



OFFICE OF THE
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December 12, 2003

Michelle Park
Sacramento County Grand Jury
720 Ninth Street, Room 611
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Mark:

On December 2, 2003 the Sacramento City Council adopted a Resolution approving the City's response to the 2002-2003 Sacramento Grand Jury Final Report.

Enclosed is Resolution No. 2003-841 instructing the City Clerk to forward the letter and a copy of the City Council report and resolution.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Bennett, Administrative Assistant at (916) 808-6710.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bennett
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure



3.8

OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

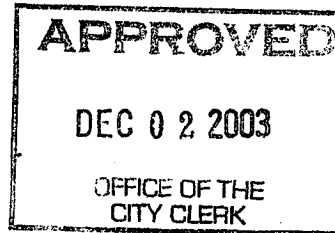
CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

CITY HALL
ROOM 304
730 I STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814

November 19, 2002

PH 916-808-5704
FAX 916-808-7618

City Council
Sacramento, California



Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Response to the 2002-2003 Sacramento County Grand
Jury Final Report

LOCATION: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council, by resolution:

- 1) Adopt this report and attached letter (Attachment A) from the Sacramento Police Department as the official response of the City of Sacramento to the 2002-2003 Sacramento County Grand Jury Final Report recommendations related to the effectiveness of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in enhancing school safety; and
- 2) Instruct the City Clerk to forward the letter and a copy of the City Council report and resolution to the Presiding Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court and the incumbent Grand Jury as required.

CONTACT PERSONS Albert Najera, Chief of Police , 433-0800
Tina Lee-Vogt, Sr. Management Analyst, 808-2679

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF December 2, 2003

SUMMARY

The 2001-2002 Sacramento County Grand Jury Final Report includes findings and recommendations related to the effectiveness of the SRO program in enhancing school

①

safety programs. In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05, a response is required from the City of Sacramento.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Sacramento County Grand Jury is an investigative body created for the protection of society and enforcement of the law. One of the major responsibilities of the Sacramento County Grand Jury is to examine county and city governments and special districts to ensure lawful execution of their duties. At the completion of its term, the Grand Jury prepares and issues its findings and recommendations in a final report.

In the 2002-2003 Sacramento County Grand Jury Final Report, there was one finding under the issue of School Safety in Jeopardy pertaining to the City of Sacramento which requires a response. The Grand Jury found that the School Resource Officer is essential to the safety of students at school. The Grand Jury also provided several recommendations related to the SRO program. A copy of the entire finding and recommendations on this issue is included as Attachment B to this report.

In responding to the Grand Jury recommendations, the Sacramento Police Department concurred with the findings regarding school safety and law enforcement in the City and County of Sacramento. Attachment A of this report is a letter from the Chief of Police in response to the recommendations relative to the City of Sacramento. Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached letter as its response to the Grand Jury Report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

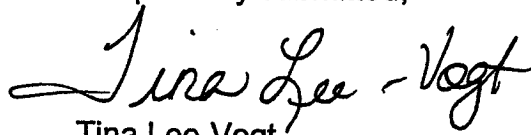
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05, this report provides a response to the recommendations included in the 2002-2003 Sacramento Grand Jury Final report related to the effectiveness of the SRO program in enhancing school safety programs.

ESBD EFFORTS

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Lee-Vogt
Senior Management Analyst

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

Resolution, Page 4

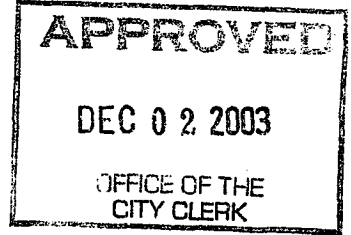
Attachment A: Response from Police Department, Page 5

Attachment B: Grand Jury Report – School Safety in Jeopardy, Page 8

RESOLUTION NO. 578-74

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____



RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY'S RESPONSE TO THE 2002-2003 SACRAMENTO COUNTY GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:

- 1) Adopts this report and attached letter (Attachment A) from the Sacramento Police Department as the official response of the City of Sacramento to the 2002-2003 Sacramento County Grand Jury Final Report recommendations related to the effectiveness of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in enhancing school safety; and
- 2) Instructs the City Clerk to forward the letter and a copy of the City Council report and resolution to the Presiding Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court and the incumbent Grand Jury as required.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY COUNCIL USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____

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DEPARTMENT OF
POLICE

ALBERT NÁJERA
CHIEF OF POLICE

STEVE SIEGURA
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

RICK BRAZILL
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
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5770 FREEPORT BLVD., SUITE 100
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October 21, 2003
Ref: 10-14

Honorable Michael T. Garcia
Sacramento Superior Court
720 Ninth Street, Room 611
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Judge Garcia:

In accordance with Penal Code 933(a) and 933.05, the Sacramento Police Department is responding to the 2002-2003 Sacramento County Grand Jury Final Report pertaining to our department.

We concur with the Grand Jury Report's findings regarding school safety and law enforcement in the City and County of Sacramento, and have noted those findings and recommendations that we concur with, and those that do not apply to our Department. The following is our response to the Grand Jury Report:

Finding #1.) That School Resource Officer is essential to the safety of students at school.

We concur with the finding. The Sacramento Police Department has had an exemplary School Resource Officer (SRO) program since January 2000. Its purpose has been and continues to be to ensure our community's students are safe at school. They have been

The mission of the Sacramento Police Department is to work in partnership with the Community to protect life and property; solve neighborhood problems, and enhance the quality of life in our City.

instrumental in averting violence and reducing the amount of crime on the school campuses they service. The Department currently has nine officers and a supervisor assigned to the SRO program.

Here is the list of the high schools the Sacramento Police Department serves:

High Schools

Burbank, Luther High School
Johnson, Hiram W. High School
Kennedy, J.F. High School
McClatchy, C.K. High School
Natomas High School
Rosemont High School
Sacramento Charter High School

Continuation High Schools

American Legion Continuation High School
Genesis Continuation High School

In addition to the aforementioned high schools and continuation high schools, the Department serves the respective feeder intermediate and elementary schools.

Recommendation #1.) That all comprehensive high schools which serve Sacramento County students have on campus a school resource officer.

We concur with the recommendation in concept. The Sacramento Police Department has one SRO assigned to each of the above-mentioned comprehensive high schools. Each assigned officer works on and patrols around their respective high school campus to provide a safety zone. This strategy assists in responding to potential problems before they reach the campus. They also work in concert with each schools compliment of school monitors and administrative staff to immediately respond to reported or potential problems.

The SROs also work with the Department's District patrol officers, Gang Units, POP officers and other special units throughout the Department to respond as needed.

Recommendation #2.) That intermediate schools have a school resource officer.

We concur with the recommendation. As previously stated the Sacramento Police Department has officers assigned to service the intermediate and elementary schools that are feeders to the aforementioned comprehensive high schools.

Recommendation #3.) That continuation high schools have access to a school resource officer.

We concur with the recommendation. See response to finding #1.

Recommendation #4.) Does not apply to the Sacramento Police Department.

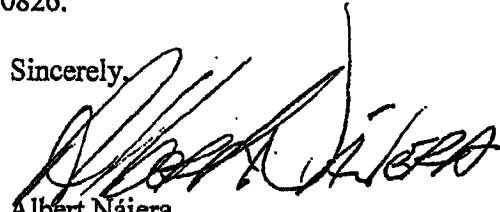
Recommendation #5.) That the safety of students be recognized by including the School resource officers program in the budgets of the Sacramento Police Department and the Sacramento Unified School District for 2003-2004.

We concur with the recommendation. The safety of students is recognized by the Sacramento Police Department, the Sacramento City Unified School District, and the Natomas School District. The two School Districts pay for the officer(s) solely assigned to their schools. The Department bears all cost related to supporting those officers, which includes items such as: patrol officers, the gang units, specialty units, investigations, crime analysis, records, personnel, and overall management, etc.

Recommendation #6.) Does not apply to the Sacramento Police Department.

We hope that you will find our responses useful. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 433-0800 or Dana Spurrier, Administrative Officer, at 433-0826.

Sincerely,



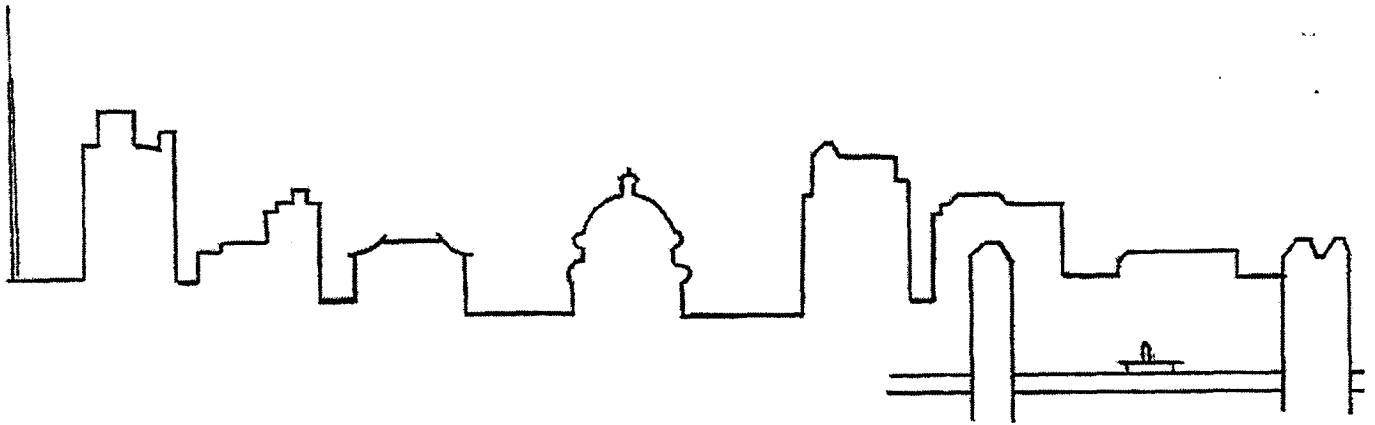
Albert Najera
Chief of Police

AN/dls

cc: Sacramento County-Clerk Recorder Division
Sacramento County Grand Jury
Robert Thomas, Sacramento City Manager

SACRAMENTO COUNTY GRAND JURY

FINAL REPORT



2002-2003

School Safety in Jeopardy

Issue

The School Resource Officer (SRO) is a program in middle and high schools serving students within Sacramento County. The Grand Jury wishes to determine the effectiveness of the SRO program in enhancing school safety.

Method of Investigation

Interviews were conducted with the following jurisdictions.

- The San Juan Unified School District
- The Sacramento City Unified School District
- The Elk Grove Unified School District
- The Center Unified School District
- The Roseville Joint Union High School District
- The Sacramento Police Department
- The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

Background and Facts

For the past 30 years there has been a growing concern in the community regarding student safety in secondary and intermediate schools. The days when schools were seen as safe havens have gone. The turmoil in society has moved into our schools. Gangs, drugs, bullying, violence have intruded, and the result is a deep concern over the safety of young people.

The tragedy of Columbine High School brutally focused attention on the need to seek solutions for establishing schools as islands of safety and to return them to their main goal of educating the next generation of adults. In an ironic way Columbine forced school officials to think deeply about what could be done to improve school safety.

The School Resource Officer program was one way to approach the problem. How good is it? Does it work? Should it be maintained and enriched? That is the focus of this report.

The School Resource Officer program is approximately four years old, and its purpose is to place a sworn police officer or sheriff's deputy at each of the comprehensive high schools¹ serving students in Sacramento County.

Sacramento County Grand Jury

June 30, 2003

How does it work? What does it do? What are the results?

There are several themes that came from the conversations we held with our interviewees:

1. Kids want to feel safe at school. They deserve the inner comfort and can focus on their education.
2. It is the responsibility of the schools and law enforcement agencies to work together for safe schools.
3. The SRO program requires a different police presence than on the streets.

The officers are assigned to a specific school. It is their beat. They know the school. They know the students. They know their names. They know those who are not a threat to society, and they know those who are.

They work closely with the school administration to form a cohesive team. They are role models. They establish a bond of trust with the students. Some examples demonstrate the effectiveness of the program: 1) Students at a large local high school told the SRO that a violent altercation involving students was going to take place near the school. The SRO informed the Sheriff's Department. The deputies arrived, and the potential fight never took place; 2) In a suburban school, the SRO learned of an outside drug dealer who was peddling ecstasy. He was caught and received a long prison sentence. 3) There was word that an outside interloper was coming to campus to settle a grudge. The SRO learned of this and stopped a car in the parking lot. On the seat was a loaded gun, and two young men in the back seat with baseball bats. What would have been the result if the officer was not at the school? 4) In South Sacramento, expulsions in a large high school dropped from 53 to 22 after the advent of an SRO. 5) In the Sacramento City Unified School District there was dramatic improvement regarding the number of school related police reports. In 1999, the year prior to the SRO program there were 1447 reports. In the three years following, police reports were:

Year	Number of Reports
2000	600
2001	300
2002	300

On a regular basis SROs:

- Meet with students
- Speak in class
- Help with conflict resolution
- Maintain a suicide watch
- Work with counselors
- Coordinate with law enforcement
- Patrol the neighborhood
- Meet with parents
- Control rumors
- Present a positive law enforcement presence
- Identify gang members

Therefore, the results have been significant, especially effective in pre-emptive prevention: the weapon not brought to school; the gang retaliation that doesn't take place; the drugs that are not on campus; the bullying that doesn't occur; the outsider who does not come inside. These results bring a sense of calmness, a feeling of psychological safety.

As a result, the SRO becomes a positive police figure who has high visibility and can summon his colleagues at a moment's notice.

Findings and Recommendations

Finding #1. The School Resource Officer is essential to the safety of students at school.

Recommendation #1. That all comprehensive high schools which serve Sacramento County students have on campus a school resource officer.

Recommendation #2. That intermediate schools have a school resource officer.

Recommendation #3. That continuation high schools have access to a school resource officer.

Recommendation #4. That the safety of students be recognized by including the school resource officers program in the budgets of the Sheriff's Department and the school districts serving the unincorporated areas of the county for 2003-2004.

Recommendation #5. That the safety of students be recognized by including the school resource officers program in the budgets of the Sacramento Police Department and the Sacramento Unified School District for 2003-2004.

Recommendation #6. That the safety of students be recognized by including the school resource officers program in the budgets of the San Juan Unified School District, the Elk Grove Unified School District and the Center Unified School District for 2003-2004.

Sacramento County Grand Jury

June 30, 2003

Commendation

The Sheriff's Department's fiscal support of the SRO program in 2002-2003 in the unincorporated areas is recognized as positive and necessary.

Response Required

Penal Code Section 933.05 requires that specific responses to both the findings and recommendations contained in this report be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court by September 30, 2003 from:

- The San Juan Unified School District
- The Sacramento City Unified School District
- The Elk Grove Unified School District
- The Center Unified School District
- The Sacramento Police Department
- The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

¹ A comprehensive school is a regular 4-year school that offers a full range of curriculum.

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-841

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF DEC 02 2003

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY'S RESPONSE TO THE
2002-2003 SACRAMENTO COUNTY GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:

- 1) Adopts this report and attached letter (Attachment A) from the Sacramento Police Department as the official response of the City of Sacramento to the 2002-2003 Sacramento County Grand Jury Final Report recommendations related to the effectiveness of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in enhancing school safety; and
- 2) Instructs the City Clerk to forward the letter and a copy of the City Council report and resolution to the Presiding Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court and the incumbent Grand Jury as required.

HEATHER FARGO

MAYOR

ATTEST:

VIRGINIA HENRY

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY COUNCIL USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: 2003-841

DATE ADOPTED: DEC 02 2003