

REQUIRED RESPONSE FORM

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*Grand Jury Report Title* : School Safety – A Priority

*Report Dated* : June 3, 2020

*Your Response is REQUIRED no later than 60 days from the report date.*

*I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:*

X I (we) agree with the Findings numbered:

F2, F4, F5

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I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered below, and have *attached* a statement specifying any portion of the Finding that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore.

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*I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the report as follows:*

X The following Recommendation(s) have have been implemented and attached, as requested, is a summary describing the implemented actions:

R1, R2, R3

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The following Recommendation(s) have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future; attached, as requested, is a time frame for implementation:

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The following Recommendation(s) require further analysis and attached, as requested, is an explanation and the scope and parameters of the planned analysis, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared, discussed and approved by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed: (This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)

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- The following Recommendations will NOT be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not deemed reasonable; attached, as requested, is an explanation therefore:
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*I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as requested the following number of pages to this response form:*

Number of Pages attached: 2

*I understand that responses to Grand Jury Reports are public records. They will be posted on the Grand Jury website: [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury). The clerk of the responding agency is required to maintain a copy of the response.*

*I understand that I must submit this signed response form and any attachments as follows:*

**First Step:** E-mail in pdf file format to:

The Grand Jury Foreperson at:  
[grandjury@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:grandjury@mendocinocounty.org)  
The Presiding Judge:  
[grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov](mailto:grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov)

**Second Step:** Mail all originals to:

Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 939  
Ukiah, California 95482

Printed Name: Justin Wyatt

Title: Chief of Police

Signed: 

Date: 7/29/2020

Ukiah Police Department Narrative Response to Grand Jury Report; School Safety  
– A Priority

**FINDINGS**

F2. *Standard operating procedures for emergency services personnel is an “All Hands-on Deck” response.*

When staffing allows the Ukiah Police Department deploys two School Resource Officers during the school year, stationed at the Ukiah High School and Pomolita Middle School. These officers participate in various trainings and provide immediate response to safety concerns at all schools within the City Limits. These officers work with allied law enforcement personnel to provide optimum response times and support attendance and safety at all schools in the surrounding area.

All Ukiah Police Department personnel participate in regular training conducted in-house as well as with other County agencies on response to active violence on school grounds, and are prepared to respond with allied law enforcement and with the highest priority to a serious safety concern or substantial threat of active violence at any school in the area. Additionally, the Ukiah Police Department works with and supports local schools during lockdown drills conducted on-campus.

Two Ukiah Police Officers are members of the County-wide SWAT Team and participate in regular training and call-outs to all areas of the County. The SWAT Team focuses training on active threats and high-risk incident response.

F4. *Due to the County’s geographic challenges, including cities and remote rural areas, there is no optimum incident response time by emergency services personnel. According to a 2013 FBI Study, almost 70% of gun related active assailant events, last just 5 minutes. A third of those last fewer than two minutes.*

By having Ukiah Police School Resource Officers on-campus at select campuses during school hours, and because these officers are familiar with all school campuses in the area, these officers can usually be on-scene very quickly or immediately depending upon the campus, to an active threat. Additionally, these officers can coordinate the response of responding allied law enforcement and communicate directly with school officials during the crucial first few minutes of an event.

F5. *Response time to an incident of five minutes or more is not acceptable. According to a 20103 FBI study, almost 70% of gun related active assailant events, last just five minutes. A third of those last fewer than two minutes.*

The Ukiah Police Department strives to provide or support an optimum response to safety issues and active threats to school campuses within and outside of its jurisdiction.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*R1. The BOS work with the County Sheriff's Department to develop a plan inclusive of law enforcement agencies (city, county, state) to place an officer in a locale where the average campus incident response time should be no greater than five minutes, (F1-F2, F4-F5)*

The Ukiah Police Department is prepared to respond with the highest priority to any call of an active threat on any school campus. Additionally, Ukiah Police Department personnel will respond to any area to provide general law enforcement services to supplant allied law enforcement responding to school violence within their jurisdiction.

Through participation in county-wide training events with allied law enforcement the Ukiah Police Department has participated in planning strategic responses to school sites, and officers are prepared to join forces and deploy onto and into a campus to address an active threat in the most expeditious manner.

*R2. The MCOE work with the BOS to develop a strategic plan for the most expeditious response time to any school site incident, (F1-F5)*

Ukiah Police, City of Ukiah and Ukiah Unified School District members and school officials support and work closely around training, expectations, and strategic response to school site incidents.

*R3. Ongoing lines of communication among MCOE, school districts and first responders be maintained, (F2-F4)*

Ukiah Police Department School Resource Officers have special training and experience in handling situations at school, and work with school officials towards a safe and secure environment. SRO's interact with teaching staff, parents, and students from the entire Ukiah Valley and beyond who attend schools within Ukiah. These officers help in addressing attendance problems and communicate safety issues with students and parents while preventing inappropriate or dangerous behavior on campus.

The presence of SRO's enhances the perception of safety on campus as they help prevent disruption, crime, and violence in schools through proactive and preventative interventions. Their presence deters trespassing and the Ukiah Police SRO program incorporates a K-9 trained in drug and firearm detection. These factors serve to enhance a safe and productive learning environment.

Ukiah Police SRO's serve as mentors and role models and develop relationships with students through counseling and guidance. This interaction serves to further trust of law enforcement and enhances students taking responsibility for their community and promotes positive social behaviors.

As a small and connected community and regardless of rank or responsibility, all levels of professional educators and law enforcement personnel communicate regularly in the roles of their respective professions, as parents, and as community members about a very vast array of topics surrounding schools and students, to include safety.