



September 8, 2015

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

RE: Grand Jury Report No. 1510, "Community Courts"

Dear Ms. Rufini:

On behalf of the City of El Cerrito, this letter serves as a response to your June 9, 2015 letter regarding Grand Jury Report No. 1510, "Community Courts" by the 2014-2015 Contra Costa Grand Jury.

In accordance with your request and Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code, the City is responding as required to Finding 6 and Recommendation 1 as outlined in the Grand Jury Report.

FINDINGS

- 6. The City does not have a Community Court program.**
The City of El Cerrito agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The City should consider establishing a Community Court.**
This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable for a city the size of El Cerrito. Each of the cities cited in Grand Jury Report 1510 are mid- to large-size cities of 66,000 or more. El Cerrito's population is just 24,300. The City does not have the staff or facilities to implement the program. The City is not convinced that the program would generate necessary revenue to cover the costs associated with administering a Community Court, and notes that such a program may divert attention away from completing necessary and mandated work of the City, may not serve to alleviate County court volume, and may not serve to provide a viable alternative to the current system.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or require additional information concerning the above responses. You can reach me directly at (510) 215-4302 or by email at kpinkos@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Pinkos
Assistant City Manager
City of El Cerrito

cc: El Cerrito City Council
Scott Hanin, City Manager