

DAS WILLIAMS
First District

JANET WOLF
Second District

JOAN HARTMANN
Third District

PETER ADAM
Fourth District

STEVE LAVAGNINO
Fifth District



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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 29, 2017

Honorable Patricia Kelly
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Reference: Response to FY 2016-17 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury report titled, “Youth Safety in Santa Maria – Developing a New Strategy”, (Published June 15, 2017, Grand Jury Website <http://www.sbcgj.org>).

Judge Kelly:

Please find attached the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board) response to the above referenced Civil Grand Jury Report. As directed by the Grand Jury, all responses are provided in accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code.

The Board appreciates the work conducted by the County Executive Office and their assistance in responding to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joan Hartmann, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

CC: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Mary Tighe, Foreperson, 2017-18 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury

Attachment A

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury 2016-2017 Report
Youth Safety in Santa Maria
Developing a new Strategy

Finding 3

The Mayor and the City Council of Santa Maria initially refused to collaborate with the 5th District Santa Barbara County Supervisor in utilizing the \$75,000 allocation from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for the hiring of an executive level coordinator for the Santa Maria Mayor's Task Force on Youth Safety.

The Board disagrees partially with the finding. Initially, the Mayor and the City declined to collaborate on the utilization of the funding until plans for the structure and composition of the Mayor's Task Force on Youth Safety could be completed. The planning work has been completed and now the Task Force and the County are working together to discuss the issues and gather public input. The City utilized their own funding to hire a coordinator thus increasing the funding allocated to this important issue.

The Mayor's Task Force held their first meeting on April 24th. Fifth District County Supervisor Steve Lavagnino and County Staff participated in that meeting. The most recent Task Force meeting was held on July 17th and was in the format of a community forum in the Minami Community Center in Santa Maria. Both City and County representatives participated as well as community members to discuss the issues and strategies to address youth safety.

Recommendation 3

That the Mayor and the City Council of Santa Maria strengthen their collaboration with the 5th District Santa Barbara County Supervisor and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to expand their ongoing support for a regional program under executive-level leadership.

The recommendation has been implemented. The City and the County have been collaborating on addressing this issue. On July 17th a community forum was held in the Minami Community Center in Santa Maria which both City and County representatives participated as well as community members to discuss the issues and strategies to address youth safety. Additionally the 5th District office and the City have retained the services of Ernesto Olivares, executive director of the California Cities Violence Prevention Network, to work with the task force in creating its strategic plan.

Finding 5

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors has shown support for the development of an at-risk youth program in North County by allocating \$75,000 in budget year 2016-17, of which approximately \$50,000 remains.

The Board Agrees with the Finding.

Recommendation 5

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors commit to reserving the remaining approximately \$50,000 allocation and continue with annual financial support for the at-risk youth program in North County.

The recommendation has been implemented in part. At the end of FY 2016-17, the remaining funding allocated for this program was placed in Committed Fund Balance for future use. Future annual financial support will be considered as part of the Budget Development process and is dependent upon available discretionary funding.