

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

## Agenda Number:

**Prepared on:** Thursday, July 28, 2005  
**Department:** County Executive Office  
**Budget Unit:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** Tuesday, August 9, 2005  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** NA  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer

**STAFF:** John Jayasinghe, Administrative Analyst  
(805) 568-2246

**SUBJECT:** Board of Supervisors' Response to the 2004-05 Grand Jury Report on "The Michael Poquette Youth Enrichment Center"

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## Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Adopt the responses in Attachment (1) as the Board of Supervisors' responses to the 2004-05 Grand Jury Report on "The Michael Poquette Youth Enrichment Center", and
- B. Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment (1) forwarding the responses to the Presiding Judge.

## Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal #7: A County Government that is Accessible, Open, and Citizen-Friendly.

## Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Grand Jury Report requires a response from two County departments, the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors.

This report outlines how volunteers at the center provide positive character building and a structured training program. The center is operated by the nonprofit Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Activity League. The report released on June 1, 2005, contains one finding and no recommendations.

It is recommended that the Board agree with the Finding. Details are outlined in Attachment (1). The recommended board actions are aligned with the Sheriff departments' responses.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The grand jury report was released on June 1, 2005. In accordance with California Penal Code Section 933(b), the governing body of the agency (Board of Supervisors) must respond within 90 days after issuance of the Grand Jury report. Consequently, the Board of Supervisors' responses must be finalized and transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Courts no later than Thursday, September 1, 2005. Consideration of the recommended Board response within the administrative agenda on August 9, 2005 will allow the Board additional time, if necessary, to discuss and adopt a response. Section 933c requires that comments to Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations be made in writing.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts from the proposed recommendations.

**Special Instructions:**

The response of the Board of Supervisors must be transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than Thursday, September 1, 2005. The Clerk of the Board is requested to return the signed letter to Jennie Esquer, County Administrator's Office, for distribution to the Superior Court. The signed letter, written responses and a 3 1/2" computer disc with the response in a Microsoft Word file must be forwarded to the grand jury.

- Attachments:**
- (1) Letter to the Presiding Judge with Board of Supervisors Responses
  - (2) Sheriff Department's Responses
  - (3) Copy of 2004-05 Grand Jury Report on "Santa Barbara County Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities"

**CC:** Jim Anderson, Sheriff

August 9, 2005

Honorable Clifford R. Anderson, III  
Presiding Judge  
Santa Barbara County Superior Court  
P.O. Box 21107  
Santa Barbara, California 93121-1107

**Board of Supervisors' Response to the 2004-05 Grand Jury Report on:**  
*"The Michael Poquette Youth Enrichment Center"*

Dear Judge Anderson:

During its regular meeting of Tuesday, August 9, 2005, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following responses as their responses to the 2004-05 Grand Jury's report on "The Michael Poquette Youth Enrichment Center". The Board of Supervisors thanks the Grand Jury for its findings.

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**FINDING 1**

*The Grand Jury finds this to be an excellent and positive program benefiting the youth of the Santa Ynez Valley.*

**Response:** The Board adopted the Sheriff Department's responses as its response. (Agrees with the finding).

Sincerely,

Susan Rose  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Charles Foley, Grand Jury Foreperson 2004-05

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RESPONSE  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY 2004-2005 GRAND JURY  
SHERIFF'S ACTIVITY LEAGUE**

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**FINDING 1**

*The Grand Jury finds this to be an excellent and positive program benefiting the youth of the Santa Ynez Valley.*

**Response to Finding 1**

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding.

## **A Real Knockout Program: Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Activity League Michael Poquette Youth Enrichment Center**

In the town of Solvang there is a special place created by two Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Deputies. This facility is for the Santa Ynez Valley youth. The Michael Poquette Youth Enrichment Center, named after a deceased Sheriff's Deputy, is equipped with a boxing ring and state of the art training and safety equipment.

This Center is operated by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Activities League and is separate from the Sheriff's Department itself. It receives donations from the community and some grant money. There is no fee for the teenagers of the area to attend. The Sheriff's Activities League is part of the California State Police Activities League (one of the largest nonprofit organizations in the State) and prides itself on building "The Bond Between Cops and Kids." The Sheriff's Activities League is also a member of the National Police Activities League (PAL).

The owner of the former outlet mall in Solvang donated space for the Youth Center. Sheriff's deputies and a host of other volunteers donate their time to The Center. The deputies have stated, "We want to encourage kids to develop their minds and get excited about staying in school and getting an education."

The two deputies who initiated this program in the Santa Ynez Valley have taken the organization well beyond the endeavors of Activity Leagues in other communities. Volunteers at the Center provide positive character building and teach discipline in a structured training program. Role models range from a three-time Golden Gloves champion who helps with training to a retired businessman who raises funds to support the Center's programs.

A recent fund-raiser to benefit the Center featured the Sheriff's "Bad Boyz" team against the Harlem Ambassadors, a part of the famous Harlem Globetrotters basketball organization. The cost of the visiting team had been paid in advance by donations. That enabled all the proceeds to go to furthering the efforts of the Michael Poquette Center.

The Center has been open for over a year. The two deputies who began the idea of a special place for youth have seen their hard work and vision become a reality. In addition to boxing, the following programs have been provided:

- Judo
- Hip hop dance class
- Jujitsu
- Youth basketball
- Wrestling
- Leadership training

The deputies remain open and receptive to future programs and activities, which may include:

- Fencing
- Touch football team
- Off road programs
- Kendo
- Boxing and wrestling competitions

Additional volunteers will be needed to assist with these programs.

Last year, three Valley students, under a grant from PAL, attended a national leadership training program held in Orlando, Florida. In the future, deputies hope to be able to send additional teens to this annual event.

### **Finding 1**

The Grand Jury finds this to be an excellent and positive program benefiting the youth of the Santa Ynez Valley.

### **Affected Agency**

**Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department**

Finding 1