

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: Gangs of Marin
Report Date: May 14, 2008
Response by: Marin County Board of Supervisors

FINDINGS

- We agree with the findings numbered: 1, 3,4,5,6,7,9,10, 11
- We disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 2,8, 12

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations Numbered 1 and 3 have been implemented.
- Recommendation Numbered 2 will require further analysis.

Date: August 5, 2008

Signed:



Number of pages attached: 3

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

- F1. Marin has criminal street gangs, but they are small relative to the size of our population. Marin's gangs are less violent and their numbers are growing more slowly than in other Bay Area communities.

Response: Agree.

- F2. A weak family structure and a desire for a sense of belonging are undisputed factors leading to gang participation. Other attractions are money, power, sex, and drugs.

Response: Partially disagree.

While family structure does contribute to gang participation, it is important to note that there are other important social, educational, economic and cultural factors that can overwhelm family strengths or weaknesses. Much of the challenge facing youth and families relating to gang involvement is the result of unequal access to success through legitimate means.

- F3. Marin gangs are primarily based in Marin City, a corner of the canal neighborhood of San Rafael, and pockets of Novato.

Response: Agree.

- F4. It is important for property owners to remove graffiti immediately, because leaving "tags" in place concedes the area to the gang and encourages lawlessness.

Response: Agree.

- F5. The leaders of criminal street gangs are often inmates in state and federal prisons and dues from these neighborhood gangs are forwarded to these convicts.

Response: Agree.

- F6. The largest revenue stream of street gangs comes from drug sales. Some customers are from Marin's prosperous neighborhoods.

Response: Agree.

- F7. Other crimes by street gangs in Marin are auto theft, auto burglary, assault, robbery, and home invasion.

Response: Agree.

- F8. Marin's independent and collaborative gang-related law enforcement efforts significantly enhance public safety, but are subject to fiscal constraints. The 2008-09 budgets of the county's Probation and Sheriff Departments have

been reduced by five percent and may be further reduced once the 2008-09 budget is determined.

Response: Disagree in part. To date, the reductions in the Probation and Sheriff's Office budgets range from 3% to 5%. It should be noted, however, that additional reductions may need to occur if the pending State budget necessitates them.

- F9. **Law enforcement in Marin takes the control of gangs seriously: training and assigning gang specialists, including school officers; emphasizing both law enforcement and community service; implementing effective strategies and tactics; sharing information regularly across jurisdictions through monthly meetings of an informal task force; and joining together in temporary concentrations of effort.**

Response: Agree.

- F10. **Providing information about gangs is one of the ways of deterring them. Police agencies frequently provide speakers to schools, religious organizations and other community groups to inform them of the nature of gang activity in Marin and what can be done about it.**

Response: Agree.

- F11. **It is an uphill battle for schools and the community to persuade gang-prone youths not to turn in that direction while gangsta rap glorifies gang values and lifestyles.**

Response: Agree.

- F12. **Most actions which can discourage gang membership are the responsibility of family and neighbors.**

Response: Partially disagree.

Family and neighbors can and should play a significant role in discouraging gang membership. It is also important for the larger community -- education, law enforcement and others -- to support youth activities that discourage gang membership.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. **Cooperative planning and action among Marin's law enforcement agencies concerning control of street gangs, including the informal gang task force, continue to receive strong economic and community support and not be curtailed by the county's anticipated 2008-09 budget reductions.**

Response: Implemented.

Thus far, the budget reductions have not impacted the County's ability to continue to participate in this area.

- R2. Irrespective of fiscal constraints and budget cutbacks, current staffing levels of municipal, probation, schools and sheriff's officers with gang specialization or responsibility be maintained or increased in 2008-09 to continue the enhancement of public safety in Marin.**

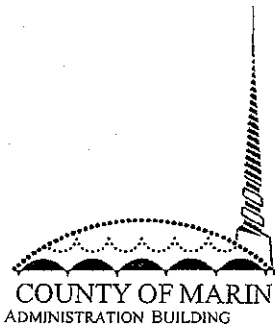
Response: Further analysis is needed.

While the identified budget reductions have not impacted the County's gang-related activities, the impact of State budget reductions remains unknown.

- R3. Educational presentations continue to be made by all law enforcement agencies to schools, religious organizations and other community groups to inform the Marin public about gangs and accordingly deter Marin gang activities.**

Response: Implemented.

County staff provide presentations to community and educational groups; for example, presentations at the School Law Enforcement Network under the direction of Superintendent Mary Jane Burke and Sheriff Robert Doyle.



THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIN

3501 CIVIC CENTER DR. SUITE 329
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94903-4193
TELEPHONE (415) 499-7331
FAX (415) 499-3645
TTY (415) 499-6172
www.co.marin.ca.us/bos

August 5, 2008

Honorable Verna Adams
Presiding Judge
Marin County Superior Court
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Judge Adams:

Forwarded herewith is the Marin County Board of Supervisors' response (incorporating those for the County Administrator and the Sheriff, District Attorney and Chief Probation Officer) to the 2007-2008 Civil Grand Jury Report, "Gangs of Marin." The Board of Supervisors' response addresses all Findings and Recommendations for which a response was requested from the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles McGlashan".

Charles McGlashan
President, Board of Supervisors

cc: Civil Grand Jury ✓

SUSAN L. ADAMS SAN RAFAEL 1ST DISTRICT	VICE-PRESIDENT HAROLD C. BROWN SAN ANSELMO 2ND DISTRICT	PRESIDENT CHARLES MCGLASHAN MILL VALLEY 3RD DISTRICT	STEVE KINSEY SAN GERONIMO 4TH DISTRICT	2ND VICE-PRESIDENT JUDY ARNOLD NOVATO 5TH DISTRICT	CLERK MATTHEW H. HYMEL
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