Office of the Sheriff

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

BILL BROWN
Sheriff-Coroner

BRAD WELCH
Undersheriff

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November 5, 2026

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT of CALIFORNIA
COUNTY of SANTA BARBARA
11/16/2026
Angela Braun, Executive Officer
BY M. Hanson Deputy Clerk
M. Hanson

Gwen Rigby
Foreperson, SBC Grand Jury
Santa Barbara County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
grigby@sbcourts.org

Re: Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report Entitled *GANGS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY: Should the Schools Do More to Address Them?"*

Dear Foreperson Rigby,

Enclosed is the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response to the 2025 – 2026 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report entitled " *GANGS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY: Should the Schools Do More to Address Them?"*

As requested in the report, the Sheriff's Office responds to Finding 1, Recommendation 1b.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at (805) 681-4290.

Sincerely,

BILL BROWN
Sheriff – Coroner

Enclosure: The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response to the 2025 – 2026 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report entitled, "*GANGS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY: Should the Schools Do More to Address Them?"*

STATIONS

Buellton
140 W. Highway 246
Buellton, CA 93427
Phone (805) 686-8150

Carpinteria
5775 Carpinteria Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 684-4561

Isla Vista
6504 Trigo Road
Isla Vista, CA 93117
Phone (805) 681-4179

Lompoc
3500 Harris Grade Road
Lompoc, CA 93436
Phone (805) 737-7737

New Cuyama
70 Newsome Street
New Cuyama, CA 93254
Phone (661) 766-2310

Santa Maria
812-A W. Foster Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Phone (805) 934-6150

Solvang
1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463
Phone (805) 686-5000

Sheriff - Coroner Office
66 S. San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4146

Main Jail
4436 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4260

Northern Branch Jail
2301 Black Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) -554-3100

COURT SERVICES CIVIL OFFICES

Santa Barbara Division
1105 Santa Barbara Street
P O Box 690
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
Phone (805) 568-2900

Santa Maria Division
312 E. Cook Street, "O"
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Phone (805) 346-7430

RESPONSE TO THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

GRAND JURY 2025-26 REPORT

GANGS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY:

Should the Schools Do More to Address Them?

Finding 1: *"Many student fights occur in the areas surrounding school campuses before and after school hours, outside school supervision, leaving a gap in County schools' responses."*

RESPONSE: Agree

Recommendation 1b: *"The Grand Jury recommends that local law enforcement agencies, in conjunction with school districts, create policies and programs to extend the safe space for students to go to or from home."*

RESPONSE: Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation.

Although the Santa Barbara Sheriff's office recognizes the importance of the safety of our county's youth, our agency is currently insufficiently funded and staffed to implement this recommendation. While the primary responsibility for protecting young people rests with their parents and schools, our organization has historically sponsored a number of programs and assignments that provide additional safety and enrichment for young people. These have included D.A.R.E., (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), which focused on drug abuse and violence prevention; the Law Enforcement Explorer Program, which provided young people with an inside look at law enforcement operations and a potential career path; and School Resource Deputies (SRD), who provide protection and mentorship for young people in middle and high school settings.

DARE: D.A.R.E was provided for elementary schools who partnered with us to provide drug, violence, and gang prevention training. It started as a full-time law enforcement

program with two deputies teaching in local schools. The program then migrated to a part-time program taught by one retired sheriff's deputy. D.A.R.E. training in Santa Barbara County areas was ultimately transferred to the National Guard when that deputy retired. Ongoing budget constraints precluded assigning a new deputy to the position.

Explorer Program: This program was established in the early 1970's with Explorer Post 830 in the south county and Explorer Post 32 in the north county. While being mentored by full-time sheriff deputies after school hours at offsite locations, these programs provided law enforcement exposure and experiences for participants between the ages of 14 and 20. These Explorer posts provided opportunities to participate in community events around the county and in Explorer competitions around the state. These programs went on hiatus earlier this year due to ongoing budget and staffing constraints.

School Resource Deputies: Duties include assignment to a school, and interacting with its students, staff, and associated community groups during school hours, as well as patrolling the surrounding community before and after school hours. Over the years, several of the school districts located in areas where the Sheriff's Office provides front-line law enforcement service have recognized the value and importance of having school resource officers on campus, and they have contracted with the Sheriff's Office for school resource deputies. Previously, the Sheriff's Office employed SRDs in school districts in the unincorporated areas and within our contract cities. Historically, these have included Ernest Righetti High School and Delta High School in Orcutt, Cabrillo High School and Maple High School in Vandenberg Village, Santa Ynez High School and Refugio High School in the Santa Ynez Valley, Dos Pueblos High School in the City of Goleta, and San Marcos High School in the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara. Presently, SRDs are assigned to all of these schools with the exception of San Marcos High School, which stopped contracting for SRD services due to budget concerns. Although the Santa Barbara School District no longer contracts for these deputies, the City of Goleta now provides funding for one SRD at Dos Pueblos High School.

If funding were to become available, the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office would be happy to revive any or all of these important youth safety programs.