



CITY OF OJAI

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August 19, 2003

RECEIVED

AUG 25 2003

VENTURA COUNTY GRAND JURY

Mr. Richard Hawley, Foreman
Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: 2002-2003 Grand Jury Final Report Regarding Intervention Programs for
Delinquent Non Violent Juveniles

Dear Foreman Hawley,

The City of Ojai joins the members of the Ventura County Grand Jury in its concern for area youth. The City, primarily through its Recreation Department, offers myriad programs to appeal to all youth, and we have programs that are offered because of their special appeal to at-risk youth.

The City of Ojai will continue to support a variety of recreational offerings for youth that encourage participation, self respect and sense of accomplishment. Skateboarding, weight training and boxing are activities that often attract youth who are not interested in other organized sports or programs. In addition we will continue to collaborate with our continuation high school, Chaparral, to provide alternative physical education activities.

Despite budget shortfalls that have sliced programs under the Sheriff's jurisdiction, the City of Ojai is serious about continuing and adding programs that positively impact Ojai Valley Youth. The City is continuing to provide funding for a School Resource Officer, and has secured grant funding for the Police Assistance League (PAL) program. In addition, the City of Ojai has maintained funding for the Ojai Valley Youth Foundation, a private entity that has programs and projects addressing youth crime prevention. The City has also initiated the Sheriff's Teen Traffic Offender Program (STTOP).

Importantly, the City of Ojai is aggressive in its attempts to secure grant funding from state and federal sources so that we can continue, and even add to, the array of services provided by the City for at-risk youth. Nevertheless, Ojai is a small city with limited funding and support resources. In general, the City is unable to "pick up the slack"

when social services are eliminated for budget purposes or because of changing needs or priorities. We continue to seek proactive partnerships to address community needs wherever possible; however, this is often the extent of our abilities.

Should you have any questions or this or any topic, please call me directly at (805) 640-2559.

Sincerely,

City of Ojai

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Singer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Singer
City Manager

DS:pm

cc: Ojai City Council
Carol Belser, Recreation Director
Capt. Gary Pentis, Ojai Police Chief