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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR "COMMUNITY BRIEFS"

GRAND JURY INVITES COMMUNITY GROUPS TO REQUEST SPEAKERS

Do you belong to a group that invites speakers to its meetings? The Ventura County Grand Jury conducts an ongoing speakers' bureau and outreach program. Service organizations, teachers, librarians, and community groups are invited to request a presentation by current grand jurors.

The grand jury does not pursue criminal cases or give evidence in courtrooms. The grand jury truly embodies democracy in action. This all-volunteer "public watchdog" group serves as an independent agent of the public to investigate complaints from the public, write reports and make recommendations about all components of local government such as city councils, school districts, libraries, jails, hospitals, harbors and water districts. It investigates everything from alleged violations of city and county codes to disaster preparedness in schools and contracting procedures of ports, taking an in-depth, unbiased look at the policies, processes, and practices of the department or agency in question. The reports of grand jury findings and recommendations as well as required responses going back to 1995 are posted on its website, <http://grandjury.countyofventura.org>, along with a simple, one-page complaint form.

To learn more or schedule a date for a presentation, please call the Grand Jury at (805) 477-1600.

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