



SANTA CRUZ  
COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

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## [scgj] RE: Required response to Grand Jury report Human Trafficking in Santa Cruz County is past due

1 message

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**Chris Clark** <Chris.Clark@santacruzcountyca.gov>

Thu, Sep 4, 2025 at 1:04 PM

To: "grandjury@scgrandjury.org" <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

Cc: "Katherine.Hansen@santacruzcourt.org" <Katherine.Hansen@santacruzcourt.org>

Honorable Judge Hansen and Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury,

I apologize for the delay; there was some confusion on our end. Please see our responses.

Respectfully,

Chris



**CHRIS CLARK**

*Sheriff-Coroner*

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**The 2024-2025 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury  
Requires the**

**Santa Cruz County Sheriff**

**to Respond by August 29, 2025**

**to the Findings and Recommendations listed below  
which were assigned to them in the report titled**

**Human Trafficking in Santa Cruz County**

**Voices Unheard, Signs Unseen**

Required Responses apply to elected officials, elected agencies or department heads, elected boards, councils, and committees. The respondent is **required** to respond and to make the response available to the public under California Penal Code [\(PC\) §933\(c\)](#). A required response will be considered **compliant** under [PC §933.05](#) if it contains an appropriate comment on **all** findings and recommendations **which were assigned to you** in this report.

Invited Responses are encouraged but are not required by the California Penal Code.

Please follow the instructions below when preparing your response.

## Instructions for Respondents

Your assigned [Findings](#) and [Recommendations](#) are listed on the following pages with check boxes and an expandable space for summaries, timeframes, and explanations. Please follow these instructions, which paraphrase [PC §933.05](#):

- 1. For the Findings, mark one of the following responses with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
  - a. **AGREE with the Finding**, or
  - b. **PARTIALLY DISAGREE with the Finding** – specify the portion of the Finding that is disputed and include an explanation of the reasons why, or
  - c. **DISAGREE with the Finding** – provide an explanation of the reasons why.
- 2. For the Recommendations, mark one of the following actions with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
  - a. **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – provide a summary of the action taken, or
  - b. **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – provide a timeframe or expected date for completion, or
  - c. **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – provide an explanation, scope, and parameters of an analysis to be completed within six months, or
  - d. **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – provide an explanation of why it is not warranted or not reasonable.
- 3. Please attach a PDF version of your completed responses to an email sent to:**

The Honorable Judge: Katherine Hansen [Katherine.Hansen@santacruzcourt.org](mailto:Katherine.Hansen@santacruzcourt.org)  
and

The Santa Cruz County Grand Jury: [grandjury@scgrandjury.org](mailto:grandjury@scgrandjury.org).

***If you have questions about this response form, please contact the Grand Jury by calling (831) 454-2099 or by sending an email to [grandjury@scgrandjury.org](mailto:grandjury@scgrandjury.org).***

## Findings

- F1 .** There is currently no consolidated data being collected on Santa Cruz County human trafficking cases. This causes an understatement of the problem and makes it difficult for stakeholders to obtain additional funding.

☐ **AGREE**  
☒ **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**  
☐ **DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

While the Sheriff's Office does track a multitude of criminal statistics, we are not aware of "consolidated data" being collected in Santa Cruz County as it relates to human trafficking. We cannot agree that there is an "understatement of the problem."

**F2 .** The potential passage of AB 379 may provide grants for the District Attorney's Office for the prosecution of traffickers and grants for community-based organizations for direct services and victim outreach. This could provide the resources necessary to ultimately reduce human trafficking and reduce the likelihood of victims returning to trafficking.

☒ **AGREE**  
☐ **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**  
☐ **DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

**F6 .** Very few businesses in Santa Cruz County are in compliance with SB 1193 signage requirements. This results in the reduction of community awareness of the problem and the likelihood that trafficking victims will be able to reach out for help.

☐ **AGREE**  
☒ **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**  
☐ **DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

The Grand Jury has reported that very few businesses are in compliance with SB 1193 (codified in Civil Code 52.6) signage requirements, but the Sheriff's Office has not verified this statement.

**F9 .** Annual inspections are required of massage businesses in jurisdictions with massage business ordinances, but inspections are generally not being conducted. This can result in undetected human trafficking activity.

- ☐ **AGREE**
- ☒ **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**
- ☐ **DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

The Sheriff's Office has been unable to locate a requirement that an annual inspection is required. That said, we agree that the chance of discovering human trafficking would increase with more inspections.

**F12 .** There has been a lack of human trafficking presentations to law enforcement. Local law enforcement jurisdictions could request the no-cost training that is available from local human trafficking service providers. This can lead to officers learning to identify human trafficking victims and reduce further victim trauma.

☐ **AGREE**  
☒ **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**  
☐ **DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

The Sheriff's Office is within California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and Standard and Training for Corrections (STC) training guidelines, including for human trafficking, for most of our staff.

We will be reaching out to local training providers to ensure our staff continues to be updated with current trends and best practices regarding human trafficking.



**F13 .** Law enforcement task forces focused solely on human trafficking are very effective methods of detecting and preventing human trafficking activities. Such task forces could increase the rate of interdiction and the successful prosecution of human trafficking cases.

- ☒ **AGREE**  
☐ **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**  
☐ **DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

## Recommendations

- R1 .** The Department of Human Services should designate a qualified staff member to take the lead in forming a countywide human trafficking coalition, including the District Attorney and the Sheriff's Office. Members should include stakeholders discussed in this report who are involved in the prevention and interdiction of human trafficking. The focus should include the consolidation of human trafficking data and the procurement of additional funds, potentially to fund law enforcement task forces. This should be completed by December 31, 2025. (F1,F2,F13)

- ☐ **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- ☒ **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- ☐ **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- ☐ **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

### Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

It is our understanding that the Department of Human Services will coordinate meetings involving the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office prior to December 31, 2025. We will participate in these meetings when they occur.

**R4 .** Each law enforcement agency in Santa Cruz County, including the Sheriff's Office, Santa Cruz Police Department, Scotts Valley Police Department, Capitola Police Department, and Watsonville Police Department, should require law enforcement officers to receive an annual human trafficking awareness training, preferably led by human trafficking survivors. This should commence by December 31, 2025. (F12)

- ☐ **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- ☒ **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- ☐ **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- ☐ **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

**Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:**

The Sheriff's Office is within compliance on California POST and California Standards and Training for Corrections (STC), including requirements for human trafficking training. We will explore additional training from local providers to ensure our staff is updated on current trends and best practices related to human trafficking.

**R6 .** Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors should adopt an umbrella countywide ordinance requiring human trafficking signage currently mandated by the State to be part of all existing permitting and licensing procedures for affected businesses. This should be completed by June 30, 2026. (F6)

- ☐ **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- ☐ **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- ☒ **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- ☐ **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

**Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:**

The Sheriff's Office believes this response would be better responded to by the Board of Supervisors.

**R10 .** Local law enforcement agencies, including the Sheriff's Office, Santa Cruz Police Department, Scotts Valley Police Department, Capitola Police Department, and Watsonville Police Department, should enforce massage business licensing, certification, and inspection requirements. This should include compliance with SB 1193 signage requirements. Enforcement of existing ordinances should commence by September 30, 2025. However, if/when the Board of Supervisors agrees to the Jury's recommendation to adopt a countywide ordinance, law enforcement should come into compliance with this new ordinance within 30 days of adoption. (F9)

- ☐ **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- ☐ **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- ☒ **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- ☐ **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

**Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:**

Per the terms of SB 1193/Civil Code section 52.6, it is the Sheriff's Office's understanding that the Sheriff's Office is not authorized to enforce SB 1193/Civil Code section 52.6.