

GRAND JURY REPORT FINDINGS AND CITY OF OJAI CITY COUNCIL RESPONSES

Response to Conclusions

C-01 “The Grand Jury concluded that among the County law enforcement facilities that have drug disposal bins, there is a lack of information and consistency in public guidance regarding the disposal of all medications, particularly for pet owners. (FA-09, FA-10, FA-11, FA-12, FA-13, FA-14, FA-15, FA-16) (Att-01)”

City Response: The Ventura County Sheriff’s Office (VCSO), is the contract law enforcement agency for the City of Ojai. The Ventura County Sheriff’s Office understands the importance of disposal of unused/expired prescription medications as well as sharps disposal. The Ventura County Sheriff’s Office has designated public lobbies at all patrol stations available for residents to dispose of drugs during regular business hours. None of the patrol stations offer sharps disposal. The Ojai Police Departments offers a bin in the public lobby to dispose of unused/expired prescription medication. There is no disposal bin for sharps.

Response to Recommendations:

R-3 “The Grand Jury recommends that all law enforcement agencies update their websites and other sources of public information. Information should include, but not be limited to, guidance regarding the availability of disposal bins for drugs and sharps, accessibility requirements to the bins and directions for disposal. (C-01)”

City Response: The Ventura County Sheriff’s Office (VCSO), is the contract law enforcement agency for the City of Ojai. The Ojai Police Station is not equipped to handle sharps disposal due to the necessary manpower as well as the ability to monitor sharps disposal bins on a continuous basis. The lack of needed monitoring could lead to improperly disposed of needles which can be hazardous to the residents who routinely visit police lobbies. In some cases, i.e. criminal investigations or other law enforcement contacts, sharps are safely collected by patrol deputies and disposed of in sharps containers at the Ventura County Sheriff’s Property Room located within the Ojai Police Station. Disposal of sharps in these circumstances is manageable due to the small volume.

The Ojai Police Department agrees with the recommendation of offering sources of public information to communicate drugs and sharps disposal. This will be done through press releases, utilizing the various social media platforms offered by the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office, Ojai Police Department, and the City of Ojai (i.e. Facebook, Twitter and Next Door). The Ventura County Sheriff’s Office has agreed to provide links on its website to direct citizens to locations for drug disposal, including pet medications, and types of sharps disposal. The City of Ojai has agreed

to post links on its website to direct citizens to information and locations for drug disposal, including pet medications, and types of sharps disposal.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will create an agency-wide policy on unused/expired prescription drug bin drop off. Employees of the Ojai Police Department will be responsible for adhering to this policy.