



Willits Police Department

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(707) 459-6122 • Fax (707) 459-0405

“FOR THE PEOPLE”

July 30, 2020

County of Mendocino Grand Jury
Willits Police Department
School Safety Report Response
Post Office Box 939
Ukiah, Calif. 95482

Dear Mendocino County Grand Jury Members,

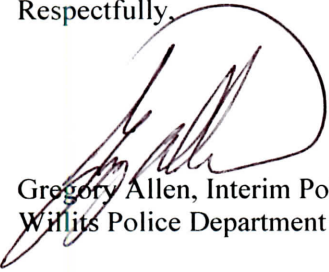
This correspondence is the Willits Police Department response to your Mendocino County Grand Jury Report of June 3, 2020 related to **School Safety-A Priority**. I have reviewed your Grand Jury Summary, Background, Discussion and Findings on this important topic, and we **concur** with your conclusions and findings relative to prioritizing school Safety. Pursuant to *California Penal Code 933.05*, your recommendations have been implemented by us. Student victimization, teen suicide rates and overall school safety concerns remain ongoing concerns of the Willits Police Department. We remain committed to school safety enhancements and continue to work in partnership with our schools as well as community-based groups, local, County, State and Federal agencies and first responders to prioritize school safety.

Due to fiscal realities currently experienced by both our City and our local schools, it has been necessary for our schools to temporarily suspend funding of our School Resource Officer (SRO) program, which was an important component of our school safety program. The additional challenge of the Covid-19 Health Crisis has further complicated our collective responses to school safety and identification of potential student mental health issues related to depression and suicide. The current ‘shut down’ of schools and our new reality of online student learning have created additional challenges. Despite the loss of our School Resource Officer position, the Willits Police Department has been awarded a new Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant by the Department of Justice (DOJ). This newly funded police officer position will assist us in enhancing community education and outreach, and will serve as our school safety liaison until such time as the School Resource Officer (SRO) position is restored. We will continue school emergency response education and training for students and faculty on “active shooter” and related student safety issues. We remain in contact with our school officials, and the

Willits Police Department's response times to schools is well below acceptable required response times. On any given weekday we a deploy a maximum of three (3) officers on day shift, but work in close partnership with the Mendocino County Sheriffs to augment our response to critical incidents.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in prioritizing school safety here in the City of Willits and in Mendocino County. Should you require additional information, please contact Lieutenant Derek Hendry at (707) 459-6122.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Allen', written over a circular stamp or seal that is mostly obscured by the signature.

Gregory Allen, Interim Police Chief
Willits Police Department

REQUIRED RESPONSE FORM

Page 1 of 2

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:

I (we) agree with the Findings numbered:
ALL FINDINGS

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.

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

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

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: N/A

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) N/A

REQUIRED RESPONSE FORM

Page 2 of 2

N/A

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:

I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as requested the following number of pages to this response form:

Number of Pages attached: _____

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. 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:

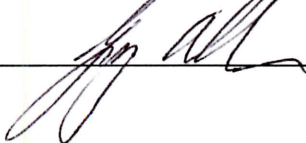
Second Step: Mail all originals to:

The Grand Jury Foreperson at:
grandjury@mendocinocounty.org
The Presiding Judge:
grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov

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

Printed Name: GREGORY ALLEN

Title: INTERIM POLICE CHIEF, WILKITS PD

Signed: 

Date: 7-30-2020