

June 28, 2005

Honorable Judge Allan Hardcastle
C/o the Sonoma County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Dear Judge Hardcastle,

Please accept this letter as my required response to Finding #2 and Finding #3 in the 2004-2005 Grand Jury's Final Report entitled Housing Assistance for Sworn Officers.

Finding #2 states, "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."

I concur with this finding. Thankfully, all of the Sebastopol Police Department's fifteen sworn officers live within Sonoma County. Five of our sworn officers live within the City limits; three others live in unincorporated western Sonoma County. Of the remaining seven officers, six live in Santa Rosa and one lives in Windsor. It is interesting to note that seven of the eight most senior sworn officers live in the City limits or unincorporated western Sonoma County. However, of the seven most junior officers, only one lives in the City limits. The remaining six live in Santa Rosa or Windsor.

Finding #3 states, "In some law enforcement agencies, more than 10% of the sworn officers live outside of Sonoma County due to the high cost of housing."

As noted in my response to Finding #2, none of the fifteen sworn officers at the Sebastopol Police Department live outside Sonoma County.

I hope my response is acceptable and meets the Grand Jury's needs. Please let me know if additional information is desired.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Weaver
Chief of Police