



July 25, 2007

CITY COUNCIL

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CITY MANAGER

Daniel Singer

The Honorable Rodney Melville
Superior Court
312-M E. Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93455

RE: RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED, "LAW, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY: SELECTED COMMUNITY CHALLENGES"

Below please find the City of Goleta's response to the 2006-2007 Santa Barbara County Grand Juries' Law, Justice and Public Safety: Selected Community Challenges report. In your letter dated May 10, 2007 you noted Finding 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 with Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

The City of Goleta contracts with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department to provide all Law Enforcement functions within the geographic boundaries of the incorporated city. While the City of Goleta contracts with the Sheriff's Department, we do embrace a collaborative approach to all issues facing our community.

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 to Finding 1: The respondent agrees with the finding.

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 to Finding 2: The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The City of Goleta does not operate, nor do we have any authority over, the Main Jail located in Santa Barbara.

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 to Finding 3: The respondent agrees with the finding. The City of Goleta will continue to collaborate with the Sheriff's Department in developing sustainable gang awareness programs and proactive gang enforcement strategies within the City of Goleta. The City of Goleta currently funds a Gang Enforcement Deputy through COPS state grant funds and provides funding for 50% of a School Resource Deputy, both of whom provide for a critical need in terms of early intervention, identification and enforcement specific to the challenges presented by the gang issue.

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 to Finding 4: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Finding 5:

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

Response to Finding 5: The City of Goleta disagrees partially with this finding. Within Goleta, we have found high regard for traffic laws and we have placed considerable emphasis on funding traffic and safety enforcement.

Recommendation 1:

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

Response to Recommendation 1: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted, or is not reasonable. All functions associated with the county's detention system are under the sole authority of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. The City of Goleta has no jurisdiction in this responsibility.

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 to Recommendation 2: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. All functions associated with the county's detention system are under the sole authority of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. The City of Goleta has no jurisdiction in this responsibility.

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 to Recommendation 3: The recommendation has been implemented. The City of Goleta participates in the Citizen's Option for Public Safety, COPS grant program. The City of Goleta currently funds a Gang Enforcement Deputy through COPS state grant funds and provides funding for 50% of a School Resource Deputy, both of whom provide for a critical need in terms of early intervention, identification, education and enforcement specific to the challenges presented by the gang issue.

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 to Recommendation 4: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. The City of Goleta has no authority over the activities of the District Attorney's Office.

Recommendation 5:

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

Response to Recommendation 5: The recommendation has been implemented. Through our contract with the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department, we identify specific problems within our geographic boundaries. Our ongoing commitment to public awareness of issues specific to driver safety and awareness has been evidenced by efforts such as the DUI checkpoints and the Click It or Ticket programs conducted by the Goleta City Traffic Unit.

The City of Goleta appreciates the observations of the Grand Jury. We applaud your commitment to our community and look forward to improving the services we provide our citizens with the assistance from bodies such as yourselves.

Please contact me at your convenience if there is any additional information that the City of Goleta may provide regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Singer
City Manager

C: Santa Barbara County
Civil Grand Jury Foreperson (With CD)
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

City Council

Chris Pappas, Police Chief

Vyto Adomaitis, RDA & Neighborhood Services Director