



City of Coronado, California

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Commitment to Community Through Professionalism, Integrity, Respect and Teamwork"

July 11, 2024

San Diego County Grand Jury  
550 W. C Street 860  
San Diego, CA 92101-3513

Re: Grand Jury Report – Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Dear Judge Hallahan,

Pursuant to California Penal Code 933.05, the Coronado Police Department provides the below response to the applicable findings and recommendations included in the above reference Grant Jury Report.

## FINDINGS

**F1.** RSVP programs are an asset to local law enforcement agencies.

The Coronado Police Department agrees with the finding.

**F2.** RSVP personnel perform routine administrative tasks, allowing sworn personnel to perform other vital public safety actions.

The Coronado Police Department agrees with the finding.

**F3.** RSVP programs benefit significantly from having reliable equipment to provide quality services.

The Coronado Police Department agrees with the finding.

**F4.** Current RSVP recruitment does not always meet membership goals.

The Coronado Police Department disagrees wholly with the finding. Our department is achieving its objectives and maintaining its team. We've implemented strategies that promote success and foster an environment where members feel valued and supported, leading to effective retention.

**F5.** Training requirements are currently determined and, in many cases, conducted by individual jurisdictions, leading to potentially inconsistent policies and procedures throughout the County.

The Coronado Police Department partially agrees with the findings. Different jurisdictions have varying levels of service, unique municipal codes, and distinct types of calls. As a result,

RSVPs must adapt their policies and procedures accordingly. While this may lead to inconsistencies between agencies, it's a necessary aspect of providing tailored support to each jurisdiction.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1.** Collaborate to create a centralized two-week academy for new RSVP recruits across all law enforcement agencies.

**Response:** The recommendation will not be implemented.

A centralized two-week RSVP academy wouldn't be the best fit for our program or community at this time. The reason is that the work of our RSVPs varies significantly depending on the jurisdiction within the county. For example, different areas have different service levels, unique municipal codes, and specific types of calls that our RSVPs would need to handle. A one-size-fits-all academy wouldn't adequately prepare them for those differences.

The success of our RSVP training program relies heavily on our ability to quickly onboard new members as recruitment needs arise. Currently, we schedule our RSVP academy based on the number of volunteer applications we receive. Implementing a centralized two-week academy would delay onboarding new RSVPs, as we would have to wait for the academy dates to align with our recruitment timelines.

This flexibility in our training scheduling is crucial to the success of our program. By allowing for immediate onboarding of recruits, we can maintain our high level of service to the community. Delaying this process would jeopardize our ability to do so.

- R2.** Collaborate to develop and share recruiting best practices.

**Response:** The recommendation requires further analysis.

We need to gather input from surrounding RSVP programs to implement a system for developing and sharing recruiting best practices. This input would be crucial for facilitating discussions about the most effective strategies and methods. By collaborating with these programs and learning from their experiences, we could identify and establish a set of best practices that could be widely adopted and beneficial.

We will reach out to other agencies within the county to explore the possibility of developing and sharing recruiting best practices.

- R3.** Pursue outside funding sources for RSVP operations and acquisition of dedicated equipment.

**Response:** The recommendation will not be implemented.

The Coronado Police Department's RSVP program is fully funded by the City of Coronado, thanks to the support of the City Manager and City Council. The program's annual budget, which covers uniforms, equipment, vehicles, and training, is a valuable asset for both the department and the community.

The Support Services Sergeant and the RSVP Coordinator manages the program and their budget. The city's funding ensures the long-term sustainability of this vital program.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Grand Jury for collaborating with the Coronado Police Department and surrounding agencies. Their efforts in reviewing and providing recommendations will positively impact RSVP programs around the county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Martinez", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Martinez,  
Chief of Police