



CITY OF ROHNERT PARK  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES

Thomas R. Bullard, Director

August 2, 2005

The Honorable Allan Hardcastle  
Presiding Judge  
Sonoma County Superior Court  
600 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, Ca 95403

Re: Grand Jury Final Report Response

Dear Judge Hardcastle:

Pursuant to Section 933(b) of the Penal Code, the following is Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety's response to the 2004-2005 Grand Jury Final Report.

- F2. *Sonoma County invests money and time into the training of officers. The goal is to retain these trained officers long term and have all law enforcement sworn officers live within the county boundaries, not only for safety reasons but to be an integral part of the community.*

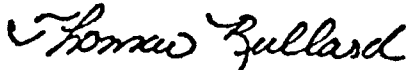
The high cost of housing is a factor for most Public Safety Officers living outside of Sonoma County – occasionally, for personal reasons, an officer will chose to live within another county. The City of Rohnert Park has an excellent pay and benefits package for Public Safety Officers, and currently the City is exploring other incentives that would allow officers to reside in Sonoma County. The City monitors other similar cities' pay and benefits to remain competitive whenever possible. The Public Safety profession in some ways is similar to other careers; young employees embarking on a new career may not immediately be in a position to purchase a home – as so in many careers, it often takes several years of saving and establishing oneself. I agree that there are numerous benefits to having officers living within Sonoma County, but this may be impossible to achieve 100% of the time. Rohnert Park Public Safety provides for an excellent atmosphere where we have a low turnover, and a sense of community.

500 CITY HALL DRIVE ~ ROHNERT PARK, CALIFORNIA ~ 94928-2118  
phone: (707) 584-2600 ~ fax: (707) 584-2683

- F3. *In some law enforcement agencies, more than 10% of the sworn officers live outside of Sonoma County due to the high cost of housing.*

The Sonoma County housing markets does play a portion in the decision of whether Public Safety Officers live within this county. The City of Rohnert Park works to keep the pay and benefits packages competitive with similar type of jurisdictions. According to our personnel listing, 7 of our Public Safety Officers live in another county. That equals to 1 out of 8, or 12.5%.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Bullard  
Director of Public Safety