



CITY OF COSTA MESA

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

P.O. BOX 1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 10, 2006

Nancy Wieben-Stock, Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92701

Re: Orange County Grand Jury Report: Oversight of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies, Resolving a Dichotomy!

Dear Judge Wieben-Stock:

Please accept the following responses in accordance with California Penal Code §933 and §933.05 to the "Orange County Grand Jury Report: Oversight of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies, Resolving a Dichotomy!"

6.2 Independent reviews of LEA's: *"The use of independent reviews of LEA's practices is limited to unique reviews rather than periodic reviews of police procedure and compliance."*

We disagree with this finding. Not only are Orange County agencies well supervised and well trained, they are overseen by City Managers, City Councils and reviewed annually for budget effectiveness and efficiency.

6.3 Orange County is changing: *"Orange County and city LEA's will face new challenges as the number of crimes increase, reflecting those of surrounding counties."*

We disagree that our community or other communities will suffer from increases in crime. Planning for growth and change always includes active reviews of the technology and programs to prevent crime and improve services. If we don't look ahead to build our physical as well as our human resources, then the prediction of the jury could come true. Since we are aggressively looking forward in both the human and physical infrastructure areas, we do not think the Jury's comments are valid, therefore, we disagree.

7.2 Near-Term, Independent reviews of LEA's policies, procedures, and compliance: *"The Orange County municipal police departments, in cooperation with Orange County City Mayors, should consider contracting for a near-term independent review of the LEA's current policies, procedures and compliance to provide current status as compared to best practices."*

The Mayor of Costa Mesa is the leader of a political body of decision makers – not an independent decision maker. It is important to keep in mind that community members have ready access to their local officials unlike other levels of government. Public members have the ability to address concerns to their locally elected officials without having to travel to Santa Ana, Sacramento or Washington D.C. City Councils have the ultimate power to oversee and change police practices through directives to the City Manager and subsequently to the Chief of Police, both of whom are “at will” employees. If necessary, we will utilize independent reviews. For example, the Costa Mesa Police Department Interim Police Chief is conducting a review of the police department for needed improvements, as well as helping facilitate the change from our retired Chief of Police to a new Police Chief. Additionally, the City Council and the City Manager regularly review the actions of the police department in both a formal and ad hoc fashion. I see no reason to assume that contracting with an outside evaluator, at an additional expense to the community, would provide any greater additional benefits. Therefore, I disagree with the recommendation.

7.3 Periodic, independent reviews of LEA compliance to policies and procedures: *“The Orange County municipal police departments, in cooperation with the Orange County Mayors, should consider contracting for periodic, independent reviews of LEA’s police and procedures, using the best practices guidelines as criteria.”*

This is a good idea and if resources were unlimited, we would do it. I believe that as the Mayor of Costa Mesa and as a professional peace officer, the Jury is trying to solve problems that do not exist.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Allan R. Mansoor
Mayor of Costa Mesa