

Response to Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report:

Youth Safety in Santa Maria

Report Summary

- Published June 15, 2017
- The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report entitled "Youth Safety in Santa Maria, Developing a New Strategy" with a focus on the City of Santa Maria's Youth Task Force.
- The Board of Supervisors are named as a responder to Findings 3 and 5, as well as Recommendations 3 and 5.

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 partially disagrees 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.

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. A community forum was held in Santa Maria at which both City and County representatives participated along with community members to discuss the issues and strategies to address youth safety. The 5th District office and the City have retained the services of the 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.

Recommended Actions:

- a) Consider and adopt responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2016-2017 Grand Jury report entitled "Youth Safety in Santa Maria", Attachment B;
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign a response letter and forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court (Attachment A); and
- c) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment are not a project subject to CEQA review.