



**CITY OF PACIFICA
COUNCIL AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT**

9/10/2018

SUBJECT:

Response to San Mateo Civil Grand Jury Report Titled "Law Enforcement Officers + Narcan = Lives Saved From Opioid Overdoses"

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the response to San Mateo Civil Grand Jury Report Titled "Law Enforcement Officers + Narcan = Lives Saved from Opioid Overdoses"

STAFF CONTACT:

Daniel Steidle, Chief of Police 650-738-7314
steidled@pacificapolice.org

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Early in California's history, the California Constitution established grand juries in each county. The California Penal Code provides for the formation of civil grand juries and their powers and duties. With respect to public agencies, grand juries are authorized to "Investigate and report upon the operations, accounts and records of the officers, departments, functions, and the method or systems of performing the duties of any such city or joint powers agency and make such recommendations as it may deem proper and fit" (California Penal Code Section 925a). Within 90 days after the Grand Jury submits a report regarding the operations of any public agency, the "Governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body..." (California Penal Code Section 933c).

On June 28, 2018, the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury issued a report titled "Law Enforcement Officers + Narcan = Lives Saved from Opioid Overdoses" (Attachment 1). The report is based on research conducted by the Civil Grand Jury regarding the increasing problem of opioid overdose. The report identified Naloxone (Commonly referred to as "Narcan," a brand name) as a drug that is administered by medical personnel, including fire department personnel, to save the lives of persons who have overdosed on an opioid. The report concludes that law enforcement personnel often arrive at the scene of an opioid overdose before fire department or ambulance personnel, and that the ability of officers to administer Narcan may save lives. The report also discusses that law enforcement personnel may also become exposed to opioids during the course of their duties. Identified as an increasingly present substance, Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, can be fatal in very small doses. With the increasing danger of Fentanyl exposure when coming into contact with illegal narcotics, the Pacifica Police Department has already changed policy regarding the handling of narcotics. Staff recently learned of a case from June 2018, when two members of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department members were saved after accidental exposure to Fentanyl while taking enforcement action in a motel room. In this case, Narcan was administered to both prior to arrival of medical personnel.

Between January 1, 2017 and August 20, 2018, there have been (4) drug related deaths in Pacifica that were believed to be accidental drug overdoses. In (3) of these deaths, opioid overdose was not listed by the San Mateo County Coroner as the cause of death. The results of

the fourth case are pending.

In a July 30, 2018 meeting attended by the members of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association, Dr. Greg Gilbert, San Mateo County EMS Medical Director, discussed the use of Narcan by San Mateo County law enforcement personnel. As EMS Director, Dr. Gilbert is charged with approving the purchase and use of Narcan by law enforcement agencies in San Mateo County. Dr. Gilbert will also approve the law enforcement policies for administering Narcan, as well as training received by law enforcement personnel. Dr. Gilbert stated that with proper training and policy in place, the administering of Narcan is safe. Dr. Gilbert concurred with the Civil Grand Jury report that the training required is minimal and can be accomplished within an hour.

Based on initial research, the cost to purchase Narcan and related items (storage cases, training kit, etc.) will be no more than \$3,000. The shelf life of Narcan is 18-24 months. To restock the drug upon expiration will cost approximately \$1500. These costs can be absorbed by the existing police department budget.

Law enforcement agencies in San Mateo County are looking to paramedic personnel for training in the use of Narcan. At the time of this report, it is believed this is the best avenue and can likely occur at little to no cost, other than staff time. The police department can adjust schedules to allow for officers to attend this training with little to no overtime costs.

Staff agrees with the findings and recommendations made by the Civil Grand Jury in this report. Further, staff believes that a Narcan program can be administered at a low cost to the City, and could potentially save the life of an officer or community member. Staff believes, given the minimal cost, the saving of only one life would render the program well worth its cost.

The City of Pacifica must respond to the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury regarding this report no later than September 26, 2018. Staff has prepared a response (Attachment 2), agreeing with the findings and recommendations in the report.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

Decline to accept the response to the San Mateo Civil Grand Jury and provide additional direction to staff.

RELATION TO CITY COUNCIL GOALS AND WORK PLAN:

Accepting the findings and recommendations in this report is in line with the City Council goal of **“Maintaining a Safe Community.”**

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of accepting this report and implementing a Narcan program at the Pacifica Police Department is approximately \$3,000 to start the program and approximately \$1,500 every 18-24 months.

ORIGINATED BY:

Police

ATTACHMENT LIST:

Attachment 1 -SMCO Civil Grand Jury Report (PDF)
Attachment 2 - SMCO Civil Grand Jury Response (DOCX)