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June 6, 2003

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**VENTURA SUPERIOR COU** 

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

Response to Report from Ventura County Grand Jury - 2002-2003 RE: Intervention Programs for Delinquent Non-Violent Juveniles

Dear Judge Clark:

The City of Moorpark has received and reviewed the 2002-2003 Grand Jury's report entitled "Intervention Programs for Delinquent Non-Violent Juveniles by the Sheriff and Probation Departments in Ventura County." The City of Moorpark concurs with the Grand Jury's findings.

With regard to recommendation R-5 concerning adding or maintaining programs for youth at risk, please be advised that as a contract city for law enforcement, the City of not the Sheriff's Department pays programs provided under the City's contract. there are three programs being provided in Moorpark. They include

- 1. High School Resource Officer in its  $4^{\rm th}$  year of operation 2. Middle School Resource Officer in its  $7^{\rm th}$  year of operation
- 3. The DARE Program in its 10th year of operation

The City of Moorpark also provides various recreation programs that are free to all youth or available at a The City Council has included a Youth nominal cost. Scholarship Program in the City's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004. This program's objective is to reduce recreation fees for low income families by 25% to 75%. The City also provides funding support to the Moorpark Boys and Girls Club that serves the at-risk youth of the community.

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The Moorpark Unified School District has several programs that are available for at-risk youth. Some of these include Project Pride which is offered 4 days per week at Moorpark High School and various counseling, academic and recreational opportunities offered at the high school and middle school level for at risk youth. These programs are all supported by a federal grant under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Project. Additional information about these services may be obtained from the Moorpark Unified School District.

In summary, the City of Moorpark believes that additional programs are not necessary so long as current funding from the City and the school district is available. The City recommends that law enforcement and probation officials continue their efforts to refer at-risk youth offenders to appropriate, existing programs as it is unlikely a new program can be funded in today's fiscal environment at the local government level.

Sincerely,

Steven Kueny City Manager

cc: Honorable City Council

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Sheriff Bob Brooks, Ventura County Sheriff's Department

Captain Richard Diaz, Moorpark Chief of Police

Moorpark City Clerk