

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101
Email: SBCGRANDJURY@SBCGJ.ORG

Judge Michael J. Carrozzo
County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara CA. 93101

Re: City of Santa Barbara's Response to Findings and Recommendations
2019-20 Grand Jury – Juveniles In Gangs In Santa Barbara County

Grand Jury Members and Judge Carrozzo:

The City of Santa Barbara is providing its responses to each relevant Finding and Recommendation located in the Juveniles In Gangs In Santa Barbara County 2019-20 Grand Jury Report. In accordance with the Grand Jury's direction, responses are provided below pursuant to section 933.05 of the California Penal Code.

The Santa Barbara City Council is required to respond to the following:

Finding 1

No comprehensive database exists to identify gangs and gang membership.

City Response: The City of Santa Barbara agrees with this finding

Recommendation 1

That the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, the Probation Department, the District Attorney and the police departments of Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Guadalupe and Lompoc pool their resources to establish a comprehensive database that includes a gang roster across jurisdictions.

City Response: The Santa Barbara Police Departments input is that this should not be implemented.

Law enforcement agencies in California, including the Santa Barbara Police Department, previously shared gang intelligence using a statewide database known as Cal Gang. The regulatory requirements of using any such shared gang database have increased over the years, governed in part by the Code of Federal Regulations 28, part 23, and more recently, California Penal Code Section 186.34-35 (January 1, 2017). The resources needed to maintain the requirements under the aforementioned statutes causes many agencies across the state to stop using such a database, therefore, Santa Barbara Police Department opted out of Cal Gang.

Shared gang intelligence is currently being accomplished between investigators or during regularly scheduled meetings.

Finding 6

Gang activities cross jurisdictional boundaries of local law enforcement agencies.

City Response: The City of Santa Barbara agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 6a

That the Santa Barbara County District Attorney form a consortium including the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, the Santa Barbara County Probation Department and the Police Departments of Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Guadalupe to hire a full-time crime analyst and share data to reduce gang crime.

City Response: Will not be implemented.

Gang activities do occasionally cross jurisdictional boundaries; however, the overwhelming majority of gang violence that occurs in the City of Santa Barbara is committed by juvenile gang members who live in Santa Barbara.

Due to COVID-19 the City of Santa Barbara is experiencing budget shortfalls and as a result had to balance its fiscal year 2021 budget with a series of citywide layoffs, labor concessions and the use of policy reserves. Due to the uncertainty of the current economic climate, the Santa Barbara Police Department is not in the position to hire a crime analyst as it would lead to the diversion of funds from existing programs or eliminate a current position.

Recommendation 6b

That the Santa Barbara County District Attorney form a consortium including the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, the Santa Barbara County Probation Department and the Police Departments of Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Guadalupe and hire staff that would apply for grants to fund anti-gang programs.

City Response: Cannot be fully implemented at this time.

Due to budgetary shortfalls from COVID-19, the Santa Barbara Police Department cannot afford hiring or contribute to the hiring of grant writers. However, the City can use current staff to submit grant applications as part of their job responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Cathy Murillo
City of Santa Barbara

