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September 21, 2010

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.

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

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.

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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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EXHIBIT 3

FY 2009-2010 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Report Number	Report Title	Respondents
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REPORT NO. 03.

Title: Indigent Representation by the Public Defender

Required Respondents: Board of Supervisors (R-02)

Response Accepted from: Public Defender (R-01)



**Response to Ventura County 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report
"Indigent Representation by the Public Defender"**

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

REPORT FINDINGS:

Response: Concur with all findings.

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

R-01: The PD should continue to maintain a record of costs for representation and to submit these costs to the courts on as regular a basis as allowed by the courts.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

We agree with the recommendation. The Public Defender's office is committed to maintaining a record of costs for representation and submitting them to the courts on a regular basis.

R-02: Should legislation requiring judicial determination of the ability to pay by individuals requesting counsel be introduced, the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors should make an independent determination in conjunction with the PD as to whether to offer support for such legislation.

Response: This recommendation will be studied in the future if legislation is introduced.

We agree with the recommendation. If such legislation is introduced, we will consult with the CEO, County Counsel, the PD, and whoever else is appropriate before deciding whether to support it.



OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
COUNTY OF VENTURA
STEPHEN P. LIPSON
PUBLIC DEFENDER

HOWARD ASHER
Assistant Public Defender

ANN M. FAVOR
Chief Investigator

July 7, 2010

The Public Defender offers the following response to the Grand Jury Report "Indigent Representation by the Public Defender" which was released on or about May 20, 2010.

A response indicating agreement, disagreement or insufficient information upon which we agree or disagree is listed below as to each of the Grand Jury's findings:

- F-01 Agree
- F-02 Agree
- F-03 Agree
- F-04 Agree
- F-05 Agree
- F-06 Agree
- F-07 Agree
- F-08 Agree
- F-09 Agree
- F-10 Agree
- F-11 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree
- F-12 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree
- F-13 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree
- F-14 Agree
- F-15 Agree
- F-16 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree
- F-17 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree
- F-18 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree
- F-19 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree
- F-20 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree
- F-21 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree
- F-22 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree
- F-23 Insufficient information upon which to agree or disagree

The Public Defender's office offers the following response to Grand Jury Recommendation R-1:

The Public Defender's office recognizes the importance of having our clients, that have the financial ability, reimburse the County for all or part of our services. We will continue to maintain a record of costs for our work and will submit them to the court on a regular basis.

