



CITY OF COSTA MESA

P.O. BOX 1200

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

July 16, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92701

Dear Judge Wieben Stock:

This letter is in response to the 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled "The Anatomy of Safe and Sane Fireworks Sales in Orange County." I am formally submitting this letter in response to the various Findings and Recommendations made in the Report. The Fire Chief of the City of Costa Mesa was asked to respond to Findings F-10 to F-13. Each Finding includes a response that meets the specific requirements for permissible responses.

Below are the Findings along with the specific Response:

FINDING F-10: The use of illegal fireworks is significantly greater in cities that allow the sale of legal fireworks.

RESPONSE: We agree with this finding.

FINDING F-11: The use of fireworks can mask the use of illegal fireworks.

RESPONSE: We agree with this finding.

FINDING F-12: Safety officials are of the opinion that legal fireworks sales should be banned in the interest of public safety.

RESPONSE: We partially disagree with this finding. While some safety officials in California have expressed an opinion that legal fireworks should be banned, others have not. In Costa Mesa, our Fire Chief and Police Chief are supportive of a ban on fireworks.

FINDING F-13: Safety officials can significantly curb the use of illegal fireworks in these cities within three years if the sale of legal fireworks were banned.

RESPONSE: We disagree with this finding. There is no evidence or correlation between a three-year time period and the ability to "significantly curb" the use of illegal fireworks. A variety of factors in addition to time may either contribute to or impede the ability to reduce illegal fireworks use.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Morgan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

MIKE MORGAN
Fire Chief

c: Costa Mesa City Council
City Staff