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Ventura County  
Grand Jury

City Council

2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard • Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
Phone 805/449.2121 • Fax 805/449.2125 • www.toaks.org

## Response to Grand Jury Report Form

**Report Title:** Human Trafficking in Ventura County Report

**Report Date:** June 23, 2020

**Response By:** City Council of the City of Thousand Oaks

Pursuant to California Penal Code Sections 933.05 (c) and (d), the City Council of the City of Thousand Oaks provided a response to the "Human Trafficking in Ventura County" Grand Jury Report. There were conclusions and recommendations to respond to in the Grand Jury Report.

### BACKGROUND

On May 21, 2020, the Ventura County Grand Jury provided City Council and the City Manager with an additional final report of its investigation entitled, "Human Trafficking in Ventura County." The Grand Jury concluded that differences in County and city massage parlor ordinances allow illicit businesses to avoid legal consequences. The Grand Jury also concluded that coordinating ordinances regarding massage parlors among the County and cities within the County will improve effectiveness of enforcement operations.

### FORMAT OF RESPONSE:

The City's detailed response to the Grand Jury Report is set forth in the following pages. The response is ordered in the same manner as the report itself – Facts, Conclusions, and Recommendations.

### RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

There were no Findings in the annual report.

### RESPONSE TO CONCLUSIONS

**C-03** "The Grand Jury concluded that differences in County and city massage parlor ordinances allow illicit businesses to avoid legal consequences. (FA-22, FA-23)."

**City Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office (VCSO), is the contract law enforcement agency for the City of Thousand Oaks. The Ventura County Sheriff's Office understands the importance of monitoring human trafficking and

enforcing human trafficking laws. The Sheriff's Office participates as a member of the Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force. This task force includes representatives from all law enforcement jurisdictions in Ventura County.

The City of Thousand Oaks, as with other cities and the County, has an ordinance established for regulation of massage parlors, which is consistent with State law. The ordinance is not exact, but similar, compared to other ordinances from cities and the County.

**C-04** "The Grand Jury concluded that coordinating ordinances regarding massage parlors among the County and cities within the County will improve the effectiveness of enforcement operations (FA-23, FA-24)."

**City Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office (VCSO), is the contract law enforcement agency for the City of Thousand Oaks. The Ventura County Sheriff's Office has designated representatives to monitor human trafficking in all Sheriff's jurisdictions, including contract cities. The Sheriff's Office participates as a member of the Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force. This task force includes representatives from all law enforcement jurisdictions in Ventura County.

The Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force is working on a uniform model ordinance so all county law enforcement will enhance their enforcement with a consistent ordinance. The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will present the model ordinance to its contract cities for review.

#### **RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**R-1** "The Grand Jury recommends the County and each of the cities within the County coordinate their respective ordinances regarding massage parlors through efforts of the Task Force (C-03, C-04)."

**City Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office (VCSO), is the contract law enforcement agency for the City of Thousand Oaks. The Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force will take a leadership role in the formation of a working group to evaluate, modify, and recommend changes to pre-existing massage parlor ordinances in the cities of Ventura County and the unincorporated areas. The working group will consist of representatives from each city government, City Attorneys, City Code Compliance, Ventura County Resource Management Agency, the District Attorney's Office, stakeholders in the massage industry, and community representatives. Detectives from the Human Trafficking Task Force have already evaluated each cities' ordinance and drafted proposed guidelines and changes.

The goal of the working group will be to create common minimum standards/requirements for each city/county ordinance, while recognizing that




each city or area has different needs and community concerns. It will also be imperative to include the legitimate massage industry professionals, as to not overburden them with regulations.

**SUMMARY:**

The City of Thousand Oaks and the Thousand Oaks Police Department wishes to thank the Grand Jury for its time

Date: June 23, 2020

Signed: 

Al Adam, Mayor  
City of Thousand Oaks

Number of pages attached 3

POL:580-10/H:USERS\CityCouncil\AgendaItems.doc/Att3





City of

Thousand Oaks



# City Manager's Office

2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard • Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
Phone 805/449.2121 • Fax 805/449.2125 • www.toaks.org

June 25, 2020

Ms. Anida Margolis, Foreperson  
Ventura County Grand Jury  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009



Dear Ms. Margolis:

On behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks and Mayor Al Adam, please find attached the City's response to the Grand Jury reports titled, "Annual Detention Report," dated May 18, 2020 and "Human Trafficking Report," dated May 21, 2020,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raquel Sheppard".

Raquel Sheppard  
Customer Relations Assistant

CMO:510-40/H:Common/06 25 20 Cover Letter for Response to Grand Jury Reports Annual Detention and Human Trafficking

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OF THE  
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CITY OF  
NEW YORK

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