



**CITY OF PACIFICA
COUNCIL AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT**

7/24/2017

SUBJECT:

Response to San Mateo County Grand Jury Report Titled "English is Not Our Only Language: Are Local Law Enforcement Agencies Providing Multilingual Access to Outreach Programs?"

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Move to approve the response to the San Mateo County Grand Jury Report Titled "English is Not Our Only Language: Are Local Law Enforcement Agencies Providing Multilingual Access to Outreach Programs?"

STAFF CONTACT:

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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" (Cal. Pen. 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..." (Cal. Pen. Code Section 933c).

On June 29, 2017, the San Mateo County Grand Jury issued a report titled "English is Not Our Only Language: Are Local Law Enforcement Agencies Providing Multilingual Access to Outreach Programs?" (Attachment 1) The report is based on research conducted by the Grand Jury regarding San Mateo County law enforcement agencies and their community outreach programs. Specifically, the Grand Jury sought to determine how, or if, San Mateo County law enforcement agencies have modified their outreach efforts to include the non-English speaking population.

Based on its research, the Grand Jury issued two recommendations, only one of which was applicable to the Pacifica Police Department. The applicable recommendation was to modify police department websites to include multilingual translation capability to potentially increase access and participation in outreach programs by non-English speaking residents by December 31, 2017. During the reconstruction of the City of Pacifica website in 2016, this item was addressed and is currently in place of the Pacifica Police Department home page.

Each city is required to respond to the findings and recommendations in the Grand Jury report by September 27, 2017, and the response must be approved by the governing body at a public

meeting. Attachment 2 is the response for the Council's consideration to transmit to the Grand Jury.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

Decline to approve the response to the Grand Jury and provide staff with further direction.

RELATION TO CITY COUNCIL GOALS AND WORK PLAN:

The Council goal of “**A Connected Community**” is served by providing multilingual access to information regarding programs contained on the Pacifica Police Department website.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to approving the response to the Grand Jury report.

ORIGINATED BY:

Police

ATTACHMENT LIST:

- Attachment 1-San Mateo County Grand Jury Report (PDF)
- Attachment 2-CITY OF PACIFICA Response Grand Jury Report (PDF)