



EDWIN M. LEE
MAYOR

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

THOMAS J. CAHILL HALL OF JUSTICE
850 BRYANT STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-4603



GREGORY P. SUHR
CHIEF OF POLICE

August 14, 2013

The Honorable Cynthia Ming-mei Lee
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of San Francisco
400 McAllister Street, Room 008
San Francisco, CA 94102-4512

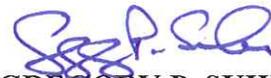
Dear Judge Lee:

I am pleased to offer the San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) response to the 2012 – 2013 Civil Grand Jury report entitled "Golden Gate Park's Homeless Population – Are San Francisco's Policies Serving Us Well?" The SFPD's response to the report's findings and recommendations are set forth in the accompanying attachment.

The SFPD appreciates the work done by the Civil Grand Jury as it relates to the safety of our city's public. The SFPD continues to work in conjunction with City agencies, as well as private organization, to provide outreach services to those in need, including the homeless population. We are committed to continuing these partnerships and are always open to suggestions on how our efforts can be improved to better meet the needs of the public we serve.

I thank the 2012 - 2013 Civil Grand Jury for its efforts in improving San Francisco government, the public's safety, and the overall quality of life in our city. I am grateful for the opportunity for the SFPD to participate in this initiative.

Sincerely,


GREGORY P. SUHR
Chief of Police

/cf

Attachment

c: Martha M. Mangold, Foreperson, Civil Grand Jury
Government Audit Clerk, Office of the Clerk of the Board
Mayor's Office of Public Policy and Finance

**SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT
RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT**

Golden Gate Park's Homeless Population

Recommendations

#3 - The City should establish a system to track its outreach efforts among park dwellers and use the information to evaluate effectiveness in reducing the number of park dwellers.

SFPD Response: Partially disagree – limited implementation

The City (SFPD and Park Rangers) do not have a current tracking system of the individuals that are contacted and what services are offered and if they accept those services.

Since this tracking system is for the benefit for interaction with park dwellers with social services, the Department of Public Health currently has a system in place. **CCMS, Coordinated Case Management System**, which already has data imputed from DPH, Fire, Police, Jail Health Services, Direct Access and HOT in order to track the case management of their clients.

Although the police department would not be able to pull information from this data base because of HIPPA Rules, they could be afforded data entry rights. This will also give us a better understanding of the locations in Golden Gate Park that are most frequented by the homeless population and determine if the encampments are long or short term commitments.

#5 - The SFPD and Park Patrol should expand their outreach to GGP Encampments to more areas of the park and should vary their time.

SFPD Response: Partially disagree – Implemented; the time of outreach will only be varied when staffing allows and only within daylight hours.

The City (SFPD and Park Rangers) currently work together daily (4:00 am) and respond to targeted areas where the station captains receive complaints. Officers are aware of certain areas of the park that attract the homeless population and they also target those areas. The start is 4:00 am in order to locate those individuals who are camping/sleeping in the park.

In the past, SF HOT/Engagement Specialist Team had partnered with the police and park rangers to reach out to those individuals and offer services and shelter.

We should again partner with the HOT/EST for outreach in Golden Gate Park on a routine basis.

With limited number of officers and rangers and the size of Golden Gate Park, they literally run out of time in their quest to locate individuals and offer them services.

Recreation and Park divide the park into six service areas; the department will focus on all of those service areas when conducting outreach and enforcement. We believe for personal safety issues with regards to lighting, the outreach and enforcement times should continue at 4:00 am and not vary the time any sooner. The department could provide outreach during the evening hours, prior to darkness when all agencies' staffing is available.