



"Citrus Capital of the World"

City of Santa Paula

970 Ventura Street • Santa Paula, California • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 569 • 93061 • Phone: (805) 525-4478 • Fax: (805) 525-6278

August 19, 2020

The Honorable Kent M. Kellegrew
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: City's Response to Grand Jury Report Entitled "Human Trafficking in Ventura County"

Dear Judge Kellegrew:

On or About May 23, 2020, the Ventura County Grand Jury issued its report entitled "Human Trafficking in Ventura County" (the "Report"). In the Report, the Grand Jury initiated an investigation to determine if the County has a coordinated policy to address the issue of human trafficking, including funding, staffing, training and the availability of services for victims. In the Report, the Grand Jury recommends that cities within Ventura County coordinate the investigation and enforcement of ordinances regarding massage parlors in an effort to combat sex and labor trafficking.

At the conclusion of the Report, the Grand Jury requested a response from the City to Conclusions C-03 and C-04 and Recommendation R-01. We provide the following responses to these Conclusions and Recommendation in accordance with Penal Code §933.05.

Conclusions:

C-03. The Grand Jury concluded that differences in County and city massage parlor ordinances allow illicit businesses to avoid legal consequence.

We agree in part and disagree in part with Conclusion C-03. As other cities have noted, there are legal consequences currently in place for illicit massage parlors currently through Santa Paula's existing ordinances and state law. Santa Paula's massage regulations are codified in the Santa Paula Municipal Code as Chapter 119. Section 119.001 through 119.060 impose regulations on both the massage parlor and the massage technician, including registration requirements, hours of operation, permit conditions, hours of operation, physical building requirements, health and safety requirements, owner/operator responsibility, and inspection authority.

The Honorable Kent M. Kellegrew
August 19, 2020
Page 2

C-04. The Grand Jury concluded that coordinating ordinances regarding massage parlors among the County and the cities within the County will improve the effectiveness of enforcement operations.

The City agrees with this conclusion. Eliminating differences in city and county ordinances for massage parlors along with the inclusion of uniform and simplified standards will allow for more effective enforcement of illicit massage operations.

Recommendations:

R-01. The Grand Jury recommends the County and each of the cities within the County coordinate their respective ordinances regarding massage parlors through the efforts of the Task Force

Formed in January, 2020, the Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force has taken a leadership role in the formation of a working group to evaluate, modify, and recommend changes to pre-existing massage parlor ordinances in the cities of Ventura County and the unincorporated areas. The working group will consist of representatives from each city government, City Attorneys, City Code Compliance, Ventura County Resource Management Agency, the District Attorney's Office, stakeholders in the massage industry and community representatives. Detectives from the Human Trafficking Task Force have already evaluated each cities' ordinance and drafted proposed guidelines and changes.

The goal of the working group will be to create common minimum standards/ requirements for each city/ county ordinance while recognizing that each city or area has different needs and community concerns. It will also be imperative to include the legitimate massage industry professionals as to not overburden them with regulations.

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 Dan Singer.

Sincerely,



Richard Araiza
Mayor

cc: Santa Paula City Council
Dan Singer, City Manager
Ismael Cordero, Interim Chief of Police
Anida Margolis, Foreperson

Landon, Carolyn

From: Boehmer, Richard
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 9:28 AM
To: Landon, Carolyn
Subject: FW: Grand Jury Response
Attachments: GrandJuryResponseLetters.copy.pdf

Carrie:

Let's discuss on Tuesday.

Rick

From: Dan Singer <dsinger@spcity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 2:33 PM
To: Boehmer, Richard <Richard.Boehmer@ventura.org>
Cc: raraiza@spcity.org; Allison Fausset <afausset@spcity.org>
Subject: Grand Jury Response

CAUTION: If this email looks suspicious, DO NOT click. Forward to Spam.Manager@ventura.org

Dear Mr. Boehmer,

Last week the Mayor brought to my attention that he had received letters from the Grand Jury that you had not received our responses to the two recent investigations on *Cybersecurity* and *Human Trafficking*. Although my executive assistant has been out on bereavement leave, I'm entirely certain we mailed off copies in late August. I've attached copies of the letters which were reviewed and authorized to be sent by our City Council when we brought these items to them at a public meeting in mid-August. My sincerest apology that they never reached your office.

Please let me know if the attached pdf is sufficient or if we need to generate new original copies and/or whether you require me to mail hard copies to you. Thanks you.

Dan Singer
City Manager
City of Santa Paula
(805) 933-4225



"This is an electronic transmission from the City of Santa Paula. This electronic transmission, and any documents attached hereto, may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. The information is intended only for use by the recipient named above. If you have received this electronic message in error, please notify the sender and delete the electronic message."