

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: Gangs in Marin

Report Date: May 14, 2008

Response by Town Council, Town of San Anselmo

By: _____

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered 1, 2 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: July 12, 2008 Signed: [Signature]

Number of pages attached _____

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: "Gangs of Marin"

Report Date: May 14, 2008

Response by: San Anselmo Town Council

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: **F9 and F10**
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed;
include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

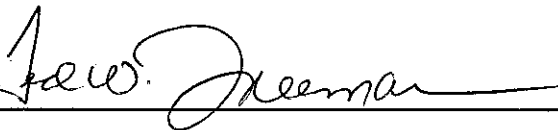
- Recommendations numbered **R3** have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered **R1 and R2** have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The County and Towns such as ours are currently in the budget process so the possibility of any cuts in service levels are not yet known.

- Recommendations numbered **N/A** require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered **N/A** will not be implemented because they are either not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Explanation attached)

Date: **June 26, 2008**

Signed: _____



Number of pages attached _____

San Anselmo Town Council's
Response to Findings and Recommendations from Grand Jury Report
"Gangs of Marin" May 14,2008

FINDINGS

- 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: The San Anselmo Town Council agrees with this finding.

Although, according to the findings of this packet, the increase in gangs and gang activity may be slower (proportionately) in the Marin area than in other areas, we feel that this is a bit misleading. There *is* an increase in gang activity in Marin County, even though proportionately, it may be less than the increase in other areas. In San Anselmo, even though we do not have a specific and active street gang at this time, we have seen an increase in the presence of gang members (particularly Surenos and Nortenos), gang affiliates, and gang-related crimes. Due to this trend, it is just as imperative, as is in other counties, that we continue to support and strengthen the response procedures, efforts, and multi-jurisdictional entities created and designed to address the concerns and ever-changing conditions associated with gangs in this area.

- 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: The San Anselmo Town Council agrees with this finding.

The first step in addressing gang problems is acknowledging that there is a gang problem. Police agencies need to continue to educate the community about gangs and their presence in the area. By increasing the awareness, on the part of the public at large, programs and deterring strategies can be implemented, strengthened, and continued. It is only through a strong strategic alliance with community members that gang elements can be identified, combated, and

effectively curbed. San Anselmo, which is fortunate enough (at the moment) not to have a specific and entrenched gang, actively participates in the monthly county-wide gang task force meetings and quarterly gang-suppression operations. We assist and learn from the actions and approaches taken on the part of other cities in Marin, in order to strengthen and achieve the goals of the task force and in hopes of facilitating a continual development and application of proven methods to our own community.

- R1** Cooperative planning and action among Marin's law enforcement agencies concerning control of street gangs, including 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: The San Anselmo Town Council agrees.

The informal gang task force is one of, if not *the*, most effective methods through which to address gang-related issues and to share information. The task force, in which the San Anselmo Police Department plays an active role, is dedicated to the development of a comprehensive mechanism to reduce gang-related violence and crime. To meet this goal, the unit has implemented prevention, intervention, and suppression program partnerships with law enforcement, criminal justice agencies, schools, youth service providers, and the public. The task force coordinates countywide anti-gang efforts and innovative collaborations, which include: the gathering and sharing of information on gang activity; crime prevention; investigative efforts; improved responses to needs and threats; and, gang abatement.

This practice should be maintained and strongly supported by law enforcement and the community alike. One could expect a staggering increase in financial and social costs and losses, directly tied with gang activity, if these task forces were not nurtured and continued.

- 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.

Response: The San Anselmo Town Council agrees.

The intimate knowledge and advanced skill sets acquired by these individuals is absolutely critical to the tackling of gang-related issues. Without the input and participation of personnel inside the schools, jails, detention centers, and courts we would be omitting or ignoring major assets and components on the "front line" of this problem.

- 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: The San Anselmo Town Council agrees.

Community awareness and alliance is absolutely necessary when addressing gang-related issues. Strong and healthy lines of communication between the neighborhoods and law enforcement agencies must be maintained at all times. Regular meetings between the 2 entities can help to produce the desired results. Dedicated officers (particularly those who are especially passionate about the surrounding issues) would also help to keep the lines open and provide some accountability, familiarity, and consistency for all of the involved parties.

The San Anselmo Police Department currently has an appointed detective who participates in the monthly gang task force meetings and quarterly gang-suppression operations. The detective relays the information that is presented and shared during these meetings to his fellow officers; in order to increase their gang-related knowledge and strengthen their skills sets. Additionally, the detective also speaks at school meetings and community functions (usually 1 or 2 times per quarter) about the topic of gangs and the impact that they are having on our community and our children. And, finally, our officers take active roles and take pride in community-related events and encourage a unified approach to problems that touch every individual in our Town and in Marin as a whole.

Ted Freeman
Mayor

Peter Breen
Vice Mayor



Ford Greene
Councilmember

Judy House
Councilmember

Barbara Thornton
Councilmember

525 San Anselmo Avenue, San Anselmo, CA 94960-2682
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July 9, 2008

Marin County Civil Grand Jury
Roberta Robinson, Foreperson
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Re: Responses to the May 14, 2008 Civil Grand Jury Report- "Gangs of Marin".

Dear Ms. Robinson:

The Town Council of the Town of San Anselmo has received a copy of the May 14, 2008 Grand Jury Report "*Gangs of Marin*".

As required, I have enclosed two (2) copies of the Town Council's response to Findings F9, F10, R1, R2, and R3.

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

Respectfully,


Ted Freeman
Mayor

July 12, 2008

Ted Freeman
Mayor

Peter Breen
Vice Mayor



Ford Greene
Councilmember

Judy House
Councilmember

Barbara Thornton
Councilmember

525 San Anselmo Avenue, San Anselmo, CA 94960-2682
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(415) 258-4600 | Fax (415) 459-2477

July 9, 2008

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

Re: Responses to the May 14, 2008 Civil Grand Jury Report- "Gangs of Marin".


Honorable Verna Adams:

The Town Council of the Town of San Anselmo has received a copy of the May 14, 2008 Grand Jury Report "*Gangs of Marin*".

As required, I have enclosed two (2) copies of the Town Council's response to Findings F9, F10, R1, R2 and R3.

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

Respectfully,


Ted Freeman
Mayor