

JUL 21 2015

VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY  
City Council2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard • Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
Phone 805/449.2121 • Fax 805/449.2125 • www.toaks.orgAl Adam  
Mayor**Response to Grand Jury Report Form**

**Report Title:** Panhandling and Charity Soliciting in the City of Thousand Oaks  
**Report Date:** May 28, 2015  
**Response By:** City Council of the City of Thousand Oaks

Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933 (c) and (d), the City Council of the City of Thousand Oaks provides the following responses to the findings and recommendations included in the above referenced Grand Jury Report.

**BACKGROUND**

After receiving a citizen complaint about panhandling occurring in the City of Thousand Oaks, the Ventura County Grand Jury conducted a review of the police practices used in the City dealing with panhandling and solicitation as well as creation of ordinances related to panhandling. During its review, the Grand Jury found that Thousand Oaks has taken a more compassionate route in the enforcement of panhandling and creation of other laws to limit the activity. Acknowledging that panhandling has been deemed a protected activity under the First Amendment, which has been affirmed by numerous court decisions by both the United States Supreme Court and the California Supreme Court, the Grand Jury acknowledged that the City is handling panhandling issues in conformance with current case law and in a manner in which its citizens are satisfied with its efforts. Further, the Grand Jury made several recommendations for the City to implement to further address this issue.

**FORMAT OF RESPONSE**

The City Council's detailed response to the Grand Jury Report is set forth in the following pages. The response is ordered in the same manner as the report itself – Facts, Findings, and Recommendations. The City Council is being required to respond to Findings 01, 02, 04, and 05 as well as to Recommendations 01, 02, and 03. Responses have been requested from the Thousand Oaks Police Department for Findings 01 through 06 and Recommendations 01, 02, and 03, which will be made in a separate response directly from Sheriff Dean.

**FINDINGS:**

We agree with findings numbered FI-01, FI-02, FI-04, FI-05.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Recommendations numbered R-01, R-02, R-03 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The Grand Jury has made three recommendations for the City to implement in an effort to better educate the public about the issues of panhandling and solicitation: 1) that the Thousand Oaks City Council develop a "frequently asked questions" section for its Panhandling Resources" webpage; 2) that the City Council design an anonymous survey of solicitors to determine additional strategic responses to the issue, and; 3) that the City Council direct its survey consultants to include questions about public soliciting separate from homelessness into its biennial Community Attitude Survey.


The City intends to implement these three recommendations in time for the next biennial Community Attitude Survey, which is scheduled next for spring of 2017.

**SUMMARY:**

The City of Thousand Oaks wishes to thank the Grand Jury for its review of its current practices for handling panhandling issues within the City of Thousand Oaks.

The City of Thousand Oaks will continue to partner in an effort to address any panhandling issues that arise, as well as assist in the development of a "Frequently Asked Questions" page regarding solicitors and panhandling to educate the public. The partnership will also aim to determine the root causes of panhandling and suggest best steps to move forward. The City of Thousand Oaks will include information in the attitude surveys sent to residents to help educate the differences between homelessness and panhandling as well as get a clearer picture of the attention residents want in this area.

Date: July 14, 2015

Signed:   
Al Adam, Mayor  
City of Thousand Oaks

Number of pages attached 0