

CITY OF CONCORD
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July 17, 2015

By U.S. Mail and email (clope2@contracosta.courts.ca.gov)

Ms. Sherry Rufini, Foreperson
Contra Costa Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Re: City of Concord Response to June 8, 2015 Grand Jury Report

Dear Ms. Rufini:

This letter serves as the City of Concord's response to the Contra Costa County Grand Jury's findings and recommendations set forth in Report No. 1510, entitled "Community Courts: Unburdening the Traditional Court System." This letter was reviewed by the Concord City Council at its July 14, 2015 City Council Meeting, and I was directed to submit the response for the City of Concord.

I. FINDINGS

Finding No. 1: "Participants in Community Court benefit by resolving their issues outside of the traditional court system and avoiding having a criminal record."

Response to Finding No. 1: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 2: "The city benefits by receiving income from fines imposed on Community Court participants."

Response to Finding No. 2: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 3: "The city benefits from Community Court participants providing compulsory community service hours."

Response to Finding No. 3: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 4: “The District Attorney’s Office and Superior Court both benefit from Community Court due to the reduction in misdemeanor cases.”

Response to Finding No. 4: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 5: “The hearing officer for Community Court issues directives that include fines, restitution, community service, diversion programs, and/or counseling.”

Response to Finding No. 5: The City of Concord agrees with this finding.

Finding No. 6: “The city does not have a Community Court program.”

Response to Finding No. 6: The City of Concord disagrees with this finding. As indicated in the Grand Jury report, Concord has operated a Community Court for over two years.

Guy Swanger, Chief of Police, is available to answer any questions or provide any additional information concerning the above responses or enclosed documents. You can reach him at (925) 671-3193 or by email at guy.swanger@cityofconcord.org.

Sincerely,



Valerie J. Barone
City Manager