



**Town of Atherton
Office of the Mayor
91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, California 94027
Phone: (650) 752-0500
Fax: (650) 614-1212**

September 21, 2018

Honorable V. Raymond Swope
Judge of the Superior Court
c/o Charlene Kresevich
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Subject: Response of the Town of Atherton to the Grand Jury Report "Law Enforcement Officers + Narcan = Lives Saved From Opioid Overdoses"

Dear Judge Swope,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury report entitled "Law Enforcement Officers + Narcan = Lives Saved From Opioid Overdoses." The Town of Atherton's response to both the findings and recommendations are listed below.

Responses to Grand Jury Findings:

F1. Untreated opioid overdose can cause brain damage and death.

Response:

The Town of Atherton agrees with this finding.

F2. Naloxone is a safe, nontoxic drug that can stop and reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

Response:

The Town of Atherton understands this finding and believes it to be true.

F3. Narcan® is a brand of intranasal naloxone, which can be successfully administered with no more than one hour of training.

Response:

The Town of Atherton agrees with this finding.

F4. Fire department and ambulance paramedics are the only emergency responders within the County currently carrying naloxone.

Response:

The Town of Atherton agrees with this finding.

F5. Law enforcement officers may arrive at the scene of opioid overdose before paramedics.

Response:

The Town of Atherton agrees with this finding.

F6. Law enforcement officers' risk of accidental exposure to fentanyl derivatives varies based on their roles and responsibilities. Narcotics units, crime suppression units, SWAT teams, K-9 units, and evidence-handling units are at a heightened risk of exposure.

Response:

The Town of Atherton agrees with this finding.

F7. Certain law enforcement officers and Sheriffs Forensic Lab and Coroner's Office personnel are at heightened risk of exposure to fentanyl derivatives.

Response:

The Town of Atherton agrees with this finding.

F8. Equipping and training officers with intranasal naloxone is inexpensive and the associated costs can be absorbed into existing programs and budgets.

Response:

The Town of Atherton agrees with this finding.

Responses to Grand Jury Recommendations:

The 2017-2018 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, the Broadmoor Police Protection District, and the Police Departments of Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Colma, Daly City, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Pacifica, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Mateo, and South San Francisco, do the following by December 31, 2018:

R1. Train and equip law enforcement officers at heightened risk of exposure to fentanyl derivatives with intranasal naloxone as a minimum standard of practice.

Response:

The purchase of intranasal naloxone hydrochloride will be included in the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Atherton Police Department budget. In addition, the Atherton Police Department will provide its officers with training on the risk of exposure to fentanyl derivatives and equip the officers with intranasal naloxone as a minimum standard of practice. The Police Department is finalizing the development of policy and training for staff. It is anticipated that this substance will be deployed in the field by the fall of 2018.

R2. Evaluate training and equipping all law enforcement officers with intranasal naloxone in order to protect themselves and the general public.

Response:

The Town of Atherton will ensure that all officers are trained and equipped with intranasal naloxone in order to protect themselves and the general public. It is anticipated that this substance will be deployed in the field by the fall of 2018.

Sincerely,

Cary Wiest
Mayor