



City of Thousand Oaks

INTERIM CITY MANAGER
CANDIS L. HONG

June 16, 2003

RECEIVED
VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

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

JUN 23 2003

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

Dear Judge Clark:

The City of Thousand Oaks is pleased to respond to the 2002-2003 Grand Jury's recommendation number R-5 from report entitled *Intervention Programs for Delinquent Non-Violent Juveniles by the Sheriff and Probation Departments in Ventura County*.

Recommendation R-5 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."

The City of Thousand Oaks contracts with Ventura County Sheriff for municipal law enforcement services, and has been doing so since incorporation in 1964. As Thousand Oaks evolved from a rural community into a master planned and diverse municipality, with an array of amenities serving residents, businesses, children and visitors, our leaders have been instrumental in designing law enforcement prevention and intervention programs that meet our needs. As a result, we have implemented a number of police programs that are unique to our City and that are not reliant upon the uncertainty of County funding. Since Thousand Oaks contracts directly with the Sheriff to provide staffing for these programs, their operation depends entirely upon fiscal and operational directives made by our City Council.

The following is a list of Thousand Oaks programs directed toward at-risk youth:

- Parent Project - Police officers present a 10-week course designed to help parents of at-risk youth study different ways to assist their children in preventing destructive and delinquent behavior.
- Drug Abuse Resistance Education – Police officers teach this prevention program to all sixth grade students from the Conejo Valley Unified School District and applicable private schools within Thousand Oaks.
- Special Enforcement Unit School Liaison Officers – Two officers from this highly trained team work closely with administrators at area middle and high schools to prevent campus violence and other crimes. These officers also work with parents to make them aware of gang activity involving their children.

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- Crime Prevention Officers – These two officers assist businesses, residents, schools, and other institutions as they develop strategies to reduce crime and decrease the chance of victimization.

- Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving Unit – Two highly experienced sergeants have responsibility for responding to long-term problems that negatively impact the quality of life within specific neighborhoods. Since many of these community concerns involve at-risk youth, this team uses its connections with various public and non-profit service organizations to ensure that the most appropriate services are made available to achieve resolution to underlying factors that have created the problem.

- Youth Outreach Workers – The City provides other services toward at-risk youth outside of the Police Department. Through a partnership with the Conejo Recreation and Park District and the Conejo Valley Unified School District, the Youth Outreach staff serves as roaming at-risk counselors to our teens.

- Conejo Youth Coalition Meetings – City staff and Police officers work with representatives from the community, local schools, and the Conejo Recreation and Park District to discuss current issues and programs.

- Youth Commission – This City Commission, staffed by local teens, serves as an interactive communication between area youth and local government representatives.

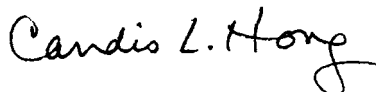
- Teen Center – The Teen Center, operated by the Conejo Recreation and Park District, works closely with police officers to offer quality prevention programs as well as enhancing interaction between officers and local youth.

As you can see, the City of Thousand Oaks, through the direct operation of youth directed programs, or in partnership with other governmental agencies, is very proactive in assisting our youth in enjoying a high quality of life.

The City is not aware of any at-risk youth programs operated by the Sheriff within the City of Thousand Oaks. Therefore, should the Sheriff be forced to eliminate county programs, due to decisions by the Board of Supervisors to cease funding, we do not anticipate Thousand Oaks to be impacted.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Candis L. Hong
Interim City Manager