



CITY OF BLYTHE

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August 13, 2024

The Honorable Judith C. Clark, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Riverside
4050 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Riverside County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 829
Riverside, CA 92502

Riverside County Clerk-Recorder
2720 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507

Re: City of Blythe Response to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury Report Entitled: "YOU NARCAN SAVE LIVES: NARCAN SAVING LIVES IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY"

Dear Judge Clark:

The City Council of the City of Blythe is in receipt of the 2023-2024 Grand Jury Report entitled "YOU NARCAN SAVE LIVES: NARCAN SAVING LIVES IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY" provided to the City Council on June 11, 2024 and released to the public after the close of business on June 14, 2024.

In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, enclosed is the Mayor's and the City Council's response to each of the findings and recommendations included in the Report. The City Council approved the enclosed response on August 13, 2024.

The City of Blythe appreciates the opportunity to comment on the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

Joseph Deconinck, Mayor

CC: Johnny Rodriguez, Vice Mayor
Joseph Halby, Council Member
Samuel Burton, Council Member

City of Blythe's Responses to Riverside County Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations

Grand Jury Findings:

F1: The statistical data provided by EMS on Narcan usage for 2021, 2022 and 2023 indicates a declining percentage of on-scene fatalities.

City's Response: The City agrees with this finding.

F2: The availability of Narcan has assisted law enforcement and the public to assist suspected opioid overdoses and to have a better chance of survival.

City's Response: The City agrees with this finding.

F3: There is a lack of guidance regarding what data should be tracked by law enforcement and other first responders when administering Narcan.

City's Response: The City agrees with this finding.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

R1: A comprehensive method should be created to collect pertinent Narcan data on a monthly basis from all emergency responders and/or medical providers. This data should include the number of incidents, dosages by incidents, number of lives saved, and number of fatalities.

City's Response: The recommendation has been implemented. In 2021, the City of Blythe Police Department implemented the Records Information Management System (RIMS) for police and fire dispatch. In March 2024, once the Blythe Police Department was made aware of the Grand Jury's concerns about data collection, the Blythe Police Department implemented a policy on Narcan use. The policy requires documentation in RIMS regarding the use of Narcan, the outcome of the call for service and amount of contraband seized. Regarding fatalities, once the Riverside County Coroner's report, which will list the cause of death, is provided to the Blythe Police Department, the information will be added to the RIMS case file. This information can be extracted from RIMS and sent to the County of Riverside digitally. This will allow the County of Riverside to track Narcan usage countywide.

Conclusion

Again, the City of Blythe appreciates the opportunity to submit a response to the Grand Jury Report entitled "Narcan - Saving Lives in Riverside County". Thank you for recognizing how first responders in Riverside County, including the Blythe Police Department, are fighting the opioid epidemic with the use of Narcan. We look forward to working with Riverside County Emergency Medical Services and other law enforcement agencies to track this life saving data countywide.