



CITY OF
VENTURA

June 19, 2012

City Council

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Mike Tracy, Mayor
Cheryl Heitmann, Deputy Mayor
Neal Andrews, Councilmember
Brian Brennan, Councilmember
James L. Monahan, Councilmember
Carl E. Morehouse, Councilmember
Christy Weir, Councilmember

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

Re: Vehicle Impound Fees in Ventura County

Dear Judge O'Neill:

Enclosed please find our Response to Grand Jury Report Form titled **Vehicle Impound Fees in Ventura County**.

We agree with the report findings.

By way of explanation see our comments below regarding the recommendations:

R-01. The Board of Supervisors should pass a resolution authorizing the collection of vehicle release fees to recover administrative costs for violations of Vehicle Code sections 12500, 14601, and 23152 in unincorporated areas of the County. (FI-03)

Response: This recommendation does not apply to the City of Ventura.

R-02. Representatives of all law enforcement agencies within the County should meet and identify a standard set of tasks, labor hours and overhead items to cover the full spectrum of administrative costs for violations of Vehicle Code sections 12500, 14601, and 23152. (FI-06)

Response: On May 24, 2012 representatives from all law enforcement agencies met at the Oxnard Police Department to identify a set standard of tasks, labor hours, and overhead items to cover the full spectrum of costs for violations of Vehicle Code sections 12500, 14601, and 23152. Our committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the Ventura County Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee.

R-03. All cities should apply their local rates and factors and their targeted cost recovery goals to calculate their individual vehicle release fees using the

standardized cost category list from Recommendation R-02. It should be recognized that categories not included in the cost basis for approved fees represent costs to be borne by the general public and not the violator at a time of reduced public safety budgets. As necessary, new resolutions authorizing any revised vehicle release fees should be passed and the basis for the fees should be available to the public. (FI-04–FI-06)

Response: This recommendation will require further analysis. Once the category list from R-02 is established the City of Ventura will use this list and apply our local rates to calculate our individual vehicle release fees.

R-04. Thousand Oaks should recalculate the vehicle release fee for violations of Vehicle Code sections 12500 and 14601, eliminating the “Start Smart” fee, to comply with Vehicle Code section 22850.5, subdivision (a). (FI-01)

Response: This recommendation does not apply to the City of Ventura.

R-05. The Board of Supervisors should request the Sheriff’s Department to apply the rates and factors for the unincorporated County areas along with directed cost recovery goals using the standardized cost category list from Recommendation R-02. It should be recognized that categories not included in the cost basis for approved fees represent costs to be borne by the general public and not the violator. (FI-04, FI-06)

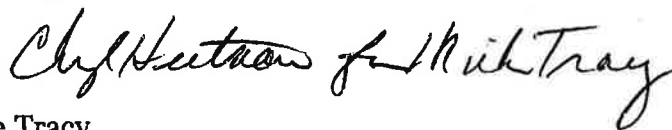
Response: This recommendation does not apply to the City of Ventura.

R-06. The Board of Supervisors should pass a resolution authorizing the vehicle release fees, as recommended by the Sheriff in R-05 above, and the basis for the fees should be available to the public. (FI-06)

Response: This recommendation does not apply to the City of Ventura.

On June 18, 2012 The Ventura City Council approved this Grand Jury report response and authorized the City Manager to make this reply. We appreciate the Grand Jury efforts in looking into this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Hutton for Mike Tracy".

Mike Tracy
Mayor

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Vehicle Impound Fees in Ventura County

Report Date: June 18, 2012

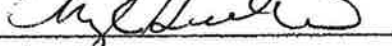
Response by: Mike Tracy Title: Mayor

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: FI-01 thru FI-06
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: N/A
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered N/A have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered N/A have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered R-02, R-03 require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered N/A will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 06/18/12 Signed: 
by Cheryl Heitmann, Deputy Mayor

Number of pages attached _____