

July 26, 2005

The Honorable Clifford Anderson, III
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
P.O. Box 21107
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

Subject: Response to 2004—2005 Grand Jury Report on the Police Department, “A SOBERING THOUGHT – The Santa Barbara Community Sobering Center – An Alternative to Jail”

Dear Judge Anderson:

The City of Santa Barbara has received and reviewed the 2004—2005 Grand Jury Report on the Police Department, “A SOBERING THOUGHT – The Santa Barbara Community Sobering Center – An Alternative to Jail.” On behalf of the City Council, in agreement to your findings, I’m responding to the finding and recommendation in this report.

The City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Police Department appreciate the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury’s interest and positive report on the Santa Barbara Community Sobering Center.

Since 1994, the Sobering Center has received 14,000 individuals for being intoxicated in public or driving under the influence of alcohol within City limits. These individuals would have otherwise been booked into the Santa Barbara County Jail. Although this type of program may not work for all communities, it has worked well for the City of Santa Barbara and its constituents. Furthermore, we look forward to our continued partnership with Thresholds to Recovery as we continue this effective and humane alternative for those individuals who are temporarily under the influence of alcohol. Our City will be glad to serve as a resource to any community interested in establishing a similar program.

Sincerely,

Marty Blum
Mayor

cc: Santa Barbara County Grand Jury/Attention: Foreperson
Jim Armstrong, City Administrator
Camerino Sanchez, Chief of Police
City Clerk

Enclosure: Computer disc copy of this letter