



Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Jacqui V. Irwin
Mayor

Report Title: Graffiti in Ventura County Cities

Report Date: May 16, 2012

Response By: Jacqui V. Irwin, Mayor

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FINDINGS:

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

- We agree with the findings numbered FI-02 and FI-03.

FI-02. With the exception of Ojai, graffiti represents a significant financial impact in all the other Cities. (FA-11)

FI-03. The eight cities reporting direct costs for abatement programs, reported total costs in excess of \$1.5 million in FY 2010/2011. (FA-11)

The cost impact to the City of Thousand Oaks for our graffiti abatement program is about \$92,000 per year.

- We agree with the finding numbered FI-06.

FI-06. There is no "one size fits all" graffiti abatement program for the Cities. The Cities' abatement plans vary. (FA-16)

The City of Thousand Oaks follows an adopted policy for graffiti abatement focused on removals within 24 hours on public property. We recognize other cities have differing challenges.

- We agree with the finding numbered FI-07.

FI-07. Only the city ordinances for the cities of Port Hueneme and Santa Paula contain provisions for the city to petition the sentencing court for the delay or suspension of driving privileges for those convicted of graffiti vandalism, as allowed for in the state vehicle code. (FA-17) [Ref-04] [Ref-07]

Current City ordinance code does not provide for this.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation numbered R-01 has been implemented.

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R-01. The Cities should aggressively pursue the recovery of costs from the individual(s) convicted of graffiti vandalism. (FI-02, FI-03)

Thousand Oaks does pursue cost recovery in cooperation with the Police Department, Ventura County District Attorney, and Ventura County Court Collections.

- Recommendation numbered R-04 has been implemented.

R-04. The Cities should enlist the assistance of volunteer groups within the County for graffiti abatement. Such groups might include: Sheriff's and Youth Graffiti Removal Incident Removal Team; Keep America Beautiful; and various civic groups. (FI-07)

The City will work with the Police Department on use of SAY-GRIT to help with graffiti abatement as needed. We are aware of other volunteer groups in the community that have abated graffiti in County flood control channels and other areas, including Kiwanis and Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council. SAY-GRIT is also available to abate graffiti in the flood control channels.

- Recommendation numbered R-05 will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

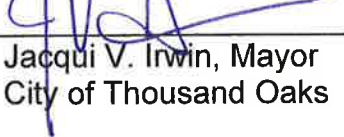
R-05. The Cities, with the exception of Port Hueneme and Santa Paula, should amend their city codes regarding graffiti vandalism to include provisions for the city to petition the sentencing court for the delay or suspension of driving privileges for those convicted of graffiti vandalism, as allowed for in the state vehicle code.

The California Vehicle Code already provides for suspension of driving privileges in conjunction with a graffiti vandalism conviction (CVC 13202.6). Accordingly, the City's municipal code does not need to be amended.

SUMMARY:

The City of Thousand Oaks and the Thousand Oaks Police Department wishes to thank the Grand Jury for its time in performing their review and determining various recommendations.

Date: May 16, 2012

Signed: 
Jacquie V. Irwin, Mayor
City of Thousand Oaks

Number of pages attached 0

