



# Galt Police Department

*"Public Trust Through Professional Service"*

Tod Sockman  
Chief of Police



August 21, 2016

Hon. Kevin R. Culhane, Presiding Judge  
Sacramento Superior Court  
720 Ninth Street, Department 47  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Hon. Kevin R. Culhane,

This letter is in response to the Grand Jury's Final Report, "Domestic Violence: An Inconsistent Priority for Law Enforcement" (herein referred to as "Final Report") and is intended to fulfill the requirements set forth in California Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05 and outlined in the "Response Requirement" section of the Final Report.

The Galt Police Department places a high priority on all crimes of violence, including domestic violence. We recognize the unique nature of domestic violence crimes; particularly the emotional, financial and physical devastation it can cause within families. We further recognize the cyclical nature of domestic violence incidents and how the occasional lack of cooperation by victims is a symptom of the domestic violence cycle. We recognize that this cycle can have an impact on how officers respond to, and address these types of calls in the field. We appreciate the Grand Jury's findings and look forward to continuing our efforts to better address domestic violence in the most effective manner possible by providing better training to personnel and engaging in partnerships with outside jurisdictions, the District Attorney's office and victim advocate groups.

Below is the Galt Police Department's response to the Final Report along with implementation plans and corresponding time frames for each recommendation.

#### **Response to Findings:**

F1: Agreement with the finding

F2: Agreement with the finding

F3: Agreement with the finding

#### **Response to Recommendations:**

R1: Concurrence (see attached Implementation Plan and Timeframe for Implementation – Appendix A)



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R2: Concurrence (see attached Implementation Plan and Timeframe for Implementation – Appendix B)

R3: Concurrence (see attached Implementation Plan and Timeframe for Implementation – Appendix C)

R4: Concurrence (see attached Implementation Plan and Timeframe for Implementation – Appendix D)

R5: Concurrence (see attached Implementation Plan and Timeframe for Implementation – Appendix E)

Respectfully,

 T. SOCKMAN, CHIEF OF POLICE

Name, Title



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## Appendix A

### Recommendation 1 (R1)

#### Background:

Currently the Galt Police Department (GPD) has one detective, non-exclusively assigned, to domestic violence cases. In 2015 GPD Patrol Division took 82 domestic violence related cases which included crimes categorized under California Penal Code sections 243(e)(1), PC 273.5 and PC 273.6 . For the year 2016 (as of August 20, 2016) the Patrol Division has taken 46 domestic violence cases. Based on the number of domestic violence cases it is not possible for GPD to dedicate a detective position exclusively to domestic violence cases. However, a more directed effort to contact victims early in the process is still possible under the implementation plan listed below.

#### Implementation Plan:

1. GPD will assign the detective (currently non-exclusively assigned to domestic violence) along with the Department's Problem Oriented Policing (POP) team to follow up with all domestic violence victims and to begin the necessary follow up investigation no later than the next working day after the incident. The detective and POP team will constitute the GPD Domestic Violence Response Team (herein referred to as Response Team).
2. The Response Team will contact a victim advocate group (WEAVE, My Sister's House, etc.) and attempt to establish a partnership in which an advocate, if available, will accompany the Response Team on the initial meeting with the victim. Additional resources will be offered and provided at that time by the advocate and/or GPD personnel.
3. GPD will contact the District Attorney's Office to ensure the case was received and to discuss if any additional follow up is needed.
4. GPD will maintain periodic contact with the victim (at his/her request), victim advocate, and the District Attorney's Office until the case is resolved.
5. \*\*\*\*\*NONE OF THIS CAPTURES THE LANGUAGE FROM THE REPORT REGARDING "TRACKING AND COLLECTION OF COMPREHENSIVE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DATA"\*\*\*\*\*

#### Time Frame:

Depending on the availability and willingness of victim advocate groups to enter into an MOU with GPD to provide the above mentioned services, this goal is to fully implement the plan by March 1, 2017. Items not dependent on coordinating with a victim advocate will be implemented by January 1, 2017.





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## Appendix B

### Recommendation 2 (R2)

#### Background:

In late 2014, GPD recognized that domestic violence cases submitted to the District Attorney's office were not being prosecuted due in part to poor documentation. In an effort to address this issue, Sacramento County Deputy District Attorney Danielle Abildgaard (who was supervisor over the Domestic Violence Unit at the time) conducted a training at GPD for all patrol and detective personnel.

Using the information obtained during that training, GPD developed and distributed a "Domestic Violence Cheat Sheet" to all sworn personnel as a tool to help patrol officers and detectives conduct better investigations with the goal of increasing prosecution rates.

During this time, GPD reached out to the Elk Grove Police Department (Detective Mitch Marquez) due to their excellent reputation with the District Attorney's Office in regard to investigating domestic violence cases and providing services to victims. GPD sought to determine what best practices EGPD was using when addressing domestic violence cases. During that time, EGPD detectives and their dedicated victim advocate provided GPD updated Domestic Violence Resources packets. GPD implemented the use of these update packets immediately. Additionally, GPD looked into the possibility of obtaining an advocate similar to that of EGPD. GPD learned that the advocate was funded through a grant and, that based on the number of domestic violence cases in the City of Galt, we would not qualify for the grant.

Also during this time, GPD met with representatives from WEAVE to determine if additional resources were available. WEAVE provided a large amount of written material which was made available for patrol officers and detectives to distribute at domestic violence incidents. GPD was working with WEAVE to schedule a training for sworn personnel but, due to scheduling conflicts, that training did not occur.

In 2015, GPD's Crime Prevention Coordinator scheduled a community meeting (Speaker Series) with both WEAVE and Kaiser South Sacramento. Both presentations focused on providing information to community members on domestic violence related issues.

Prior to these efforts, GPD considered hiring a part-time domestic violence advocate. Due to budget constraints, the position was not created or funded.

#### Implementation Plan:

1. Per the Implementation Plan for R1, GPD will partner with victim advocate groups to contact domestic violence victims as soon as practicable after the incident to provide additional services.



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2. GPD will provide specialized domestic violence training to patrol officers and detectives aimed at not only bettering investigations but also in better understanding the victimology behind domestic violence cases.
3. GPD will contact WEAVE, My Sister's House or other victim advocacy group and request they provide in-service training.
4. GPD will request a Deputy District Attorney to again provide specialized training related to Domestic Violence laws.
5. GPD will assign ensure periodic training on these issues continues in order to keep sworn personnel up to date on evolving best practices.

**Time Frame:**

Depending on the availability and willingness of victim advocate groups and the District Attorney's Office to provide specialized training, GPD will fully implement this plan by March 1, 2017. Items not dependent on coordinating with a victim advocate will be implemented by January 1, 2017.



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## Appendix C

### Recommendation 3 (R3)

#### Background:

Under GPD's current domestic violence policy, Officers are advised they should "alert the victim to any available victim advocates, shelters and community resources." Currently there is no mechanism in place to track if this advisement is being provided to victims at the patrol level.

#### Implementation Plan:

1. Refer to Recommendation 1 (R1) Implementation steps 1, 2, and 4.
2. GPD will require officers conducting domestic violence investigations to indicate in their written report whether they offered victim advocate resources and the victim's response.

#### Time Frame:

As stated in Recommendation 1 (R1): Depending on the availability and willingness of victim advocate groups to enter into an MOU with GPD to provide the above mentioned services, this goal is to fully implement the plan by March 1, 2017. Items not dependent on coordinating with a victim advocate will be implemented by January 1, 2017.





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## Appendix D

### Recommendation 4 (R4)

#### Background:

GPD does not currently use a field-based lethality assessment tool.

#### Implementation:

1. GPD will contact outside agencies who use these tools and conduct independent research to determine what field-based lethality tool would be most appropriate and effective.
2. GPD will then provide the appropriate training to patrol and detectives in the use of the tool.
3. Sworn personnel who are investigating a domestic violence case, when appropriate, will utilize the field-based lethality tool and document their findings in a written report.

#### Time Frame:

GPD will fully implement this plan by March 1, 2017.



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**Appendix E**

**Recommendation 5 (R5)**

**Background:**

GPD has not evaluated the effectiveness of a Family Justice Center or similar models.

**Implementation:**

1. GPD will contact the District Attorney's Office to coordinate efforts in evaluating these models and will assist the District Attorney's Office in that process.

**Time Frame:**

GPD will fully implement this plan by March 1, 2017.