

July 24, 2007

Honorable Judge Rodney S. Melville
Santa Barbara Superior Court
312-M East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Attention: Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Honorable Judge Melville and Grand Jury Foreperson:

The City Council, at their regular meeting held July 23, 2007, reviewed the 2006-2007 County Civil Grand Jury report entitled "Law, Justice & Public Safety: Selected Community Challenges", specifically as it relates to the City of Carpinteria, and approved the following responses to each of the specific findings and recommendations of the Report:

Finding 1: Greater use of medium security detention facilities, staffed by law enforcement and clinical experts, could reduce jail overcrowding and provide more humane treatment for some segments of the inmate population.

Response: *The City of Carpinteria can not agree with the finding because it does not have adequate information to make the same conclusions with regard to the possible benefits of medium security detention facilities.*

Recommendation 1: Develop more medium security detention facilities as alternatives to incarceration in the Main Jail.

Response: *The City of Carpinteria will not implement this recommendation. The City of Carpinteria contracts with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services. Under the terms of the contract, the County provides custody functions at the County's obligation and expense. The City's expectation is that custody services are provided in a manner that is efficient and effective. The City is confident that the Sheriff's Department will explore all*

reasonable programs to remedy overcrowding of the County jail and to ensure that the City continues to receive the highest quality law enforcement services.

Finding 2: Allegations of negligent or improper treatment of inmates in the Main Jail could not be verified but such claims were not isolated.

Response: *Although the City of Carpinteria is concerned with any allegations of improper treatment of inmates who are in the custody of the Sheriff's Department, it cannot agree with the finding because the County does not provide Main Jail complaint data to the City and the City has not received any complaints directly.*

Recommendation 2: Authorize and fund a court appointed ombudsman who is beholden neither to detention authorities nor to inmate advocacy groups and who is devoted to evaluating and reporting on complaints.

Response: *The City will not implement this recommendation. The City of Carpinteria contracts with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services and the City has no responsibility for detention facilities or their operation. The County provides custody functions and is responsible for compliance with all operating standards, including the proper treatment of inmates. The City's expectation is that custody services are provided in a manner that complies with state and federal law.*

Finding 3: The influence of gang activity in the detention system is pernicious and its impact on the growth of neighborhood gangs may increase if not checked.

Response: *The City of Carpinteria agrees with this finding but, again, because the County is responsible for detention facilities and their operation, the City does not have information that would allow it to independently verify the Grand Jury's conclusion.*

Recommendation 3: Implement a sustainable educational program on the negative impact of gang activity, involving law enforcement and the education experts, focusing on children in K-8 and including outreach to parents.

Response: *The City of Carpinteria will continue to work cooperatively to implement this recommendation with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, the Carpinteria Unified School District and community groups in Carpinteria. The City is committed to addressing gang activity in the Carpinteria*

community. The City, the Sheriff's Department, the Carpinteria Unified School District and Carpinteria Cares for Youth, a community group, have cooperated on a number of programs aimed at preventing gang involvement. The City funds a Community Resource Officer that works with Carpinteria Unified School District officials and community groups to address youth related issues including gang involvement. The City is supportive of the County Sheriff's Departments Life Skills and/or Dare programs, and has provided funds in support of various programs aimed at preventing gang involvement including a community forum for at risk youth, organized by Carpinteria Cares for Youth, and a tattoo removal program. The City also provides youth recreation programs and funds the Carpinteria Boys & Girls Club and Girl's Inc. in order to provide additional youth programming.

Finding 4: The California Civil Code (1714.1 & 1714.3) prescribes the liability of parents or guardians for the misconduct of children within their custody and control.

Response: *The City agrees. The statement is accurate as to the law.*

Recommendation 4: The District Attorney should proactively inform parents or guardians that under the provisions of the California Civil Code they are liable for the misconduct of their children.

Response: *The City of Carpinteria will not implement this recommendation because it is directed at the District Attorney.*

Finding 5: There is a growing disregard for traffic laws and this can contribute to disregard for the law in general.

Response: *The City cannot agree with this finding because it has not conducted any studies in Carpinteria that could prove or disprove the conclusion that disregard for traffic laws contributes to disregard for the law in general.*

Recommendation 5: Place greater emphasis on enforcement and implement a public awareness program regarding bad habits of drivers and bicyclists.

Response: *The City is implementing this recommendation. The City of Carpinteria uses strategically placed traffic enforcement, participates in annual seat belt and drunken driving enforcement campaigns, and regularly includes advisories to motorists and bicyclists on safety within its quarterly newsletter to*

the community. Further, the City will continue to make street, pedestrian and bicycle path improvements throughout the community.

The City of Carpinteria thanks the Grand Jury for its work.

Should you need any additional information please contact me at (805) 684-5405 extension 400.

Sincerely,

Dave Durlinger
City Manager