



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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August 02, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Brian Ahearn, Chief of Police

**PREPARER:** Brian Ahearn, Chief of Police

**DATE:** July 14, 2023

**TITLE:** **Approve the Response to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report, "The Humboldt County Child Abuse Services Team," Authorize the Police Chief to Sign the Response, and Direct Staff to Forward the Response to the Presiding Judge of the Humboldt County Superior Court.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council approve the Response to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report, “The Humboldt County Child Abuse Services Team,” authorize the Police Chief to sign the Response, and direct staff to forward the response to the Presiding Judge of the Humboldt County Superior Court.

It is also recommended that the Council consider the following motion:

**Approve the Response to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report, “The Humboldt County Child Abuse Services Team,” Authorize the Police Chief to Sign the Response, and Direct Staff to Forward the Response to the Presiding Judge of the Humboldt County Superior Court.**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

On July 9, 2023, the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury released to the Police Department a report entitled, “The Humboldt County Child Abuse Services Team,” and requested the Police Chief respond to findings and recommendations.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Civil Grand Jury is authorized by Penal Code 925 and 925a to, among other things, “investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments, functions and the method or system of performing the duties of any such” county or city. Furthermore, Penal Code 925a authorizes the Grand Jury to “make such recommendations as it may deem proper and fit.” The governing body of the public agency subject to the Grand Jury’s authority is required to respond to the presiding judge of the superior court on the Grand Jury’s findings and recommendations. The 2022-2023 Grand Jury report “The Humboldt County Child Abuse Services Team” (attached) concerns the Grand Jury’s review of the Child Abuse Services Team, also known as CAST. During the review the Grand Jury, “...while investigating a complaint that involved a juvenile discovered

that CAST was a little-known and even less understood organization...” The Grand Jury “...also discovered that some of the front-line responders to child abuse situations would benefit from additional training...” Proposed Police Chief responses are attached for City Council review.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:**

None

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):**

Not applicable

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. HCCGJ CAST Report and edits 6-20-23 (PDF)
- B. Civil Grand Jury Letter, CAST (DOCX)