

San Diego Police Department Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report

Entitled

Senior Volunteers: A Valuable Asset in Times of Economic Stress

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section §933 (c), the San Diego Police Department provides the following responses to the findings and recommendations included in the above referenced Grand Jury Report:

FINDINGS

Finding 01: *Use of senior volunteer patrol personnel allows sworn officers to spend more time performing public safety-related tasks. Response: The City partially disagrees with the finding.*

The San Diego Police Department agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

Finding 02: *Senior volunteer patrol programs are a valuable asset to the community.*

The San Diego Police Department agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 14-37: *Continue senior volunteer programs already in place, expanding them whenever practical.*

Response: The San Diego Police Department agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

The San Diego Police Department Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) currently has approximately 360 working RSVP's. The RSVP's perform many non-confrontational duties, allowing sworn officers more time to respond to more serious calls and duties.

The RSVP's perform a variety of duties, some of these duties include: Patrolling the city in a marked RSVP car as extra eyes and ears of the Department, providing citizen assistance, vacation house checks, child identification fingerprinting, traffic diversion, Neighborhood Watch, enforcing disabled parking regulations, You Are Not Alone program (YANA), marking and assisting in abating unattended or abandoned vehicles, bicycle registration, security surveys (target hardening), clerical duties, stranger/danger presentations, senior safety presentations, and transporting City Attorney and District Attorney Investigative Packages.

RSVP's will only perform those tasks that they have been trained for and are comfortable performing. Not all of the above tasks are covered in the initial RSVP training academy and members may have to attend additional training, either at the area command or through the Office of Volunteer Services.

The RSVP Academy consists of forty (40) hours of training. After completion of the academy, RSVP's have an additional three (3) days of divisional specific training provided by three different RSVP trainers at their assigned command.

The Volunteer Services Unit is responsible for coordinating the Department-wide operation of the RSVP program. The unit develops, coordinates and facilitates the Department-wide training syllabus for use by all RSVP programs, including but not limited to the basic academy, field training program, annual update training and command-specific training as needed.

All Department members and volunteers are encouraged to recruit members for the RSVP program. The RSVP program is self-recruiting and the RSVP's are highly encouraged to recruit future members while engaged in their daily operations. The RSVP's are extremely valuable members of our Department and we greatly appreciate their hard work and dedication.