



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Robert F. Clark, City Manager

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AUG 29 2013

**VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY**

June 26, 2013

Hon. Brian J. Back
Presiding Judge
Ventura County Superior Court
800 South Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Report of the 2012-13 Grand Jury "Ventura County Library"

Dear Judge Back:

The City Council of the City of Ojai reviewed the report of the 2012-13 Grand Jury regarding Ventura County Library at its regular meeting of June 25, 2013. The Council approved the attached responses to the findings and recommendations in the report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Clark".

Robert Clark
City Manager

Cc: Jay Whitney, Foreperson, 2012-13 Ventura County Grand Jury
Rhonda Basore, City Clerk



**Grand Jury Response
Ventura County Library
May 9, 2013**

Number	Finding	Status/Outcome
FI-01	The Grand Jury found that the VCLS is not conducting adequate outreach into the community to gain volunteers. It also limits their ability to meet with school administration in order to obtain the assistance of the community to provide specific programming, all due to limited staff.	VCLS has developed a substantial volunteer base on Ojai. However, we agree that more could be done if further staff and resources were available.
FI-02	Used book sales provide extra income. However, not all of the libraries in the VCLS take part in this venture. Ojai appears to be most successful due to its volunteer base.	The City is very grateful for the network of volunteers and for the willingness of the community to approve a special tax to support additional library services in Ojai.
FI-05	The summer reading program is very successful. It deserves a chance to expand through greater networking. The program would also be enhanced by asking for more volunteer assistance.	VCLS has developed a substantial volunteer base on Ojai. However, we agree that more could be done if further staff and resources were available.
FI-07	Based on interviews, observations and analysis of information the Grand Jury determined that a well-functioning and community-supported library system can potentially provide invaluable services to the community	The City is very grateful for the network of volunteers and for the willingness of the community to approve a special tax to support additional library services in Ojai.

Number	Recommendation	Status/Outcome
R-01	The Grand Jury recommends that a strategy to expand the most successful summer reading library program be established.	The City will participate with other stakeholders in efforts by VCLS to implement this recommendation.
R-02	The Grand Jury recommends that a means to reach out to potential volunteers be initiated. There are a number of programs that could be staffed with volunteers. Also, the VCLS may find the community will help support the development of new programs listed in this recommendation.	The City has a robust volunteer program and the community has adopted a library tax. The City will continue to work with VCLS, its volunteers and the community to maintain and expand services.
R-03	The Grand Jury recommends that the library system be viewed on the basis of what it can provide to the community rather than from a monetary position. This may provide the incentive to find a means to allow libraries to meet or exceed the claims of independent systems and to become a credit to the County.	As noted above, Ojai as a community is very supportive of the Library and has achieved some of what is described by the Grand Jury. These efforts will continue.
R-04	The Grand Jury recommends that the VCLS administration invite city managers to discuss ways and means to assist in the improvement of the libraries with their cities. This may initiate more involvement, enlightenment as to the potential of libraries, new ideas and possibly additional funds and resources.	The Ojai City Manager will continue to work with the VCLS and the other city managers to improve libraries
Att-2	The Grand Jury based some of its recommendations on Attachment 2, a report funded by the Reason Foundation, dated February 2011	The Ojai City Council objects to the use of this report because it is not a factual report, but rather is funded by an organization with a political agenda to further that agenda.