county of ventura

Grand Jury 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009 (805) 477-1600 Fax: (805) 658-4523

grandjury.countyofventura.org

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

**CONTACT:** Foreman Robert Stewart

Tel: 805/477-1600

Email: <a href="mailto:robert.stewart@ventura.org">robert.stewart@ventura.org</a>

## GOT A COMPLAINT ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT? CONSIDER THE GRAND JURY

Are you dissatisfied with some aspect of local government? If so, did you know that there is a body of volunteers dedicated to investigating public complaints about county agencies, local city governments and special districts such as water, schools and harbors? And that the identity of residents submitting complaints will be kept secret?

That's right: the Ventura County Grand Jury is a civil investigatory panel of 19 citizens that serves as a voice of the people and a conscience of the community. Jurors are not appointed by politicians; they are volunteers from all walks of life who act as independent eyes and ears for county residents.

The grand jury is authorized to investigate complaints about government mismanagement; verify that public funds are properly accounted for and legally spent; and inquire into charges of misconduct by public officials or employees. Each year, the grand jury reports on findings and recommendations that result from its investigations. These reports are made public via the media and by posting on the grand jury website. Involved elected officials and boards must respond within 60 to 90 days; their responses are posted under the reports.

Complaint forms in English and Spanish may be downloaded from <a href="http://grandjury.countyofventura.org">http://grandjury.countyofventura.org</a>. and faxed to (805) 658-4523 or submitted to the Grand Jury, 800 South Victoria Avenue, L#3751, Ventura, CA 93009. Complaints must be signed and contain an address and phone number, which will be kept confidential. The jury's website also contains previous years' reports and details about its mission and operations.