



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

August 29, 2011

The Honorable Vincent O'Neill, Jr.
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Judge O'Neill:

The City of Simi Valley has received the 2010-2011 Grand Jury report, "Review of Select Simi Valley Police Department Processes," and, in accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05, we submit this response to the Grand Jury findings.

The City Council appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury in examining governmental duties and operations so we may continue to deliver services to the communities we serve in a cost effective and appropriate manner. Further, the Simi Valley City Council values the work of the Simi Valley Police Department and is grateful to the Grand Jury for performing an independent review of the alleged improper activity.

The Grand Jury requires a response to findings FI-01, FI-02, and FI-03 in report and recommendation R-01.

Findings

FI-01. The Grand Jury found that, with respect to the processing of the criminal complaint of alleged embezzlement, the SVPD had acted on that complaint properly as to its policies and procedures without political motivation or unusual delay. The initial assignment of detectives at the start of the investigation occurred within a normal period of time for this type of investigation. Given the complexity of the case, the investigation could not have been closed for many months beyond the election date.

Response to FI-01: The City of Simi Valley concurs with this finding.

FI-02. The Grand Jury found no impropriety with respect to the questioned surveillance and discerned no improper political motivation.

Response to FI-02: The City of Simi Valley concurs with this finding.

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FI-03. The Grand Jury found that a lack of timely promised feedback to the EI complainant led to frustration and resulted in negative comments in the press.

Response to FI-03: The City of Simi Valley concurs with this finding.

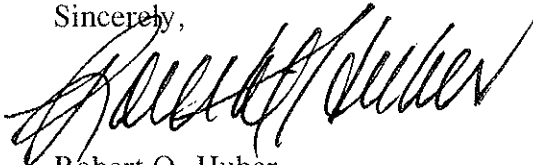
Recommendation

R-01. When feedback is promised, or is to be provided, to a complainant, the SVPD should assure reasonable promptness in that communication. This will avoid or reduce public misunderstanding of police investigative processes.

Response to R-01: This recommendation has been implemented. The Simi Valley Police Department evaluated and modified its process of communicating with the victims of crimes shortly after this complaint was first made. Timely updates on the status of cases are now provided to victims at regular intervals. Following the reporting of a crime to the Simi Valley Police Department, the case is assigned to a detective; once the detective receives the case file, contact is made with the victim within a 24-hour period to make an introduction and provide a point of contact. Further, following the initial contact, detectives proactively contact the victim at two-week intervals to provide them with any update on the status of the case.

The City Council considered the Grand Jury report at its August 29, 2011 meeting and authorized this response. The contents of this letter shall also constitute the response requested of the Chief of Police. We appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury in looking at this matter and this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Robert O. Huber
Mayor

cc: Foreman, Ventura Grand Jury
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
Chief of Police
Assistant City Manager, Government Affairs