



CITY OF FILLMORE
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VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

AUG 14 2003

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

August 12, 2003

Honorable Bruce A. Clark
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Ventura County Hall of Justice
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Response to 2002-2003 Ventura County Grand Jury Report "Intervention Programs for Delinquent Non-Violent Juveniles by the Sheriff and Probation Departments in Ventura County"

Dear Judge Clark:

The purpose of this correspondence is to respond, as requested, to the above-referenced Ventura County Grand Jury Report, specifically to Recommendation No. 5, which states "If the Sheriff is unable to fund programs formally under his jurisdiction, contract cities should continue or add programs for youth at risk in their communities."

This recommendation has already been implemented to a certain degree and with varying success by the City of Fillmore. In recent years, the City has:

- Partnered with the School District to provide a School Resource Officer, a full-time position partially paid for by a grant that provided enforcement and prevention programs at schools throughout the Fillmore Unified School District. The position had to be eliminated when the three-year grant expired. The City was not able to fund the entire cost of the officer. Two subsequent attempts to obtain a grant for the position were unsuccessful.
- Provided on-going funding for the Fillmore-Piru Boys & Girls Club, which provides, among other things, after-school and summertime programs for youth. The City provides a permanent location for the Club at the Fillmore Community Center. That building was acquired and refurbished by the City in the late 1990s. The City has assisted the Boys & Girls Clubs and other programs that work with juveniles through annual allocations for Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds.
- Funded a trial group counseling program for at-risk teens at the North Fillmore Police Storefront through the Coalition to Halt Domestic and Sexual Violence. This was done in conjunction with a program for parents of at-risk teens. The parents' program had modest attendance but the teen program was canceled after a few weeks due to poor attendance. The City had no ability to compel these teens

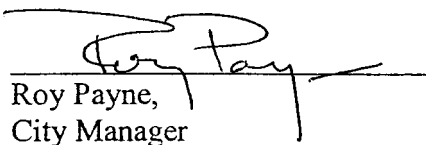
to attend as they were not convicted offenders, but they were clearly at risk to become victims of or involved in criminal activity.

- The City Council restored a full-time Gang Officer for Fiscal Year 2003-2004. This position will obviously focus on preventing and addressing gang-related crime, much of which is generated by youths, therefore the position is expected to have an impact on both violent and non-violent juveniles.
- Annually held a Bicycle Safety Rodeo through the North Fillmore Police Storefront Station to encourage and teach bicycle safety to youths
- Cooperated with the CREW (Concerned Resource & Environmental Workers) program and encouraged local youth to participate
- Worked with and encouraged Fillmore City Corps to establish work opportunities for local youth

Should the City be faced with having to fund programs for non-violent juveniles now funded by the County, this would be problematic, especially considering the current fiscal situation with the State Budget and the uncertainty of secure municipal revenues in the future. Funding of such programs, therefore, would require further study.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 524-3701.

Sincerely,



Roy Payne,
City Manager

c: ✓ Ventura County Grand Jury (copy enclosed)
Fillmore City Council
Fillmore Chief of Police