



# COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
**MICHAEL POWERS**  
County Executive Officer

September 21, 2021

Sent Via E-Mail

**Mike Pettit**  
Assistant County Executive Officer

**Kaye Mand**  
County Chief Financial Officer

**Shawn Atin**  
Assistant County Executive Officer/  
Human Resources Director  
Labor Relations

Honorable Bruce A. Young  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Superior Court of California, Ventura County  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

RECEIVED  
SEP 28 2021  
Ventura County  
Grand Jury

**Subject:** Board of Supervisors' Response to the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report, Entitled Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Honorable Judge Young:

In accordance with State requirements, the response from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report, referenced above, is hereby submitted along with copies of the respective board letter and minute order.

By way of this email, copies of the response to the subject report (Exhibit 1), minute order and the September 14, 2021 board letter were provided to the Ventura County Clerk, to Superior Court Jury Services, and to the Foreperson of the 2021-2022 Ventura County Grand Jury. As has been the usual practice in past years, Jury Services will provide copies of the response to the State Archives.

Should you have any questions, please call me at 654-2864.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Pettit  
Assistant County Executive Officer

Attachment: Board of Supervisors' Response to 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report on:  
--"Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office" (Exhibit 1)  
--Minute Order  
--Board Letter dated September 14, 2021

Copies:

County Executive Officer, Michael Powers  
County Clerk, Mark Lunn  
Foreperson, Carolyn Landon, 2021-2022 Ventura County Grand Jury  
Jury Services, Nan Richardson, Manager

**EXHIBIT 1**

**FY 2020-2021 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

**RESPONSES TO FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Report Number Respondents (& Date) #)	Report Title	(With FI, C and R
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**REPORT NO. 01 April 30, 2021**

Title: **Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office**

Required Respondent: **Board of Supervisors**  
(F-13, F-14, F-15, R-03)

## Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office\_\_

Report Date: April 30, 2021\_\_\_\_\_

Response By: Mike Pettit\_\_\_\_\_ Title: Assistant County Executive Officer\_\_\_\_\_

### FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

- I (we) agree with the findings/conclusions numbered: F-13, F-14
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings/conclusions numbered: F-15

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered N/A have been implemented.  
*(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)*
- Recommendations numbered N/A have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.  
*(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)*
- Recommendations numbered N/A require further analysis.  
*(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)*
- Recommendations numbered R-03 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
*(Attach an explanation.)*

Date: 7/23/2021\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: Mike Pettit

Number of Pages Attached: 2

## **Response to Grand Jury Report Form**

Report Title: Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office

Report Date: April 30, 2021

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As set forth below, in accordance with Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors disagrees with Finding F-15 and Recommendation R-03 will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors (Board), at its November 10, 2020 meeting considered and adopted Resolution 20-126, a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis and pledging to promote equity, inclusion and diversity in housing, employment, economic development, health care and public safety in the County of Ventura. In the Board letter for that item and in the resolution, the Board considered establishing a community advisory committee to engage with the County's law and justice agencies including the Sheriff, DA and Probation Departments. Specifically, in the resolution, the Board made clear that it pledges to collaborate with the County's law and justice agencies and the community to establish an advisory group to help foster meaningful discussions and to identify public concerns related to policing policies and procedures regarding matters such as misconduct, training and hiring.

Resolution 20-126 was passed unanimously by the Board and since that time the Ventura County Public Safety and Racial Equity Advisory Group (PSREAG) has been formed with the support of the County Executive Office, including the County Diversity Officer, Phin Xaypangna, who has facilitated planning meetings of the advisory group. Early foundational work on the advisory group began with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Ventura County Chapter (NAACP), Black Lawyers of Ventura County and the membership that is now known as Santa Paula Latino Townhall. The PSREAG members currently consist of the Sheriff, city of Oxnard's Chief of Police, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Agency, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Ventura County Chapter (NAACP), Santa Paula Latino Townhall, Black Lawyers of Ventura County, Mexican American Bar Association, Ventura County Asian American Bar Association, Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), Diversity Collective of Ventura County, Pacific Clinics, We Belong 805, and Conejo Valley Interfaith Association.

Working together, PSREAG has already defined its purpose as: "To provide a forum where public safety and community stakeholders collaborate to improve communications and understanding amongst the parties and the greater public and identify potential solutions to improving law enforcement policies and procedures and community engagement. The PSREAG will provide valuable input on issues surrounding public safety, equity, and justice-oriented best practices to enhance policies, procedures, and

community interactions, while increasing transparency and fostering a mutual understanding.”

AB1185 was approved by the Governor on September 30, 2020. AB 1185 does not impose mandatory obligations on the County and its implementation is left to the discretion of the Board or a vote of County residents. Prior to AB1185 being enacted by the state, work was already underway in our County with community partners to address community concerns, collaborate on ideas for improving law enforcement policies and community engagement. The PSREAG purpose and goals to work together in a two-way communication link between public safety and community organizations that share an interest in advancing an equitable justice system and create a community forum by which information, education and ideas are encouraged and exchanged will help increase public understanding of public safety policies and procedures, as well as identify areas of concern and offer potential solutions for enhancements. This open and transparent work will enhance accountability and trust with the community with respect to policing by the Sheriff and across public safety in our county.

Given the work that had already occurred with the community to form the PSREAG and the existing relationships between the County, Public Safety and community groups our recommendation is to continue on this course.



**BOARD MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**SUPERVISORS MATT LAVERE, LINDA PARKS,  
KELLY LONG, ROBERT O. HUBER AND CARMEN RAMIREZ  
September 14, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.**

**Approval of the Response to the 2020-2021 Ventura Grand Jury Report Entitled Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. (County Executive Office)**

- (X) All Board members are present.
- (X) The Board holds a public hearing.
- (X) The following persons are heard: Mike Pettit, Claudia Bautista and Ronald Robinson.
- (X) The following documents are submitted to the Board for consideration:
  - (X) Board Letter
  - (X) Exhibits 1 - 4
- (X) Upon motion of Supervisor Long, seconded by Supervisor Ramirez, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves recommendations as stated in the Board letter.

By: Lori Key  
Lori Key  
Deputy Clerk of the Board



# COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
**MICHAEL POWERS**  
County Executive Officer

**Mike Pettif**  
Assistant County Executive Officer

**Kaye Mand**  
County Chief Financial Officer

**Shawn Alin**  
Assistant County Executive Officer/  
Human Resources Director  
Labor Relations

September 14, 2021

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject: Approval of Response to the 2020-2021 Ventura Grand Jury Report Entitled "Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office" for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.**

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that your Board consider and approve, with or without modification, the response to the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report, entitled "Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office" (Exhibit 1), for submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in accordance with Penal Code section 933(c).

**Discussion:**

Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05 require that your Board comment on the Findings and Recommendations of the Civil Grand Jury pertaining to County Government under your authority.

The 2020-2021 Grand Jury issued a report dated April 30, 2020 entitled "Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office" (Report). The Grand Jury Report requested responses from your Board and from the Ventura County Sheriff concerning the discretionary formation of a civilian board to provide for oversight of policing by the Sheriff as allowed by newly enacted California Assembly Bill 1185 (AB1185). The Grand Jury recommended in their report that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors consider creating a Sheriff oversight board with respect to Ventura County Sheriff operations as authorized by AB1185.

The proposed response from your Board was prepared by the County Executive Office (Exhibit 1) and presented for your Board's consideration at your July 27, 2021 meeting. At that meeting your Board and CEO requested that the Public Safety and Racial Equity

Advisory Group (PSREAG) consider the proposed response and that the item be continued for consideration at your next meeting.

On July 29, 2021 and August 26, 2021, the PSREAG met and considered the proposed response to the Grand Jury and discussed the contents of the Grand Jury report. The PSREAG has provided the attached letter (Exhibit 2) communicating their comments regarding the Grand Jury Report and their support for continuing their work as an advisory group, and that they will continue to assess the need for an oversight board as prescribed by Assembly Bill 1185 in an ongoing manner.

### **Recommendation**

The proposed response to the Grand Jury for your consideration identifies that your Board, at its November 10, 2020 meeting considered and adopted a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis and pledging to promote equity, inclusion and diversity in housing, employment, economic development, health care and public safety in the County of Ventura. In the Board letter for that November 2020 item, as well as in the resolution, your Board did consider establishing a community advisory committee to engage with the County's law and justice agencies including the Sheriff, DA and Probation Departments. Specifically, in the resolution, your Board made clear that it pledges to collaborate with the county's law and justice agencies and the community to establish an advisory group to help foster meaningful discussions and to identify public concerns related to policing policies and procedures with regard to matters such as misconduct, training and hiring.

The resolution was passed unanimously by your Board and since that time PSREAG was formed with the support of the County Executive Office, including the County Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Phin Xaypangna, who has facilitated planning meetings of the group. Early foundational work on the advisory group began with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Ventura County Chapter (NAACP), Black Lawyers of Ventura County and the membership that is now known as Santa Paula Latino Townhall. The PSREAG members currently consist of the Sheriff, city of Oxnard's Chief of Police, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Agency, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Ventura County Chapter (NAACP), Santa Paula Latino Townhall, Black Lawyers of Ventura County, Mexican American Bar Association, Ventura County Asian American Bar Association, Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), Diversity Collective of Ventura County, Pacific Clinics, We Belong 805, and Conejo Valley Interfaith Association.

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Given the work that had already occurred with the community to form the PSREAG and the existing relationships between the County, Public Safety, and community groups, our recommendation is to continue on this course.

The response pertaining to County government under your control will serve as your Board’s response to the subject 2020-2021 Grand Jury Report to be filed as indicated in the recommended action along with any additional comments your Board may wish to make. If your Board elects to amend a response prepared on your behalf to the subject reports before you for approval, then CEO staff, at your direction, will make such changes or additions prior to submitting the response to the Presiding Judge.

The Sheriff, as an elected official, is required to submit a response directly to the Presiding Judge. The Sheriff’s response is attached as Exhibit 4 and provided here only for informational purposes as your Board’s approval is not required of the Sheriff’s response. The Grand Jury Report is provided for reference as Exhibit 3.

(continued on next page)

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact me at 654-2681 or Mike Pettit at 654-2864.



Mike Pettit  
Assistant County Executive Officer



Michael Powers  
County Executive Officer

- Exhibit 1 – County Board of Supervisors Response to Grand Jury Report on Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office
- Exhibit 2 – Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group Comment Letter to the Board of Supervisors
- Exhibit 3 – Grand Jury Report - Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office
- Exhibit 4 – Ventura County Sheriff Response to Grand Jury Report on Policing by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office