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June 15, 2009

KLD
The Honorable Kim Dunning
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Dunning:

This letter is in response to the 2008-2009 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled "Education of Parents in the Development of Strategies to Keep Their Children Out of Gangs." The Mayor has authorized me to respond to Findings F-1 and F-4 through F-9 and Recommendations R-1, R-2, and R-4 on his behalf.

FINDING F-1: The early gang prevention and intervention efforts provided by the Probation Department, the District Attorney's Office, and such collaborative efforts as the Pio Pico Collaboration are extremely cost effective when compared to the growth of gangs in Orange County and the subsequent cost of prosecution and incarceration of gang members.

RESPONSE: We agree with this finding.

FINDING F-4: The most effective gang prevention and intervention programs are done by a collaboration of government agencies and private organizations and it is important for governmental agencies to support such collaborations.

RESPONSE: We agree with this finding.

FINDING F-5: Stable leadership of the GRIP Program has been an important factor within the District Attorney's Office and will continue to its rapid growth.

RESPONSE: Based on the Grand Jury's report, we agree with this finding.

FINDING F-6: Gang injunctions and Tri-Agency Resource/Gang Enforcement Teams have been effective in efforts to reduce gang activity.

RESPONSE: We agree with this finding.

FINDING F-7: The Probation Department's gang prevention efforts are as important as its handling of juveniles after they have been classified as juvenile delinquents and continued funding and support is necessary for its gang prevention and intervention efforts.

RESPONSE: We agree with this finding.

FINDING F-8: The Pio Pico Collaboration needs to gain certification so that it may be used as a model program for other cities and school districts throughout Orange County.

RESPONSE: We disagree with this finding, because it implies that the Pio Pico Collaboration is the only effective program operating in the County. In our experience, there are a number of non-profit organizations that also work in collaboration with local government entities and school districts to provide effective parent education and gang prevention programs. We believe that opportunities for collaboration should be encouraged in all communities and that such collaboration could be equally successful, even without certification for compliance with "No Child Left Behind" requirements.

FINDING F-9: Businesses in Orange County benefit greatly from gang prevention and intervention through decreased graffiti and crime.

RESPONSE: We agree with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION R-1: Provide funding and assistance for the certification of the Pio Pico Collaboration's Gang Intervention and Prevention Program so that it can be exported to other cities and school districts throughout Orange County.

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable given the current economic climate for cities, counties and school districts. Furthermore, the City of Santa Ana should not be expected to provide the funding for the exportation of programs that directly benefit other cities and school districts throughout Orange County. We are disappointed that the City of Santa Ana was the only city identified to respond to the Grand Jury's report, when the report itself identifies cases and examples of gang activity outside our community.

RECOMMENDATION R-2: Provide funding to aid in the reproduction of the Pio Pico materials for export to other school districts and cities in areas of Orange County with heavy gang activity and to provide funding for coordination of this effort to export materials and technology.

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable given the current economic climate for cities, counties and school districts. Furthermore, the City of Santa Ana should not be expected to provide the funding for the exportation of programs that directly benefit other cities and school districts throughout Orange County.

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RECOMMENDATION R-4: Provide funding for an experienced professional who can coordinate fund raising efforts to enlist Orange County businesses in supporting gang prevention programs through cash donations or donation of services/products.

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable given the current economic climate for cities, counties and school districts, as well as the business community.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David N. Ream". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

DAVID N. REAM
City Manager

C: Mayor and Council
OC Grand Jury