

July 11, 2007

Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury
Attention: Foreman
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Dear 2006-2007 Civil Grand Jury Members,

The City of Lompoc has received the report of the 2006-2007 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury. We are encouraged by the fact that the Civil Grand Jury chose to address the County's jail overcrowding issue and gang prevention and intervention for all communities in Santa Barbara County.

The men and women of the City of Lompoc are proud to serve our community and hold sacred the public trust that has been bestowed upon each member. Our staff dedicate themselves to providing services at the highest level possible within the means of our existing resources.

LAW, JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY: SELECTED COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

On behalf of the City of Lompoc, we are pleased to respond to the findings and recommendations pertaining to our City issued under the "Law, Justice & Public Safety: Selected Community Challenges" heading by the 2006-2007 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury.

City of Lompoc and Lompoc Police Chief Response to Finding / Recommendation 1

The City of Lompoc operates its own Type 1 jail facility. This resource allows officers of the Lompoc Police Department to book prisoners in the City jail thereby reducing or eliminating the impact of persons arrested by the Lompoc Police Department upon County Jail Facilities. The City of Lompoc is currently in contract negotiations with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department to allow deputies working in the Lompoc Valley to book prisoners at the Lompoc City Jail. This will alleviate some of the overcrowding issues at the County Jail and reduce transportation time for deputies assigned to the Lompoc Valley.

City of Lompoc and Lompoc Police Chief Response to Finding / Recommendation 2

The allegations of negligent or improper treatment of inmates are directed to the Santa Barbara County Jail. The City of Lompoc and the Lompoc City Jail has not had any allegations of negligent or improper treatment. This finding/recommendation is not applicable to the City of Lompoc or the Lompoc Police Department.

City of Lompoc and Lompoc Police Chief Response to Finding / Recommendation 3

The City of Lompoc and the Lompoc Police Department have made gang prevention, education, intervention and accountability a priority. A series of community forums were held in the Spring of 2007, and the Police Department plans to continue parent education and gang awareness programs. The Lompoc Police Activities League operates an after-school boxing program and computer labs after school at school site to encourage young people to engage in positive activities. The Lompoc Police Activities League (PAL) is applying for a grant from the National Football League to sponsor after-school flag football leagues.

In addition to the efforts of PAL, the Lompoc Police Department has had an officer teach D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) at the 5th, 7th and 9th grade levels. This summer the Police Department is collaborating with the Lompoc Unified School District to introduce G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education And Training) at the 4th grade level and continue D.A.R.E. courses in higher grades.

School Resource Officers of the Lompoc Police Department interact with faculty and students daily at two middle schools and Lompoc High School. These officers work with truancy officials and representatives from the Santa Barbara County District Attorneys Office to intervene with at-risk youth and encourage school attendance and participation in outreach and after-school programs.

The Lompoc Police Department employs a five member Gang/Narcotics Enforcement team to hold gang members accountable for their actions. This team is largely responsible for gang association warrants, maintenance of Lompoc's gang injunction and apprehension of criminal offenders.

The City of Lompoc is committed to addressing the gang issue at every level, employing education, prevention and intervention strategies whenever possible and as resources permit. We also stand ready to hold those persons who resist prevention and intervention efforts and actively seek a criminal lifestyle accountable for their actions.

City of Lompoc and Lompoc Police Chief Response to Finding / Recommendation 4

The City of Lompoc recently revised the graffiti ordinance, which specifically holds parents responsible for the destructive actions of their children. The Lompoc Police Department participates with the Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office and Santa Barbara County Probation Department to address parental accountability for the actions of young offenders.

City of Lompoc and Lompoc Police Chief Response to Finding / Recommendation 5

The City of Lompoc has a very active Engineering Department that is diligent to conduct speed surveys and respond to citizens' concerns regarding traffic safety within the City. The Lompoc Police Department dedicates traffic officers to actively enforce traffic laws pertaining to motorists and bicyclists operating within the City.

The Lompoc Police Department has aggressively sought grants from the Office of Traffic Safety to dedicate resources to driver education and targeted enforcement of traffic laws; particularly seatbelt compliance, drunk driving, and unlicensed driving. Over one thousand hours of targeted patrol were performed during the 2006-2007 fiscal year in addition to the enforcement efforts of the assigned traffic officers. Department staff also distribute traffic safety literature and promotional items on a regular basis to promote the safe operation of vehicles and bicycles on the streets of Lompoc.

DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS

On behalf of the City of Lompoc, we are pleased to respond to the findings and recommendations pertaining to our City issued under the “Detention Facilities Inspections” heading by the 2006-2007 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury.

Lompoc Police Department Response to Finding / Recommendation 1

The Lompoc Police Department is pleased that the 2006-2007 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury found no deficiencies in the Lompoc City Jail. We are proud of the fact that the Lompoc City Jail routinely receives high marks for cleanliness and efficiency by the Corrections Standards Authority (formerly California Board of Corrections) and the Health Department. We will endeavor to maintain this sterling record for years to come and continue to encourage personnel to use initiative and make a positive impact on the Lompoc City Jail work environment.

Lompoc Police Department Response to Finding / Recommendation 2

Again, the Lompoc Police Department is pleased that the 2006-2007 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury found no major flaws or shortfalls in staff performance in the Lompoc City Jail. Our staff pride themselves on their professionalism and the pristine condition of our jail.

As to the recommendation, it would not be fiscally prudent to implement video arraignment procedures in the Lompoc City Jail considering that the courtroom is less than 100 feet away from the Lompoc City Jail.

Lompoc Police Department Response to Finding 3

This finding is not applicable to the Lompoc Police Department, as the staffing levels in the Lompoc City Jail have remained adequate and constant for decades.

Lompoc Police Department Response to Finding 4

This finding is not applicable to the Lompoc Police Department because the Lompoc City Jail is next door to the court. However, as mentioned earlier in this report, the City of Lompoc is currently negotiating with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department to

allow deputies assigned to the Lompoc Valley to book prisoners into the Lompoc City Jail, thereby alleviating, to a small degree the jail overcrowding problem and reducing the need for the County Sheriff to transport persons arrested in the Lompoc Valley from Sheriff's Department facilities to the Lompoc Court.

CONCLUSION

The City of Lompoc exists to serve its citizens. We continually strive to provide the highest level of services possible given our existing resources. Every community wrestles with tightening budgets and social issues. The City of Lompoc and the Lompoc Police Department are committed to excellence and innovation. We appreciate the validation and prompting to action provided by the 2006-2007 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury and look forward to future improvements in 2007-2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations of the 2006-2007 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

Dick DeWees
Mayor
City of Lompoc

Timothy L. Dabney
Chief of Police
City of Lompoc

Attachment: Computer disc containing electronic version of this response.