



City of La Habra

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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August 23, 2006

Ms. Bette Flick, Foreperson
Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Foreperson Flick:

My office has received the Orange County Grand Jury report on *Oversight of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies, Resolving a Dichotomy*. In response to the request detailed in the report, I have compiled 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 disagree wholly. As Mayor of the City of La Habra, and as someone with over 40 years of law enforcement experience, much of which was spent as Chief of Police and the Chief of the Bureau of Investigations for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, I have found that the policies of the La Habra Police Department have come under regular review by the State and Federal judicial systems, the city manager, as well as the City's risk manager and city attorney's office. My office also has occasion to review the citizen complaint policies of the police department, as they respond to concerns raised by constituents. Overall, the police department has an excellent reputation among the resident and business community of La Habra. If that were not the case, the City Council would be well aware of it.

6.3 Orange County is Changing: I agree. The County is changing and growing, and La Habra is no exception. As a result, I believe that law enforcement agencies will face new challenges as the County grows (as it relates to the potential of crime increases and dwindling resources).


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 La Habra Police Department rise to the level of best practices.

7.3 Periodic, independent reviews of LEA compliance to policies and procedures: This recommendation will not be implemented for the same reasons stated in recommendation 7.2. I believe that the La Habra 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.

On behalf of the City of La Habra, I wish to express my appreciation to the Grand Jury for your work on behalf of all residents of Orange County. Additionally, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your report.

Sincerely,



G. Steve Simonian
Mayor