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TRINIDAD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Kenneth J. Thrailkill
Chief of Police

June 28, 2007

Jim Snow, Foreman
Humboldt County Grand Jury
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Dear Mr. Jim Snow,

I am in receipt of your request dated June 28, 2007 for response to the Grand Jury Report regarding the issue of #2007-LJ-02 Police Use of Force.

The Trinidad Police Department response is as follows:

Finding #1:

The Grand Jury finds that training in the use of less than lethal force is inadequate, ineffective and secondary to required training in the use of force and defensive tactics.

Response:

The Trinidad Police Department ***disagrees*** with finding#1 as the Trinidad Police Department subscribes to the standards of P.O.S.T. (California Peace Officer Standards & Training) training requirements.

Recommendation #1

The Grand Jury Recommends that police department and Sheriff's Office training sessions in the Ethical Use of Force, and other training dealing with less than lethal force, be done with training facilitators and made interactive. This training should include trainee evaluation and be included in the trained officer's personnel records.

Response:

The Trinidad Police Department utilizes the P.O.S.T. forced option simulation training which addresses not only deadly force, but applying the appropriate application of lethal and non-lethal force. This training is P.O.S.T. certified and documented and recorded in the personnel file. The Trinidad Police Department will soon be implementing a daily training bulletins which are daily testing of officers on the appropriate application of high risk events, such as use of force, pursuit driving, etc... this is to help the officer have a complete understanding of the implications and applications of department policy with their decision making in the field.

Finding #2:

The Grand Jury finds that Tasers are not adequately deployed:

Response:

The Trinidad Police Department **agrees** with finding #2 as the department was limited as to the number of Tasers available to officers due to the expensive costs of purchasing the necessary equipment and could not provide Tasers to all officers.

Recommendation #2

The Grand Jury recommends that all law enforcements agencies adopt the policy that all patrol officers be trained in the use of Tasers and required to carry them on patrol.

Response:

The Trinidad Police Department **agrees** with Recommendation # 2. The Trinidad Police Department and the Trinidad City Council has added approximately \$4,000 to the 2007/2008 police budget to purchase Tasers to outfit all patrol officers.

Finding #3:

The Grand Jury recommends that all county police agencies, except Rio Dell, explore sources of funding for acquiring Tasers for all patrol officers:

Response:

The Trinidad Police Department **agrees** with finding #3 and has already been addressed by the Trinidad Police Department and the Trinidad City Council.

Recommendation #3

The Grand Jury finds that Tasers are expensive tools costing approximately \$1,000 each.

Response:

The Trinidad Police Department **agrees** with recommendation #3 but believes that the savings of loss of life or injuries to officers or suspects will outweigh the expense of having such devices.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Thrailkill

Kenneth J. Thrailkill
Chief of Police

Cc: Trinidad City Council
Gabe Adams, City Clerk