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VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

August 15, 2016

The Honorable Donald D. Coleman  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: City of Santa Paula's Response to the Grand Jury's Report entitled "Public Access to Conflict of Interest Codes"

Dear Judge Coleman:

On May 28, 2016, the Ventura County Grand Jury issued its report entitled "Public Access to Conflict of Interest Codes." The Report focuses on whether the City's<sup>1</sup> Conflict of Interest Code is readily accessible to the public, thereby making City government more transparent. Although the Grand Jury found that the City has adopted a Conflict of Interest Code that meets State standards, the Grand Jury found that Conflict of Interest Code was not readily accessible on the City's website. At the conclusion of the Report, the Grand Jury requested a response from the City to Finding FI-01 and Recommendation R-02.

We provide the following responses to these Findings and Recommendations in accordance with Penal Code §933.05.

**Finding:**

**FI-01:** *The Grand Jury found that Conflict of Interest Codes for Ventura County and its 10 cities are not easily accessible to the public.*

The City agrees that Conflict of Interest Codes (as well as all important City documents) should be posted and easily locatable on the City's website. The City is currently in the process of updating its website to make it more user friendly, including providing a direct link to the City's Conflict of Interest Code.

**Recommendation:**

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<sup>1</sup> The Report also addresses accessibility to the Conflict of Interest Codes of the County and each of the County's other nine cities.

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**R-02** *The Grand Jury recommends that each city council of the 10 cities within Ventura County establish a direct link on its city homepage for public online access to its Conflict of Interest Code. (FI-01)*

The City will implement this recommendation by providing a direct link on the City's website to the Conflict of Interest Code, both in the "Quick Links" section and in the "City Information/Documents" section of the website. Note also that the process to update the City's website to make it more user friendly has begun.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Report. Should you have any further questions or desire any further information, please contact me or City Manager Jaime Fontes.

Sincerely,

Martin F. Hernandez, Mayor

cc: Santa Paula City Council  
Jaime M. Fontes, City Manager  
Janice Feingold, Ventura County Grand Jury Foreperson