



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 Cypress Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

NEIL J. CERVENKA
Chief of Police

(707) 961-2800
Fax: (707) 961-2806

July 8, 2025

The Honorable Judge Ann Moorman
Mendocino County Superior Court
100 North State Street, Dept E
Ukiah, CA 95482

Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1030
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Fort Bragg Police Department Captain Thomas O'Neal's invited response to the Grand Jury's Report "Homelessness a County-Wide Issue"

Dear Honorable Judge Ann Moorman and Grand Jury,

I would like to start my response by thanking the Grand Jury for their in-depth review of the Fort Bragg Police Department's Care Response Unit (CRU). Below are my responses to **Findings 1 and 2**, as well as a response related to a portion of the report.

Finding 1 (F1) *At the time of this report, the Grand Jury has not received outcome results from the Care Response Unit that would verify the success of the program.*

The Fort Bragg Police Department has provided data and statistics related to the success of the Care Response Unit in public reports to the Fort Bragg City Council, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, League of Cities, and the Mental Health Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight Committee (Measure B). A portion of the data and statistics related to CRU were additionally published in the Police Department's 2023 and 2024 Annual Report. Those annual reports and prior written reports to the other governing and oversight bodies are attached for reference.

The Police Department will generate a more comprehensive written report as part of Grand Jury's recommended report to the Fort Bragg City Council (**R1**). That report will be published and publicly presented prior to December 31, 2025.

Concern, Compassion, Courage
Since 1889

Finding 2 (F2) *The Care Response Unit is an exemplary, well-established program that addresses the critical needs of the visible homeless population in the City of Fort Bragg.*

I fully agree with this finding and reiterate my sincere appreciation to the Grand Jury for this report. The Fort Bragg Police Department and Care Response Unit (CRU) look forward to continuing to demonstrate that the "Fort Bragg Model" is a cost effective approach to successfully addressing homelessness, substance use disorder, and mental health issues that can be replicated in communities nation-wide.

Additional Response: Grand Jury Report Page 5 Paragraph 1 *A criticism of the CRU program shows that individuals who decline services frequently leave the city limits. If an individual does not have an adequate home to which they can return, CRU personnel may transport the individual to outside city limits to join a nearby homeless encampment.*

I appreciate the opportunity to provide clarification regarding the above language in the Grand Jury report. I have managed the Care Response Unit (CRU) since its inception in 2022. At no point has our CRU Team ever transported an individual out of our jurisdiction to join a homeless encampment, nor would we encourage an individual to do so.

Kind Regards,



Thomas N. O'Neal
Police Captain

Attachments:

2023 Fort Bragg Police Department Annual Report
2024 Fort Bragg Police Department Annual Report
Fort Bragg City Council Staff Report-2/27/2023
League of Cities Report-05/2023
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Staff Report-9/12/2023
Measure B Oversight Report-11/20/2024