



October 7, 2020

The Honorable Michael Carrozzo
Superior Court Presiding Judge
County of Santa Barbara
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Grand Jury Report "Juveniles in Gangs in Santa Barbara County"

Dear Judge Carrozzo:

The 2019-20 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury released a report following a study of gang incidents within Santa Barbara County. The report is entitled, "Juvenile Gangs in Santa Barbara County, Has Accountability Been Forgotten?" The report provided information on how law enforcement agencies within the County deal with gang incidents. A response for each agency's relevant findings and recommendations is required.

The following responses from the Lompoc Police Department are in accordance with California Penal Code 933.05.

Finding 1:

No comprehensive database exists to identify gang and gang memberships.

Response: Agree

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.

Response: Will not be implemented

In 2018 AB 90 was introduced to mandate a moratorium on the use of the Cal Gang database until the Attorney General certified that the purge required by statute had been completed. As a result, the requirements enacted by regulations made it a challenge to use and maintain the database that had been shared by agencies for decades. Additionally, a recent audit and complaint investigation of a major California law enforcement agency has called the accuracy of the database into question. Based upon

these current concerns and the burden of maintaining a comprehensive database it does not appear to be prudent to develop a county wide database.

Finding 6

Gang Activities cross jurisdictional boundaries of local law enforcement agencies.

Response: Agree

Recommendation 6a

That the Santa Barbara County District Attorney form a consortium including the Santa Barbara Sheriffs' 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.

Response: Will not be implemented

Although the potential for gang activity to cross jurisdictional boundaries exists, it is more of an anomaly than a common occurrence. Nonetheless, it is a sound practice for agencies to have ongoing dialogue and communication regarding gang crime trends. There is currently a proposal to reinstitute monthly meetings for detective personnel within the County. Another challenge is the current staffing level of the Lompoc Police Department that led to the suspension of the gang enforcement unit. It is anticipated that the gang unit will not be reactivated for another year.

The use of a crime analyst would be beneficial but the current pandemic, coupled with the uncertainty of the effect it may have on the economy and anticipated budget deficits, would not make it a feasible venture at this time. Additionally, the restrictions and requirements that were previously stated for maintaining a shared database would also be applicable for this proposed position.

Recommendation 6b

That the Santa Barbara County District Attorney form a consortium including the Santa Barbara County Sheriffs' 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.

Response: Will not be implemented

The cost of this position would be shared by the members of the consortium. Given the current economic forecast and uncertainty, it is unlikely that all of the members would be able to contribute to this position because of potential layoffs and the priorities of filling existing vacant positions. The Lompoc Police Department currently has 6 sworn positions that are vacant and are the hiring priority for the department. Additionally, Lompoc has a dedicated grant writer that has been tasked to pursue and identify public safety grants.

Finding 7

The Lompoc Police Department's radio system is not secure and gang members are able to listen to police communications.

Response: Agree

Recommendation 7

That the Lompoc City Council fund a new and secure radio system for the Lompoc Police Department.

Response: Will not be implemented

The current radio system is outdated; however, the system is accessible due to current technology and multiple applications. The Department has been evaluating several radio systems and is currently obtaining quotes from potential vendors. Until a funding source is identified it is unlikely that the radios will be replaced. Preliminary estimates are in excess of \$1,000,000. Additionally, the acquisition of new radios has been downgraded as the top equipment priority due to public demand that the Department equip all officers with body cameras. Additionally, Lompoc has a dedicated grant writer that has been tasked to pursue and identify public safety grants.

Sincerely,


Jenelle Osborne, Mayor
City of Lompoc

- c. Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Santa Barbara County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- c. Honorable Lompoc Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members
Jim Throop, City Manager