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September 21, 2010

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

J. Matthew Carroll
Assistant County Executive Officer

Paul Dorse
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.

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 5

FY 2009-2010 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Report Number	Report Title	Respondents
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REPORT NO. 05.

Title: Ventura County Library System

Required Respondents: Board of Supervisors (R-01)
Ventura County Library Commission (R-01)



Response to 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report "Ventura County Library System"

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

REPORT FINDINGS:

Response: Concur with all findings.

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

R-01. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors and the Library Commission should take necessary actions to ensure that adequate library services are provided to the citizens of the Ventura County Library System.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

Although the term "adequate" is not defined within the Grand Jury's report, we believe the Board of Supervisors shares the Grand Jury's commitment to continued support of adequate library services for all citizens of the Ventura County Library System. To this end, a subcommittee of library commissioners, city managers, as well as library, county and city staff has been created to discuss and move forward new ways of operating the library system to better serve the public.

Additionally, over the past few months, library staff has implemented new technologies, such as self-checkout machines and the web based "e-branch" which allows better access to library services anytime of the day regardless of the distance from a physical library.

The Board of Supervisors will continue providing direction to County staff to ensure continued exploration of new and innovative ways of providing library services to the citizens of the Ventura County Library System.



www.vencolibrary.org

Ventura County Library

Jackie Y. Griffin, Director

July 22, 2010

Foreman
Ventura County Grand Jury
800 S. Victoria Ave., L#3751
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Foreman:

The Ventura County Library System has received the Grand Jury report titled "Ventura County Library System". The report has been accepted by the Ventura County Library Commission.

In response to Recommendation R-01, the Ventura County Library Commission and Library Staff continue to seek out new ways to provide adequate library service to the community within the funding available.

The Library Commission has created a subcommittee of library commissioners, city managers, as well as library, county and city staff. This subcommittee has met several times to discuss and move forward new ways of operating the library.

Library staff have, at the direction of the Commission, implemented new technology such as self-checkout machines to decrease the need for staff to do routine tasks and to allow them to direct their time to more complex public service. The Ventura County Library website has become an "e-branch" allowing patrons access to the library at anytime and no matter the distance to a physical library.

The Ventura County Library Commission will continue to seek out innovative and cost saving methods of serving the Ventura County area.

Thank you for your thoughtful report.

Sincerely,

Carol Smith, Chair of the Ventura County Library Commission