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August 24, 2021

Honorable Donna Stashyn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave
Fairfield CA 94533

REGARDING: County Board of Supervisors response to FY2020-2021 Civil Grand Jury report entitled: Solano County Family Justice Center, Revisited

Dear Honorable Judge Stashyn,

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, under Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, is responding to the following findings and recommendations contained in the FY2020/21 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled: "Solano County Family Justice Center, Revisited."

The Board of Supervisors, during Budget Hearings on June 24, 2021, took action to move budget unit 5500 for the Solano County Family Justice Center under the County Administrative Office and directed staff to perform an assessment of the Center and the services it provides. A consultant with appropriate expertise will perform this comprehensive assessment to measure overall organizational effectiveness, service delivery efficiency, day-to-day operations success, and operational sustainability. It is expected the consultants' findings and recommendations would be presented to the Board of Supervisors by the end of Calendar Year 2021. In respect to each finding and recommendation below the Board of Supervisors believes that a more in depth assessment of the SCFJC is warranted and as noted above, a consulting firm has been enlisted to perform such an assessment.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 1

The SFJC is not meeting its Mission Statement and is not performing as a one- stop-shop for victims, adding stress to an already stressful situation.

Response to Finding 1

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors partially agrees with this finding. As noted in the District Attorney's response to Grand Jury of June 2021, the Solano County Family Justice Center has several on-site partners to assist with domestic violence advocacy, court accompaniment, restraining orders, crisis intervention, safety planning, and basic need assistance. The Board has tasked the CAO to review the operation in more depth due to the Grand Jury Report. The report is anticipated back by December 2021.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 1

Aggressively pursue additional on-site partners to provide the comprehensive services needed by domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

Response to Recommendation 1A

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation requires further analysis, and as indicated in our initial statement in this response letter, the Board of Supervisors will be conducting a comprehensive assessment expected to be complete by the end of 2021.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 2

The building currently housing the Solano County Family Justice Center is inadequate and its location is unknown to many residents.

Response to Finding 2

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors partially disagree with this finding. The Solano County Family Justice Center strives to maximize the use of space while maintain privacy and confidentiality.

Grand Jury Recommendation 2

SFJC develop a plan to procure a more appropriate and better located facility to house the SFJC. Increase publicity to identify how services for victims can be accessed.

Response to Recommendation 2

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation requires further analysis, and as indicated in our initial statement in this response letter, the Board of Supervisors will be conducting a comprehensive assessment expected to be complete by the end of 2021.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 3

The SFJC work environment is not consistent with trauma-informed care, affecting the quality of services provided to victims.

Response to Finding 3

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this finding in that it currently does not have sufficient information whether the current SFJC work environment is consistent with trauma-informed care. The proposed assessment of SFJC is intended to provide such information.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 3A

Provide all SFJC staff with additional training in understanding the statutory requirements of an FJC, discrimination issues, and trauma-informed care.

Response to Recommendation 3A

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation has been implemented and the Board of Supervisors understands based on the District Attorney's response noted below that additional training and a formal training program required by Penal Code section 13751 will be implemented in the near future.

Solano County District Attorney / SCFJC: The recommendation has been implemented but additional training will be implemented in the near future. SFJC Director Angel Aguilar is currently working with the California FJC Network to implement a formal training program as required by PC 13751.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 3B

The SFJC should clearly define the manager's role in managing both county employees and employees of on-site partners.

Response to Recommendation 3B

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation has been implemented and the Board of Supervisors agrees with the District Attorney's response noted below that the manager's role is defined in the county's job specifications, memorandum of understandings, operational agreements, and contracts with on-site partners.

Solano County District Attorney / SCFJC: The recommendation has been implemented. The manager's role is defined in the county's job specifications, memorandum of understandings, operational agreements, and contracts with on-site partners.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 4

Public transportation to get to the Solano County Family Justice Center in Fairfield is unnecessarily challenging for those victims outside Fairfield.

Response to Finding 4

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors disagrees with this finding. The Family Justice Center is located in the county seat of Fairfield, which is centrally located to all residents in the County and one block away from a F.A.S.T. bus stop.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 4A

SFJC establish and fully staff an office in Vallejo.

Response to Recommendation 4A

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation requires further analysis, and as indicated in our initial statement in this response letter, the Board of Supervisors will be conducting a comprehensive assessment expected to be complete by the end of 2021.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 4B

The SFJC make arrangements with ride share companies to provide safe, free, and efficient door-to-door services throughout the county.

Response to Recommendation 4B

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation requires further analysis, and as indicated in our initial statement in this response letter, the Board of Supervisors will be conducting a comprehensive assessment expected to be complete by the end of 2021.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 5

Most County law enforcement agencies are aware of services provided by the SFJC but would welcome training by SFJC to make them more aware of what services are provided.

Response to Finding 5

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 5

SFJC Director develop and implement a training program to better inform county law enforcement agencies of the services provided.

Response to Recommendation 5

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation has been implemented and the Board of Supervisors understands based on the District Attorney's response noted below that work with all our law enforcement partners will continue.

Solano County District Attorney / SCFJC: This recommendation has been implemented and we will continue to work with all our law enforcement partners.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 6

The SFJC is not fiscally neutral, and the non-profit foundation established to help achieve that goal, SAJE, is neither robust nor performing as envisioned in the strategic plan and has no online presence.

Response to Finding 6

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 6

SAJE improve its ability to achieve SFJC financial stability.

Response to Recommendation 6

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation requires further analysis, and as indicated in our initial statement in this response letter, the Board of Supervisors will be conducting a comprehensive assessment expected to be complete by the end of 2021.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 7

The SFJC Operations Manual does not adequately explain how the SFJC will comply with the statutory requirements of Penal Code sections 13750-13753.

Response to Finding 7

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this finding. As the District Attorney's response noted below the SFJC Operations Manual has been updated to follow Penal Code section 13750; however, the Board of Supervisors will be conducting a comprehensive assessment expected to be complete by the end of 2021.

Solano County District Attorney / SCFJC: The District Attorney and the Solano Family Justice Center disagree with this finding. The SFJC Operations Manual has been updated to follow Penal Code Section 13750.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 7

SFJC review and revise the Operations Manual to clearly address statutory requirements including, but not limited to, the establishment of a mandatory training program, designation of a privacy officer, and establishment of a formal client feedback, complaint, and input process.

Response to Recommendation 7

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation requires further analysis, and as indicated in our initial statement in this response letter, the Board of Supervisors will be conducting a comprehensive assessment expected to be complete by the end of 2021.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 8

The SFJC Operations Manual defines both an Advisory Committee and an Administrative Team, but no meeting frequency is identified for either; no requirements for general staff meetings are included in the Operations Manual.

Response to Finding 8

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 8A

SFJC hold regularly scheduled meetings of both the Advisory Committee and the Administrative Team to improve communication among staff and management.

Response to Recommendation 8A

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation has been implemented according to information provided by the District Attorney.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 8B

SFJC have regularly scheduled full staff meetings.

Response to Recommendation 8B

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation has been implemented according to information provided by the District Attorney.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 9

Solano County's Health and Social Services Department offers services and has resources similar to those offered by the SFJC.

Response to Finding 9

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors partially agree with this finding, The SFJC partners with the Department of Health and Social Services for coordination of various public benefits, there are additional recourses the SCFJC offers that is not part of the H&SS mission.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 9

The Board of Supervisors initiate a study to determine if the transfer of the SFJC from the District Attorney's Office to the Department of Health and Social Services would result in providing more efficient and effective services to victims in Solano County.

Response to Recommendation 9

Board of Supervisors: This recommendation requires further analysis, and as indicated in our initial statement in this response letter, the Board of Supervisors will be conducting a comprehensive assessment expected to be complete by the end of 2021.

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, we would like to thank the Solano County Civil Grand Jury for their time and attention to County processes and operations. Thank you for the opportunity to address your findings and recommendations – and for your work and contributions to the overall success of Solano County in services to our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Vasquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "V".

John M. Vasquez
District 4 Supervisor and Chair of the Board

Cc: Solano County Civil Grand Jury Office (CDClower@Solano.Courts.Ca.Gov)