



# Town of Moraga

TOWN MANAGER

November 19, 2015

Ms. Sherry Rufini, Foreperson  
2014-2015 Contra Costa Grand Jury  
725 Court Street  
P.O. Box 421  
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Subject: Town of Moraga response to Grand Jury Report No. 1510, "Community Courts, Unburdening the Traditional Court System"

Dear Ms. Rufini,

The Town of Moraga provides this response to Grand Jury Report No. 1510, "Community Courts, Unburdening the Traditional Court System," dated June 8, 2015 (but received by the Town of Moraga in September, 2015) pursuant to California Government Code Section 933.05(b).

The Town of Moraga has researched the use of a Community Court and finds merit to the creation of a new "Lamorinda Community Court" with collaboration between the Town of Moraga and the cities of Lafayette and Orinda.

## **FINDINGS:**

F1. Participants in Community Court benefit by resolving their issues outside of the traditional court system and avoiding a criminal record.

Response: The Town of Moraga agrees with the finding.

F2. The city benefits by receiving income from fines imposed on Community Court participants.

Response: The Town of Moraga agrees with this finding. The fine structure involving the Town of Moraga is yet to be determined with the Community Court Services and the Contra Costa County District Attorney. Any fines collected by the Town of Moraga will be utilized by the police department to purchase necessary materials, supplies, and equipment in furtherance of its overall mission to protect and serve the community.

F3. The city benefits from Community Court participants providing compulsory community service hours.

Response: The Town of Moraga agrees with this finding. The Town of Moraga has a long-standing relationship with the Contra Costa County Work Alternative Program and can accept Community Court referrals in the same manner.

F4. The District Attorney's Office and Superior Court both benefit from Community Court due to the reduction in misdemeanor cases that each must process.

Response: The Town of Moraga agrees with this finding.

F5. The hearing officer for Community Court issues directives that include fines, restitution, community service, diversion programs, and/or counseling.

Response: The Town of Moraga agrees with this finding.

F6. The city does not have a Community Court.

Response: The Town of Moraga agrees with this finding.

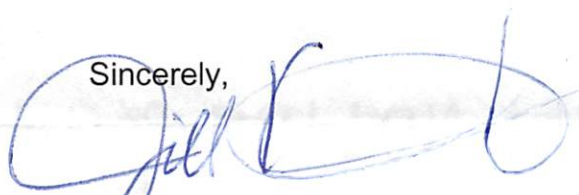
#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

R1. The city should consider establishing a Community Court.

Response: The Town of Moraga has researched the issue and intends to establish a "Lamorinda Community Court" in conjunction with the cities of Lafayette and Orinda.

The Town Council approved this response at a special meeting held on November 18, 2015.

Sincerely,



Jill Keimach,  
Town Manager