

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY'S FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE CHILD NOT YET LEFT BEHIND

FINDING 5: Absenteeism and truancy remain a problem in Community Schools. The problem is worse in the North County Schools, where they have no truancy counselor.

CITY RESPONSE: We agree with the finding. However, one must remember that many Fitzgerald students come to the campus with a significant history of truancy.

RECOMMENDATION 5b: The Probation Department, local Police Departments, and the County Education Office should work together to provide effective anti-truancy enforcement measures.

CITY RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented. Currently, the Santa Maria Police Department is the only police agency that actually places an officer on the campus of a County Community School and the School Resource Officer assigned to Fitzgerald school devotes approximately forty percent of his day to the Fitzgerald campus. On occasions when truancy issues persist, a Truancy Mediation Team meeting is called; these meetings are attended by the School Resource Officer and a Probation Officer. Should truant behavior continue, a School Attendance Review Board is organized with the School Resource Officer in attendance.

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY'S FINDINGS REGARDING DETENTION FACILITIES

FINDING 1: The professionalism displayed in the day to day operations of all the facilities visited impressed the Jury.


CITY RESPONSE: The City agrees with the finding.

FINDING 2: The level of service and commitment to effective law enforcement within the confines of their respective budgets was commendable.

CITY RESPONSE: The City agrees with the finding.

That concludes the City of Santa Maria's response to the five Grand Jury Reports and we welcome this opportunity to respond.

Warmest personal regards


LARRY LAVAGNINO
Mayor