

City of Folsom  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
46 Natoma Street  
Folsom, CA 95630



*Office of the Chief of Police  
Chief Cynthia E. Renaud*

Kevin R. Culhane, Presiding Judge  
Sacramento County Superior Court  
720 – 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Department 47  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Judge Culhane,

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the City of Folsom Police Department submits the following response to the Sacramento County 2015-2016 Grand Jury investigation regarding law enforcement's response to domestic violence in Sacramento County:

**Finding F1:**

Some law enforcement agencies in Sacramento County fail to use innovative domestic violence intervention best practices. These evidence-based practices demonstrate measureable results that have a positive impact on victims, families, law enforcement and the community. These practices include:

- Leadership at the executive level that prioritizes domestic violence
- Countywide Domestic Violence Response Teams (DVRT) and active partnerships with domestic violence victim advocates
- Specialized domestic violence training for patrol officers, first responders, and domestic violence investigators
- Use of field-based lethality risk assessment tool by patrol officers and first responders
- Data Collection and tracking system

**Response to Finding F1:**

The Folsom Police Department disagrees with the first sentence of this finding, to the extent it pertains to Folsom, because we use many of the innovative domestic violence intervention best practices noted by the Grand Jury.

Executive leadership prioritizes domestic violence in several ways. A detective is assigned to work domestic violence cases and she works closely with the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office. This position was specifically assigned by the Chief of Police in order to create and foster relationships with outside resources.

The Folsom Police Department actively partners with other local agencies to address domestic violence issues. Folsom Police Department's domestic violence detective is part of the Domestic Violence Prevention Collaboration (DVPC), a multi-agency effort that brings together local law enforcement departments, social service agencies, and non-profit organizations to provide a county-wide response dedicated to the prevention of domestic violence through advocacy, education, intervention, law enforcement, and coordination of resources. Our detective often hosts and regularly attends monthly meetings and other functions hosted by different disciplines within the collaboration. Our detective also acts as a liaison between the Folsom Police Department and the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office.

The Folsom Police Department's executive level leadership understands the need to regularly educate personnel, which will assist the agency as a whole in providing a greater level of service to victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence training has been provided to Police Department personnel during bi-monthly trainings.

The Department does not currently use a field-based lethality risk assessment tool, but is familiar with this practice and will consider implementing something similar within our agency.

The Folsom Police Department's data collection and tracking system functions well. Domestic violence calls and related data are currently tracked through our computer aided dispatch system and can be accessed by Police Department personnel. The Department also hired a crime analyst to assist in tracking calls related to domestic violence.

**Finding F2:**

Not all law enforcement departments in Sacramento County participate in active partnerships among police, prosecutors, victim advocates, social service agencies, and community organizations to reduce the incidence of domestic violence.

**Response to Finding F2:**

The Folsom Police Department disagrees with this finding, to the extent it pertains to Folsom, because we actively participate in county-wide partnerships focused on domestic violence, including the Domestic Violence Prevention Collaboration (DVPC) described above. A detective is assigned to the collaboration and they meet monthly to discuss



methods of domestic violence prevention. Our Department hosts a DVPC meeting every other month. The DVPC also collaborates with other agencies to put on an annual conference, which has been held in the City of Folsom three out of the last four years. In addition, the Folsom Police Department has developed relationships with Domestic Violence Advocacy Centers, Child Protective Services, Sacramento County Victim Witness, and multiple other agencies that assist with the fight to end domestic violence.

**Finding F3:**

Coordinated and accessible domestic violence services for victims and their families have been proven to be most effective.

**Response to Finding F3:**

The Folsom Police Department agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation R1:**

Sacramento County law enforcement agencies should demonstrate their commitment to addressing domestic violence adequately by having fully functional domestic violence units that focus on response, investigations, follow-up, tracking and collection of comprehensive domestic violence data.

**Response to Recommendation R1:**

The Folsom Police Department is committed to addressing domestic violence, but this recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted in Folsom.

Although the Department does not have a unit specific to domestic violence, we do focus on response, investigations, follow-up, and tracking and collection of comprehensive domestic violence data. As a Department, we are continuing the education of officers in order to assist with appropriate responses to domestic violence calls. Domestic violence cases that need follow-up are identified by our domestic violence detective and by our sergeants. Such cases are sent to the Investigations Division for further attention. Domestic violence calls are tracked through our computer aided dispatch system. We also hired a full time crime analyst, who will assist with tracking this type of call for service. The number of domestic violence calls for service in our city supports this balanced approach.

**Recommendation R2:**

Sacramento County law enforcement agencies should establish partnerships with domestic violence advocacy groups and provide comprehensive domestic violence specialized training for all patrol officers and detectives.

**Response to Recommendation R2:**

The Folsom Police Department implemented this recommendation several years ago.

The Folsom Police Department has established relationships with multiple resources, including advocacy groups, through active and ongoing participation in the Domestic Violence Prevention Collaboration, as described above.

Specialized training in domestic violence has been provided to all patrol officers and detectives. Regular domestic violence training is provided to Police Department personnel in bi-monthly trainings. In addition, within the past four years, we provided training by the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, A Community for Peace, and POST-certified instructors regarding law, advocacy, victim rights, and report writing.

**Recommendation R3:**

Sacramento County law enforcement agencies should develop, expand, and support the use of domestic violence victim advocates in law enforcement domestic violence calls and field investigations.

**Response to Recommendation R3:**

The Folsom Police Department implemented this recommendation several years ago.

The Folsom Police Department strives to use victim advocacy programs as much as possible. The Department recognizes the potential need for an onsite advocate and plans to work toward that goal. For now, personnel are provided with resources and information regarding advocates who are available to assist them with individual calls for service and field investigations. In addition, a pamphlet was created by the Folsom Police Department, which includes information pertaining to all local resources, educational information regarding domestic violence, the cycle of violence, law enforcement response, and restraining orders. The pamphlet provides victims and Police Department personnel with accessible links to these local services.

**Recommendation R4:**

Sacramento County law enforcement agencies should use a field-based lethality risk assessment tool.

**Response to Recommendation R4:**

This recommendation requires further analysis.

The Folsom Police Department does not currently use a field-based lethality risk assessment tool however we are familiar with this tool and believe it could assist Police Department personnel when handling domestic violence calls. This recommendation will be prepared for discussion by January 2017.

**Recommendation R5:**

Sacramento County law enforcement agencies should evaluate the effectiveness of a Family Justice Center or similar models.

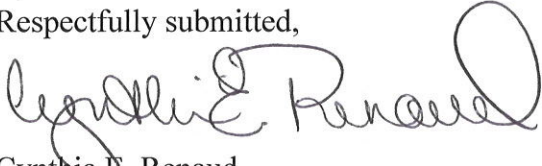
**Response to Recommendation R5:**

This recommendation has been implemented.

Under the leadership of then-District Attorney Jan Scully, the Sacramento Family Justice Center was explored as a concept in 2012 and has since been instituted here in the

county, with its resources available to all jurisdictions and all residents. Executive leadership of the Folsom Police Department has had experience with the Family Justice Center model from prior work with other counties and believes it will be equally successful here in Sacramento County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia E. Renaud". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Cynthia E. Renaud  
Chief of Police