



September 5, 2006

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

Dear Judge Wieben-Stock:

RE: OVERSIGHT OF ORANGE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

My office has received the Orange County Grand Jury report on "Oversight of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies, *Resolving a Dichotomy*". Based upon the request detailed in the report, I have composed my responses to Findings 6.2 through 6.3 as well as Recommendations 7.2 through 7.3.

Response to Findings:

6.2 Independent Reviews of LEAs: I respectfully disagree. As Mayor of the City of Laguna Beach, I have found that the policies of the Laguna Beach Police Department have come under regular review by the State and Federal Judicial Systems, our City Manager as well as the City's Risk Manager and City Attorney's Office. The Office of the Mayor also has occasion to review the citizen complaint policies of the Police Department as they respond to concerns raised by constituents. Overall, the Laguna Beach Police Department has an excellent reputation among the resident and business community of Laguna Beach. If that were not the case, the Council would clearly be aware of it. It is my belief that the amount of oversight from all these sources is ample.

6.3 Orange County is Changing: I agree. This County is not only changing but growing too. As a result, I believe that Law Enforcement agencies very well could face new challenges as the County grows and crime trends change.

Response to Recommendations:

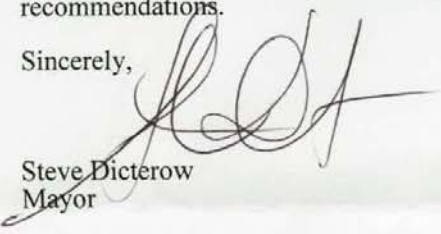
7.2 Near-term, independent review of LEA policies, procedures, and compliance: This recommendation will not be implemented because I do not believe it is warranted. This belief is supported by periodic and ongoing review of the Police Department's policies, procedures and compliance. I believe the policies put in place by the Laguna Beach Police Department are routinely scrutinized by city staff at different levels and thereby continually rise to a level of best practices.

7.3 Periodic, independent reviews of LEA compliance to policies and procedures: This recommendation will also not be implemented for the same reasons stated in Recommendation 7.2. I believe that the Laguna Beach Police Department is using best practice guidelines in carrying out their responsibilities, and that those guidelines withstand sufficient review and scrutiny by a variety of sources to insure they are appropriate.

September 5, 2006
Page two

On behalf of the City of Laguna Beach, I appreciate the Grand Jury for the many hours spent investigating these issues even though we may not be in agreement with each of the conclusions or recommendations.

Sincerely,



Steve Dicterow
Mayor

cc: City Manager
Chief of Police