



CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Founded 1856

Incorporated December 12, 1903

August 20, 2008

COUNCIL

Mayor
Harry T. Price
(707) 428-7395

Vice-Mayor
John Mraz
(707) 429-6298

Councilmembers
(707) 429-6298

Frank Kardos

Chuck Timm

Matt Garcia

...

City Manager
Sean Quinn
(707) 428-7400

...

City Attorney
Greg Stepanicich
(707) 428-7419

...

City Clerk
Arletta Cortright
(707) 428-7384

...

City Treasurer
Oscar G. Reyes, Jr.
(707) 428-7497

DEPARTMENTS

Community Services
(707) 428-7465

...

Finance
(707) 428-7496

...

Fire
(707) 428-7375

...

Human Resources
(707) 428-7394

...

Planning & Development
(707) 428-7461

...

Police
(707) 428-7551

...

Public Works
(707) 428-7485

Ramona Garrett
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94534

Dear Judge Garrett:

This letter is in response to the Grand Jury request dated June 12, 2008 regarding Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District Student Discipline. The Fairfield Police Department (Department) has collaborated with Roxanne Rice, Director of Secondary Education, at the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (District) in our response to the Grand Jury's request and we have determined that the response to Findings 1, 3, 4, and 5 are more appropriately addressed by the District. The District's response will be coordinated by Ms. Rice and sent in a separate letter. The Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations are listed below along with our response.

Finding 1 – The number of incidents involving student suspensions has increased in the middle and high schools of the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District.

Recommendation 1 – The Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District should work with the faculty, staff and parents to increase the number of intervention and support programs to prevent suspensions.

Response to Finding and Recommendation 1:

This recommendation addresses an issue better answered by the District due to the fact that any change they may choose to implement could require a change to their policies, procedure or practices. The District's response will be sent in a separate letter.

Finding 2 – A settlement agreement dated June 5, 2007 was entered into between the City of Fairfield and some Rodriguez High School parents. This agreement governs interactions between the Fairfield Police Department and high school students. It also includes all other schools with full-time resource officers and students enrolled in the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District.

Recommendation 2 – Expand the principles underlying the Settlement Agreement to include part-time School Resource Officers at all middle and other high schools within the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District.

Response to Finding and Recommendation 2:

The incident at Rodriguez High School deeply concerned the Department and prompted the Settlement Agreement. In response, the Department revised its policies to ensure that these issues will not rise again. However, the Settlement Agreement is more restrictive than Federal and California law, and these additional restrictions have made it more difficult for our officers to carry out their duties relative to high school students. Therefore, the Department does not see the need to expand the scope of the current Settlement Agreement at this time, nor is it obligated to do so.

Finding 3 – The provisions of this Settlement Agreement apply to members of the Fairfield Police Department who interact with students within the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District.

Recommendation 3 – The Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District should work with other law enforcement agencies within the District to inform them about the underlying principles of the Settlement Agreement.

Response to Finding and Recommendation 3:

This recommendation addresses an issue better answered by the District. Our Department, the District and Suisun Police Department have had discussions about how, if at all, the Settlement Agreement affects the Suisun Police Department. The District's response will be sent in a separate letter.

Finding 4 – The 2007-2008 Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District Parent/Student Handbook does not include the specific provisions for the Fairfield Police Department and its interactions with students.

Recommendation 4 – The Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District should ensure that the 2008-2009 Parent/Student Handbook includes the underlying principles of the Settlement Agreement.

Response to Finding and Recommendation 4:

This recommendation addresses an issue better answered by the District. The material included in the Parent/Student handbook is a decision made by the District. The District's response will be sent in a separate letter.

Finding 5 – The provisions of the Settlement Agreement affecting the interactions between the Fairfield Police Department and students is for a term of four years.

Recommendation 5 – The Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District should evaluate the underlying principles of the Settlement Agreement to determine those that should be permanently adopted.

Response to Finding and Recommendation 5:

The Department would be willing to work with the District in an evaluation process to determine if any provisions contained within the Settlement Agreement should be made permanent.

I trust that the information provided adequately responds to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations.

Sincerely,

Sean P. Quinn
City Manager

Attachment: Original Grand Jury Letter