



CITRUS HEIGHTS

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*The City of CITRUS HEIGHTS
is committed to providing
high quality, economical,
responsive city services
to our community.*

July 9, 2025

The Honorable Bunmi Awoniyi
Presiding Judge
Sacramento County Superior Court
720 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: City of Citrus Heights Response to the Sacramento Grand Jury Report on Elder Adult Financial Abuse Crimes

Dear Judge Awoniyi,

The City is in receipt of the Grand Jury's Report. We appreciate the time and effort the Grand Jury took to investigate and author this report.

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, the City of Citrus Heights submits the following response to the Sacramento County report on elder adult financial abuse crimes.

Finding F3.

The Grand Jury finds some local law enforcement agencies do not consistently collect data to track elder financial abuse cases received from APS, making it impossible to determine if these cases are fully investigated or referred to the DA for prosecution.

Response to F3.

Disagree: The Citrus Heights Police Department maintains a comprehensive report management system and a case management system to track all submitted reports and the status of cases referred for investigation. This system was utilized to gather all the data requested by the Grand Jury.

Finding F6.

The Grand Jury finds law enforcement agencies in Sacramento County are not placing as much priority on elder financial abuse as other types of elder abuse, allowing abusers to avoid consequences.

Response to F6.

Somewhat Agree: Due to finite resources, the Citrus Heights Police Department has prioritized elder violent crimes over the investigation of elder financial abuse cases. While a higher priority is placed on crimes of violence, our detectives investigate any elder abuse case with significant solvability factors. In 2024, the Citrus Heights Police Department investigated 73 financial elder abuse cases, including 11 cross reports from Adult Protective services, 17 of those cases were referred to the District Attorney for prosecution.

Finding F8.

The Grand Jury finds several of the law enforcement agencies in Sacramento County lack dedicated detectives with specialized training in the investigation of elder financial abuse and as a result many abusers are not being held accountable.

Response to F8.

Partially Agree: The Citrus Heights Police Department does not currently have a detective exclusively dedicated to elder financial abuse cases. We utilize a general detective model where our detectives are able to handle a myriad of investigations. They do receive specialized training on a variety of topics, including elder financial abuse, but none of our detectives are solely focused on elder financial abuse. As a medium size agency, our personnel must be agile and respond to priority investigations across all disciplines. Dedicating a detective to only one crime category would not be an efficient use of a full-time position.

Finding F9.

The Grand Jury finds local uniformed law enforcement officers do not receive continuing education and training in how to recognize the signs of elder financial abuse, thereby allowing abusers to continue their victimization without consequences.

Response to F9.

Partially Agree: Continuing education on elder financial abuse is not mandated by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), nor is it regularly provided within the Citrus Heights Police Department. However, officers receive initial training in the academy and field training program to recognize elder financial crimes. Our detectives also provide in service trainings, to officers, on major case law updates or anytime they note an investigation deficiency on specific crime types such as elder financial abuse. While additional training would be beneficial, we do not believe the lack of ongoing training is the primary cause of continued victimization.

Finding F13.

The Grand Jury finds that there is insufficient community outreach by agencies within Sacramento County to educate elder citizens and their families and caregivers about financial abuse, so the signs of abuse may not be recognized.

Response to F13.

Disagree: The Citrus Heights Police Department has a robust community engagement model. Members of our Command staff attend monthly neighborhood area and service club meetings to

provide crime prevention updates and trends. Elder financial abuse is a regular topic of questions and information provided to our elderly community, in person, at these meetings.

Recently, the City of Citrus Heights partnered with state legislators to host a free, public “Scam Stopper” seminar at City facilities. Drawing a large and engaged audience, the seminar included experts who discussed ways individuals can protect themselves from various types of fraud.

Recommendation R3.

The Grand Jury recommends that all local law enforcement agencies maintain a record of elder financial abuse cases referred by APS, including whether the law enforcement agency conducted additional investigation and whether it sent the case to the DA for potential prosecution, to begin by December 31, 2025.

Response to R3.

The Citrus Heights Police Department already maintains the described records.

Recommendation R6.

The Grand Jury recommends that all law enforcement agencies in Sacramento County raise the priority of elder financial abuse investigations to that of physical abuse, to begin September 30, 2025.

Response to R6.

The Citrus Heights Police Department prioritizes violent crimes, including murder and sexual abuse. All other crimes are prioritized based on solvability factors and the likelihood of seeking prosecution against the perpetrator. This allows the Department to provide service across all crime types within the restraints of finite resources.

Recommendation R8.

The Grand Jury recommends that each law enforcement agency in Sacramento County have at least one trained detective dedicated to investigating elder financial abuse crimes by December 31, 2025.

Response to R8.

Assigning a detective exclusively to investigate financial elder abuse cases would not be a proper use of a full-time position as it would decrease the investigative bandwidth to handle other crime types. Our data shows our detectives and officers have conducted effective financial elder abuse cases while actively working a myriad of other criminal investigations.

Recommendation R9.

The Grand Jury recommends that the uniformed officers of each local law enforcement agency receive regular ongoing education and training to recognize signs of elder financial abuse, to begin by December 31, 2025.

Response to R9.

The Citrus Heights Police Department will specifically document the elder financial abuse training, provided to uniformed personnel, to meet this recommendation within the stated timeline.

Recommendation R13.

The Grand Jury recommends that law enforcement agencies, APS, the DA's office, and the FAST team develop and implement a coordinated plan for more widespread community outreach by all parties, by December 31, 2025.

Response to R13.

The Citrus Heights Police Department has a robust community engagement model. We are willing to partner with allied regional agencies on coordinated outreach as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Jayna Karpinski-Costa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jayna Karpinski-Costa
Mayor
City of Citrus Heights