



City Manager's Office

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JUL 16 2019

Ventura County
Grand Jury

July 10, 2019

Ms. Kathleen Diamond, Foreperson
Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Ms. Diamond:

On behalf of Mayor Robert McCoy, please find attached the City of Thousand Oaks' response to the Grand Jury report titled, "Drug and Sharps Disposal," dated May 2, 2019.

Sincerely,

Ellen Rosa
Executive Assistant

CMO:510-40/H:Common/07 10 2019 Response to Grand Jury Report Dated 05 02 19 Drug and Sharps Disposal

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Drug and Sharps Disposal Report
Report Date: May 2, 2019
Response By: City Council of the City of Thousand Oaks

Pursuant to California Penal Code Sections 933.05 (a) and (b), the City Council of the City of Thousand Oaks provided a response to the “Drug and Sharps Disposal Grand Jury Report.

BACKGROUND

On May 30, 2019, the Ventura County Grand Jury provided the City Council and City Manager with a final report of its investigation entitled, “Drug and Sharps Disposal Report.” 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.

FORMAT OF RESPONSE:

The City’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, Conclusions, and Recommendations.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

There were no Findings in the Grand Jury Report.

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 Thousand Oaks. VCSO understands the

importance of disposal of unused/expired prescription medications as well as sharps disposal. VCSO 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 Thousand Oaks Police Department offers a bin in the public lobby of the police station to dispose of unused/expired prescription and non-prescription medication. There is no disposal bin for sharps at the Police Department; these are accepted at Los Robles Hospital, Conejo Valley Family Medical Group, and at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

The City provides information on the disposal of medicine and sharps on its website at: <https://www.toaks.org/departments/public-works/sustainability/trash-recycling/trash-recycling-residential-services/haz-waste-medicine-and-sharps-disposal>.

The disposal bin and associated signage at the Thousand Oaks Police Department were installed in 2010 in a partnership between the City and the Police Department. The City purchased and installed the bin, and worked with the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department to develop appropriate signage.

The City's Sustainability Division is primarily responsible for publicizing the program and has actively promoted its availability since it began. Outreach and services include an informational brochure, handed out at multiple events and available in the lobby of City Hall, free sharps containers available at City Hall, free mail-in envelopes provided to home-bound individuals that are unable to use the disposal bin at the Police Department, and free envelopes and sharp containers provided at the City's Goebel Adult Center. As part of the outreach program, the City actively works with pharmacists, medical, veterinary and dental offices, and hospices to make them aware of these services.

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 Thousand Oaks. The Thousand Oaks 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 Thousand Oaks Police Station. Disposal of sharps in these circumstances is manageable due to the small volume.

Sharps container distribution and collection is managed by the City's Sustainability Division, and is outlined in the response to C-01 above. It includes free container pickup at City Hall and the Goebel Adult Center, and free disposal at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

The Thousand Oaks 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 VCSO and the Thousand Oaks Police Department, and will continue to be done by the City of Thousand Oaks (i.e. Facebook, Twitter and Next Door). VCSO 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 Thousand Oaks maintains a webpage devoted to information and locations for drug disposal, including pet medications, and types of sharps disposal at: <https://www.toaks.org/departments/public-works/sustainability/trash-recycling/trash-recycling-residential-services/haz-waste-medicine-and-sharps-disposal>. In addition, the City publishes related information in its e-newsletter on a regular basis (currently 10,930 subscribers), and has included information in wastewater bill inserts mailed to all residents.

VCSO will create an agency-wide policy on unused/expired prescription drug bin drop off. Employees of the Thousand Oaks Police Department will be responsible for adhering to this policy.

SUMMARY:

The City of Thousand Oaks and the Thousand Oaks Police Department wish to thank the Grand Jury for its time.

Date: July 9, 2019

Signed: _____


Robert McCoy, Mayor
City of Thousand Oaks

Number of pages attached 0

