



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: CEO

Department No.: 012

For Agenda Of: September 15, 2020

Placement: Administrative

Estimated Time:

Continued Item: No

If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director (s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer Barney Melekian, Assistant County Executive Officer Contact Info: Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: Response to 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report: Juveniles in Gangs in Santa Barbara County, Has Accountability Been Forgotten?

County Counsel Concurrence As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence As to form N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Consider and adopt the responses set forth in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2019-20 Grand Jury report entitled "Juveniles in Gangs in Santa Barbara County, Has Accountability Been Forgotten?" Attachment B;
b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment A and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court; and
c) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that does not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

**Summary Text:**

On June 26, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report entitled “Juveniles in Gangs in Santa Barbara County, Has Accountability Been Forgotten?” Today, the Board will consider the County’s proposed response to the report, adopt their preferred response and authorize the Board Chair to sign the response letter. The Board is required to respond in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by September 24, 2020.

**Background:**

*The Grand Jury concluded: “...There needs to be a stronger coordination among all police officers and Sheriff’s Deputies to share intelligence and information and prevent gang activities in one community from having repercussions in another. Gang units in every jurisdiction could facilitate this coordination. Law enforcement agencies are stretched thin these days. The Probation Department and the District Attorney’s Office need to assist them with expertise and strategies. Pooling of these resources would help make anti-gang efforts more effective and long lasting on the streets. Community organizations must help sustain the efforts of law enforcement. Working together is crucial.*

*Transformation of juveniles before they become criminal gang members is the ultimate goal, but it just might be the coordinated intelligence and watchfulness of law enforcement that allow the first steps toward that goal”.*

The County Board of Supervisors is required to respond to Findings 1, 2, 5, 6 and Recommendations 1, 6a & 6b. The Sheriff’s Office is required to respond to Findings 1, 3, 6 and Recommendations 1, 3, 6a & 6b. The District Attorney is required to respond to Findings 1, 6 and Recommendations 1, 6a & 6b. The Probation Department is required to respond to Findings 2 & 5 and Recommendations 2 & 5.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Staff anticipates no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the Board’s action on this matter.

**Special Instructions:**

1. As per Recommended Action b), above, please forward the original signed letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court.
2. Please send a copy of the signed letter and a copy of the minute order to Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, CEO’s office.
3. Please email a copy of the signed response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury at <mailto:sbcgrandjury@sbcgj.org>

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Response

Attachment B: FY 2019-20 Grand Jury Report

**Authored by:**

Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, County Executive Office