



CITY OF LOMPOC

March 19, 2014

The Honorable Arthur Garcia
Santa Maria Juvenile Court
4263 California Boulevard
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury report entitled,
"What is 2-1-1? Will It Survive in Santa Barbara County?"

Dear Judge Garcia and Grand Jury Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Lompoc City Council in response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury report entitled, *"What is 2-1-1? Will It Survive in Santa Barbara County?"* received by our office on February 10, 2014. Within the Report, the City of Lompoc was requested to respond to Findings 1, 3, and 4, and Recommendation 3, within 90 days of receipt of the Report. The Lompoc City Council considered the Report's findings and recommendations at its regular meeting held March 18, 2014, and I now submit the City's response contained herein.

Finding 1 – The Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Helpline is a program that provides a valuable service to the residents of the county.

The City of Lompoc agrees.

Finding 3 – There is insufficient funding to continue operating the Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Helpline Program.

There is insufficient information contained in the Report for the City of Lompoc to determine whether current funding is adequate or not. Without an understanding of the efficiency of the operation, it cannot be determined if the budget shortfall is due to inadequate funding or excessive expenses. Lack of a current data base is an indication of inefficiency, and if that is representative of how the balance of the Program is operated, additional funding will not resolve the problems.

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Finding 4 – The cities of Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Goleta, Carpinteria, and Guadalupe do not contribute financially to the Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Helpline Program.

There is insufficient information contained in the Report for the City of Lompoc to determine whether this statement is true or not.

Recommendation 3 – That the county, the cities, and other entities benefitting from the services provided by the Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Helpline Program contribute funding in proportionate amounts as proposed by county staff in its December 2013 recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Social services of this type are more the responsibility of counties, non-profit organizations and faith-based organizations than they are of local municipalities. In Fresno County, for instance, the 2-1-1 service (with its perpetually-updated data base) is operated by United Way of Fresno County and funded through individual donations and county funding. But the City of Fresno, for instance, with over 500,000 residents who make the majority of the calls for referrals, contributes nothing to the program.

However, the 2-1-1 Program may qualify for City of Lompoc Human Services Funds. The City's Human Services Funds are awarded on a competitive basis to organizations that apply, with allocation decisions made by the City's Human Services Commission. Competitive grant funding and similar funding sources help ensure that the Program is run efficiently and effectively, while a straight pro-rata apportionment of costs among the cities does nothing to ensure that the program is run effectively or efficiently. The City of Lompoc is not supportive of appropriating funding for 2-1-1 that would otherwise be used to pay for the City's core services, but the City would encourage other funding possibilities within its realm of influence.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Wiemiller
City Administrator

cc: Lompoc City Council