

The People are the City



Mayor
SCOTT W. NELSON

City Administrator
TROY L. BUTZLAFF, ICMA-CM

Councilmembers:
JOSEPH V. AGUIRRE
CONSTANCE UNDERHILL
CHAD P. WANKE
JEREMY B. YAMAGUCHI

401 East Chapman Avenue – Placentia, California 92870

August 17, 2011

The Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge, Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**RE: 2010-2011 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED
"COMPENSATION STUDY OF ORANGE COUNTY CITIES"**

Dear Judge Borris:

In accordance to California Penal Code §§ 933 and 933.05, the City of Placentia is pleased to provide the following responses to findings F-4 and F-7 and recommendations R-1 and R-2 of the above referenced study that was prepared by the 2010-2011 Orange County Grand Jury. These responses were reviewed and approved by the City Council at their meeting of August 16, 2011.

Finding F-4: Public disclosure of municipal compensation levels is widely inconsistent, ranging from good to non-existent.

City Response: The City disagrees partially with the finding. While this has certainly been a concern in the past, in 2010 the State Controller's Office established a standardized statewide system for reporting compensation of public employees. Prior to the creation of this standardized system, the City was one of the first public agencies in Orange County, if not the State, to post its salary and benefit information of public officials and **ALL** city employees on its website.

Finding F-7: There is currently no disclosure of written employment contracts on the majority of the cities' website.

City Response: The City acknowledges the Grand Jury's finding and plans to post all employment agreements and any corresponding amendments on its website on or before September 1, 2011.

Recommendation R-1: Transparency- All cities in Orange County report their compensation information to the public on the Internet in an easily accessible manner. The Compensation Disclosure Model (Appendix 4,) provides a sample as to the items that should be included in determining total compensation.

The Honorable Judge Borris
August 17, 2011
Page Two

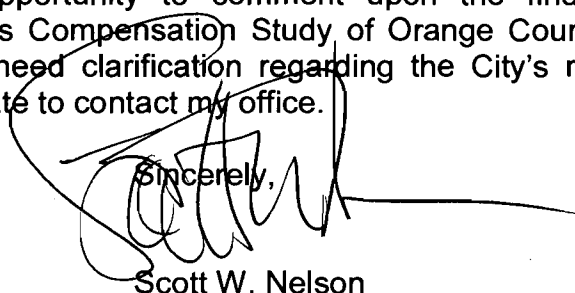
City Response: The City of Placentia wholly embraces the importance of public accessibility and transparency regarding public employee compensation. However, the City contends that this recommendation is not warranted in light of the standardized statewide system for reporting compensation of public employees that is maintained by the State Controller's Office. In addition to the information available through the State Controller's Local Government Compensation Report, the City currently posts its salary and benefit information of public officials and city employees on its website. Based on the information that is available on the City's website and through external sources such as the State Controller's Office, the City feels that the additional compensation reporting format as proposed by the Grand Jury provides little public benefit and could in fact create more confusion due to differences in format.

Recommendation R-2: Employment Contracts- Each city reveal any individual employment contracts in an easily accessible manner.

City Response: Employment agreements and corresponding amendments will be posted and made available on the City's website by September 1, 2011.

Thank you for affording us this opportunity to comment upon the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury's Compensation Study of Orange County Cities. Should you have any questions or need clarification regarding the City's responses contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Scott W. Nelson
Mayor

cc: City Council