

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: Gangs in Marin

Report Date: May 14, 2008

Response by City Council, City of Novato

By: Daniel E. Keen, City Manager

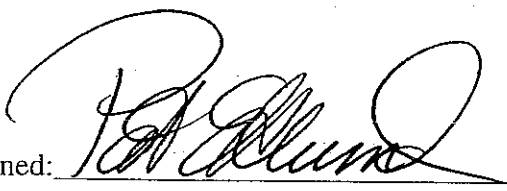
FINDINGS

- ~~I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1 - 11~~
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **n/a**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R1 - 3 have been implemented.
R1 The City of Novato currently participates in the co-operative planning and action described in the report.
R2 The City of Novato has not planned any cutbacks in its gang specialization activities.
R3 The City of Novato will continue its current educational presentations to inform the public about gangs and deter gang activities.
- Recommendations numbered ___ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. **n/a**
- Recommendations numbered ___ require further analysis. **n/a**
- Recommendations numbered ___ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable. **n/a**

Date: July 23, 2008

Signed: 

Pat Eklund, Mayor

Number of pages attached 2

MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY 2008 "GANGS OF MARIN" FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CITY OF NOVATO RESPONSE

The Grand Jury finds that:

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. **Agree**

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

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

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

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

F7. Other crimes by Street gangs in Marin are auto theft, auto burglary, assault, robbery, and home invasion. **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's Departments have been reduced by five percent and may be farther reduced once the 2008-09 budget is determined. **Agree**

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. **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. **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. **Agree**

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Grand Jury recommends that:

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. **Agree**

R2. Irrespective of fiscal constraints and budget cutbacks, current staffing levels of municipal, probation, school 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. **Agree**

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. **Agree**

REQUEST FOR RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05, the Grand Jury requests from the following governing bodies:

- County Board of Supervisors: **All Findings and Recommendations**
- City Council of San Rafael: **All Findings and Recommendations**
- City Council of Novato: **All Findings and Recommendations**
- Town Council of Corte Madera: **F9, F10, R1, R2, R3**
- City Council of Larkspur: **F9, F10, R1, R2, R3**
- City Council of San Anselmo: **F9, F10, R1, R2, R3**

from the following individuals:

- Sheriff Robert Doyle: **All Findings and Recommendations**
- Edward S. Berberian, Jr., District Attorney: **F9, F10, R1, R2, R3**



THE CITY OF
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City Manager
Daniel E. Keen

July 24, 2008

The Honorable Verna Adams
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Re: Grand Jury Report: "Gangs of Marin"

Dear Judge Adams:

The Novato City Council received the May 14, 2008 Grand Jury Report titled "*Gangs of Marin.*"

Thank you for the invitation to respond to the report. As required, the City Council considered this report at their July 22, 2008 meeting. As requested, one copy of the City Council response is enclosed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information or clarification.

Respectfully,

Pat Eklund
Mayor

M/4069

Enclosure