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AUG 13 2018

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

CITY OF
VENTURA

City Council

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Erik Nasarenko, Councilmember
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Christy Weir, Councilmember

July 9, 2018

Andrew Ludlum, Foreperson
2017-18 Ventura County Grand Jury
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: City of San Buenaventura – Campaign Signs

Dear Mr. Ludlum:

The City of Ventura received the 2017-2018 Grand Jury Report “Campaign Signs”. In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05, we submit this response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations.

The City Council appreciates and welcomes the efforts of the Grand Jury’s review of countywide review of our Campaign Sign regulations and communications with our candidates.

The Grand Jury requires a response to conclusion C-02 and recommendation R-01.

Conclusions

C-02: *The Grand Jury concluded the City of Ventura’s sign-placement requirements for public property placement is unclear. For example, the regulation states signs may be placed in the public right-of-way, but should not “be located in a manner that may constitute a traffic hazard or create a hazardous condition for persons using the public right-of-way.”*

Response to C-02: *Neither Agree or Disagree.* The City will include more information for candidates regarding sign placement. It should be noted that we current define “public right-of-way” and state temporary political signs may not be located within medians or roadways.

Recommendations

R-01: *The Grand Jury recommends that the County and the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, Camarillo and Thousand Oaks rewrite their campaign sign-placement regulations to provide more definitive direction to candidates. This is uniquely important for the City of Ventura, which is the only city to allow campaign signs on public property. The City of Simi Valley's policy is an example of clear and concise election sign rules and regulations.*

Response to R-01: *Neither Agree or Disagree.* The City will provide more direction to candidates in our election manual and through correspondence on placement of campaign signs. While the elections manual contains basic information related to signs, the City Clerk always has sends correspondence to candidates with reminders on when signs can be posted (last week of nomination period) and when they have to removed (10 days following the election). The removal reminder includes the statement "please help to keep the City of Ventura beautiful and remove your signs by November x.

In the 2016 election, the City Clerk received one complaint and notified a candidate to remove a single sign from a median. That candidate removed the sign within an hour. No other signs were placed improperly in the public right-of-way throughout the 2016 election process.

The timing of receiving this Grand Jury report did not allow the City to consider updating our ordinances to allow adoption prior to preparation of the 2018 Elections Candidate Manual. Following the 2018 Election, the City will consider if our current ordinances require an update prior to the 2020 Election.

Sincerely,



Neal Andrews
Mayor