



CITY OF LOMPOC
POLICE DEPARTMENT
"Where Service is Tradition"

WILLIAM F. BROWN, JR.
Chief of Police

M

Received

MAY 16 2005

Santa Barbara
Grand Jury

May 10, 2005

The Honorable Judge Anderson
Santa Barbara Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Grand Jury Request to Consider Sobering Center for Lompoc

Dear Judge Anderson:

I am replying on behalf of the City of Lompoc and the Lompoc Police Department to the 2004-2005 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury report which was forwarded to Lompoc City Administrator Gary Keefe.

The Santa Barbara Community Sobering Center is an excellent alternative to booking alcohol related arrestees into an already over crowded Santa Barbara County Jail. I am sure it is professionally run and results in significant booking fee savings to the City of Santa Barbara which would otherwise accrue through conventional bookings into the County Jail.

For the City of Lompoc, however, the idea of a sobering center would be impractical and unreasonably expensive to our community. The City of Lompoc differs from the City of Santa Barbara in that it maintains and staffs its own Type 1 Jail. As such we do not book anyone arrested for alcohol-related offenses directly into Santa Barbara County jail facilities. During the 2004 calendar year, members of our agency arrested and booked a total of 342 persons for alcohol related offences, all of whom were cared for by our well qualified, Board of Corrections-trained jailers. Such arrest volume -- less than one person per day on average -- simply does not justify the expense of establishing staffing and maintaining a sobering center in our community. Furthermore, we are not experiencing any overcrowding problems in our jail facility.

In conclusion, while we agree that the Santa Barbara Community Sobering Center is a fine project which improves conditions for alcohol-impaired persons and reduces costs to the City of Santa Barbara, a similar facility would be neither practical nor financially beneficial to the City of Lompoc and its citizens.

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM F. BROWN, JR.
Chief of Police

- c: Santa Barbara Grand Jury (printed & computer disk)
City Administrator Gary Keefe
Capt. Timothy Dabney, Support Services Division Commander
Nancy Faust, Dispatch / Jail Supervisor



CITY OF LOMPOC

Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury
Grand Jury Room
County Courthouse
Santa Barbara, CA 93101


Dear Members of the Grand Jury,

The City of Lompoc has received the report of the 2004-2005 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury. We are honored and pleased that the findings regarding the Lompoc Police Department and the Lompoc City Jail were complementary.

The men and women of the Lompoc Police Department are proud to serve our community and hold sacred the public trust that has been bestowed upon each member of the Department. Our sworn and non-sworn staff dedicate themselves to providing services at the highest level possible within the means of our existing resources. The core values of the Lompoc Police Department are Quality, Pride, Compassion, Integrity and Service. It is the mission of the Lompoc Police Department to provide effective and professional police services, in partnership with the citizens we serve, encouraging mutual respect and innovative problem solving, thereby improving the quality of life in our community.

The Grand Jury's findings were shared with our staff. The Chief of Police issued an internal unit commendation as a result of their exemplary work. The Lompoc Police Department slogan is "Where Service is Tradition." It is my honor to thank the Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury for recognizing the efforts of our staff to continue this tradition of service with their encouraging report.

Sincerely,


Gary Keefe
City Administrator
City of Lompoc