the police academy and ongoing training throughout their career in handling potentially volatile incidents. There is no evidence to indicate that any calls that patrol deputies with CIT training responded to a Phoenix campus would have been handled differently than those by a dedicated

Grand Jury Response

SRO. An SRO on campus may be a deterrent to certain activity occurring and they are adept at responding quickly and efficiently to calls on campus, however, this does not take away from the experience of other officers responding if there is no SRO.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: R-01 The Grand Jury recommends that the Ventura County Board of Education, the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools, and the Ventura County Sheriff formalize a collaborative relationship to increase law enforcement presence on all Phoenix school campuses. (FI-03, FI-04, FI-05, FI-07)

Response: The Ventura County Sheriff's Office partially agrees with this recommendation. The Ventura County Sheriff has been in communication and collaboration with both of the entities mentioned above, however, we do not feel that the overall calls for service warrant a full-time SRO but we will continue to discuss and explore possible improvements to responses to the Phoenix School campuses.

Recommendation: R-03 The Grand Jury recommends that all Ventura County Sheriff's deputies that may be called to Phoenix campuses be CIT trained to be able to work safely with seriously emotionally disturbed students.

Response: The Ventura County Sheriff's Office continues to train deputies in CIT with 72% of deputies currently certified. It is the goal of the Sheriff to have 100% of the deputies trained in CIT, and we are working with our training staff to reach that goal. Preservation of life is a top priority and when a call is received with a high priority, dispatch will send the closest unit to respond. We cannot guarantee this deputy will be CIT trained, however, every effort by our dispatch to get a CIT deputy to respond will be made. However, all deputies have received training on a limited basis in CIT while in the academy and the jail on de-escalation techniques so the Sheriff's Office is confident that any deputy that responds to this type of call will handle it appropriately.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Commander Monica McGrath at (805) 388-5102 or monica.mcgrath@ventura.org.

Sincerely,


Geoff Dean
Sheriff

Cc: Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury
Undersheriff Gary Pentis
Assistant Sheriff Steve DeCesari
CEO Analyst Frank Chow