

September 21, 2010

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

J. Matthew Carroll
Assistant County Executive Officer

Paul Derse
Chief Financial Officer

John K. Nicoll
Human Resources Director

County of Ventura
Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Approval of Responses to Seven 2009-2010 Ventura County Grand Jury Reports: "Getting Better of the Way to Excellence", "Illusion of Safety, Control Self-Assessment", "Indigent Representation by the Public Defender", "Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities", "Ventura County Library System", "Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?", and "Youth in Shadow".

Recommendation:

That your Board approves the responses to the seven subject Grand Jury reports pertaining to County government under your authority for submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in accordance with State statute.

Discussion:

Penal Code §933.05 requires that your Board comment on the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury pertaining to county government under your authority. The 2009-2010 Ventura County Grand Jury issued 10 individual reports, seven of which pertain to County government.

Responses from the Board of Supervisors were required to all seven reports and were prepared on your behalf by the County Executive Office. Responses from appointed officials were required for three of the seven reports and one report required a response from a commission. County government reports are addressed in this letter. These responses have been coordinated through the County Executive Office and are submitted for your approval.

For your reference, the report titles and respondents listed in the Grand Jury Report are summarized in the table below.

<p>Getting Better on the Way to Excellence</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors County Executive Officer (requested, not required)</p>
<p>Illusion of Safety: Control Self-Assessment Auditor-Controller's response is for information only, approval not required.</p>	<p>Auditor-Controller (Copy of response included for information) Board of Supervisors County Executive Office</p>
<p>Indigent Representation by the Public Defender</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors Public Defender (Response from PD would be accepted but is not required. Response provided)</p>
<p>Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities Sheriff's response is for information only, approval not required.</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors Sheriff's Department (Copy of response included for information)</p>
<p>Ventura County Library System The VCLC is an independent entity, response is for information only, approval is not required.</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors Ventura County Library Commission (Copy of response included for information)</p>
<p>Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors</p>
<p>Youth in Shadow</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors</p>

The responses that pertain to County government under your control will serve as your Board's response to the subject 2009-2010 Grand Jury Reports to be filed as indicated in the above recommended action along with any additional comments your Board may wish to make.

If your Board does elect to amend responses submitted from agencies headed by appointed officials or if your Board elects to change a responses prepared on your behalf by the County Executive's office, then CEO staff, at your direction, will make such changes or additions prior to submitting the responses to the Presiding Judge.

As you are aware, elected officials submit their Grand Jury responses directly to the Presiding Judge. Although your approval is not required for responses from elected officials, a copy of the Sheriff's response to the report "Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities" and from the Auditor-Controller to the report "Illusion of Safety: Control Self-Assessment" are included here for your information.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact J. Matthew Carroll at 654-2864 or Kathleen Van Norman at 654-2566.



MARTY ROBINSON
County Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – Response to "Getting Better on the Way to Excellence"
- Exhibit 2 – Response to "Illusion of Safety: Control Self-Assessment"
- Exhibit 3 – Response to "Indigent Representation by the Public Defender"
- Exhibit 4 – Response to "Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities"
- Exhibit 5 – Response to "Ventura County Library System"
- Exhibit 6 - Response to "Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?"
- Exhibit 7 - Response to "Youth in Shadow"

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

EXHIBIT 6

FY 2009-2010 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Report Number

Report Title

Respondents

REPORT NO. 06.

Title: Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?

Required

Respondents: Board of Supervisors (R-03 & R-07)



Response to 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report "Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?"

from the County Executive Office on behalf of the Board of Supervisors

REPORT FINDINGS:

Response: Concur with all findings.

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

R-03. The County and the Cities should make every effort to ensure that the original goal of the Strategy, to reduce homelessness within the County by 50% during the first five years (2008-2012), is accomplished.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented to the greatest extent that resources will allow.

The Board generally concurs that every effort should be made to ensure that the original goals of the Ten-Year Strategy, reducing homelessness 50% within the first five years, should be accomplished. However, it must simultaneously be recognized that the County's resources have diminished dramatically over the past several years thus reducing our ability to independently pursue programs essential to achieving this goal.

Fortunately, the influx of stimulus funding and special purpose grants has provided resources for both new programs and the development of housing. These resources have contributed, despite economic declines, to a 17.2% reduction in homelessness from 2008 to 2009 levels.

Despite difficult economic conditions, the County did allocate up to \$3.1 million in onetime funding to support several recommendations outlined in the Ten-Year Strategy as acknowledged on page 11 of your report. While none of the funds have been disbursed to date, AB 1865 was signed by the Governor reducing the minimum grant to \$500,000 for the Housing Trust Fund program administered by the State. It is anticipated that the application will be submitted before the legislation's effective date of January 1, 2011. General guidelines for the \$2 million in year-round shelter matching funds were approved on June 15, 2010 to provide information to those interested in applying for funding. Interest in these funds has been expressed by several organizations from throughout the County. The Behavioral Health Department continues to develop their plan for utilization of the \$600,000 for the three-year pilot social model detoxification program. Specific recommendations for the latter two programs will come back to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

R-07. The County and all Cities should continue to recognize and publicly thank the various nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and other volunteer groups for their ongoing and highly effective support of the homeless population in Ventura County.

Response: This recommendation has and will continue to be implemented on an ongoing basis.

The Board agrees that it is both appropriate and necessary to continue to recognize and publically thanks those groups and organizations that support the homeless population. The Board's commitment of \$3.1 million, and the \$500,000 for the Housing Trust Fund specifically, is intended to support just those types of operations.