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THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
TODD GLORIA
MAYOR

RECEIVED
AUG 28 2024
PRESIDING

August 28, 2024

Honorable Maureen F. Hallahan
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
1100 Union Street, 10th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Grand Jury Report: "Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP) at San Diego Law Enforcement Agencies"

Dear Judge Hallahan:

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05(a), (b), and (c), the City of San Diego provides the attached response to the findings and recommendations included in the above-referenced Grand Jury Report.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kohta Zaiser, Council Affairs Advisor, at 619-236-6330.

Sincerely,

TODD GLORIA
Mayor
City of San Diego

Attachments:

1. City of San Diego Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled "Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP) at San Diego Law Enforcement Agencies"

cc: Jonathan Vinoskey, Foreperson, 2023/2024 San Diego County Grand Jury
 Honorable Council President Sean Elo-Rivera and Members of the City Council
 Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliot
 Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst
 Paola Avila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
 Eric Dargan, Chief Operating Officer
 Christiana Gauger, Chief Compliance Officer

**City of San Diego Response to
San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled
“Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP) at San Diego Law Enforcement Agencies”**

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933(c), the City of San Diego provides the following response from the Mayor to the applicable findings and recommendations included in the above referenced Grand Jury Report.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:

Finding 1: *RSVP programs are an asset to local law enforcement agencies.*

Response: The Mayor agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding.

Finding 2: *RSVP personnel perform routine administrative tasks allowing sworn personnel to perform other more vital public safety actions.*

Response: The Mayor agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding.

Finding 3: *RSVP programs benefit significantly from having reliable equipment to provide quality services.*

Response: The Mayor agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding.

Finding 4: *Current RSVP recruitment does not always meet membership goals.*

Response: The Mayor agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding.

RSVP positions are volunteer positions, and, therefore, the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) does not track “vacancies.” However, moving forward, SDPD would like to see the number of volunteers in the program return to pre-COVID levels of approximately 300 active volunteers. To assist in this effort, and as noted in the response to Recommendation 2, SDPD will reach out to other law enforcement agencies in the county to develop and share recruiting best practices.

Finding 5: *Training requirements are currently determined and, in many cases, conducted by individual jurisdictions, leading to potentially inconsistent policies and procedures throughout the County.*

Response: The Mayor agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 1: *The 2023/2024 Grand Jury recommends that all interviewed San Diego law enforcement agencies with RSVP programs collaborate to create a centralized two-week academy for new RSVP recruits across all law enforcement agencies.*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

In May 2022, SDPD executed an agreement with the San Diego County Sheriff (Sheriff) to participate in a regional two-week academy. These academies are held three times annually.

Recommendation 2: *The 2023/2024 Grand Jury recommends that all interviewed San Diego law enforcement agencies with RSVP programs collaborate to develop and share recruiting best practices.*

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

SDPD and the Sheriff collaborate on common recruiting techniques. There are no differences in approach or methodology. However, SDPD has begun contacting the other agencies in the county to discuss and implement this recommendation.

Recommendation 3: *The 2023/2024 Grand Jury recommends that all interviewed San Diego law enforcement agencies with RSVP programs pursue outside funding sources for RSVP operations and acquisition of dedicated equipment.*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

SDPD's Volunteer Services is currently researching sources of funding through local, state, and federal grant sources. SDPD periodically consults with the City's grant manager to research available grants. SDPD will also contact other agencies to explore other funding options. All potential funding sources will be pursued, and applications will be submitted on an ongoing basis.