



Rob Howe
Sheriff/Coroner

LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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August 11, 2023

Honorable J. David Markham
Presiding Judge
Lake County Superior Courts
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

To the Honorable Judge J. David Markham,

I am writing this letter in accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05 as a response to the June 19th, 2023, final report from the Lake County Civil Grand Jury. I want to thank the Court for its role in facilitating this process, and to express my gratitude and appreciation for the Grand Jurors who dedicated many hours to provide this important service to our community. I welcome the opportunity to have oversight and feedback regarding the Sheriff's Office operations. My dedicated staff and I constantly strive to improve the professional services provided by this agency to the people of Lake County.

I had multiple interactions with members of the Grand Jury during the previous year, including multiple interviews with members, exchanges of numerous emails, and various interactions with members of the Grand Jury during public events. The commitment of this Grand Jury was evident in their efforts to investigate and report on governmental activities. I appreciate their efforts and commend their service.

In response to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report, the Lake County Sheriff's Office respectfully submits the following responses:

Name or Report: CORONER'S PROCEDURES FOR THE INDIGENT AND UNIDENTIFIED

Recommendation #R-1: "That the Sheriff fund a second Investigator. (F-1)"

NEUTRAL, requires further analysis to be completed within 12 months. Although I agree with the finding that the department and our citizens would benefit from the hiring of a second Coroner's Investigator, we are currently dealing with a critical staffing shortage. If, and when, our staffing improves to a level where basic services can be provided, I would be happy to consider adding this position.

Name or Report: SEX TRAFFICKING: HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT.

Recommendation # R-1: "That the Lakeport Police Department, Clearlake Police Department, and the Sheriff's Office provide annual training on Trafficking for their officers and staff. (F-1, F-2, F-3)"

AGREE, has been implemented. Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) already requires human trafficking training, as well as part of recurring "perishable skills" training. In addition to that, the Sheriff's Office currently has two sergeants and two deputies that belong to a Human Trafficking Coalition. Those members do, and will continue to, provide annual training to Sheriff's Office Staff.

Name or Report: AMERICA IS BLEEDING: SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Recommendation R-2: "That School District officials and law enforcement officers include athletic events in their active shooter response plans. (F-3)

AGREE, has been implemented. The current Lake County Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedure Manual has a section (424.3.1) specific to "Response to School Threats". Under "Planning" in that section (424.5) "sporting event venues" is identified as a "critical incident target site".

Recommendation R-3: "That School District officials hire SROs and provide them with specialized training to better understand adolescent development and non-violent communication." (F-4)

NEUTRAL, requires further analysis to be completed within 12 months. Again, I agree with this finding and personally believe SROs are of tremendous value; however, we are dealing with a critical staffing shortage. We currently have four allocated SRO positions that will be filled when our staffing improves to a level where basic services can be provided. I am committed to assigning personnel to SRO positions.

Name or Report: GROW YOUR OWN

Recommendation R-1: "That Lake County establish an Associate Community Officer program targeting defined prospects and college students, between the ages of 18 through 21 and provide a paid internship (no benefits) for 20 hour a week." (F-1 and F-3)

AGREE, has been implemented. Although we do not have a position in the County titled Associate Community Officer, we are already currently actively recruiting (targeting) students, not only in our local community college, but in colleges throughout the State. We also already have part time positions available, training positions available (that require no education or experience beyond a high school diploma) and would welcome those interested in internship through a part time position.

Recommendation R-3: "That the County Sheriff cadet programs participants be a reflection of the community with regard to ethnicity and gender." (F-1)

AGREE, has been implemented. We reach out to, encourage and accept cadets into our explorer program from all facets of our community without discrimination of any kind.

Name or Report: LAKE COUNTY JAIL AND ARMORY TOUR

Recommendation R-1: "That the Lake County Sheriff's Department continue the grant request process to ensure receipt of the \$988,600 funding for the Lakeport Armory Facility Repurposing Project. (F-2)

AGREE, has been implemented. The grant referenced is a California Office of Emergency Services (CALOES) Grant, specifically earmarked for Emergency Operation Center (EOC) planning, building or improvement. We have completed the application process and are waiting for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) final approval.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Howe
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Emergency Services Director
County of Lake