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County of San Diego

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August 5, 2008

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SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

The Honorable Kenneth So
Presiding Judge, San Diego Superior Court
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge So,

On August 5, 2008, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors approved responses to the six 2007-2008 San Diego County Grand Jury reports which addressed findings and recommendations to the County of San Diego. The Board further directed that these responses be sent to your office.

The six reports for which responses are attached are titled:

- Past Grand Jurors Association Implementation Review Board
- Notification and Training in Child Protective Services
- Proud to be in County Procurement
- A Warmer World – A Challenge and an Opportunity
- Conditions and Management of Detention and Other Law Enforcement Facilities in San Diego County
- The Fire Next Time – Will We Be Ready?

Since these are all the reports issued by the 2007-2008 Grand Jury that address recommendations to the Board of Supervisors or departments under its jurisdiction, the attached material represents the County's complete response for 2007-2008. If you have any questions, please contact me at (619) 531-5250.

Sincerely,

WALTER F. EKARD

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

cc: Board of Supervisors

ATTACHMENT A

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO 2007/08 GRAND JURY REPORT “PAST GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW BOARD”

Issued January 10, 2008

Recommendation 08-04 - The 2007/2008 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the County of San Diego through its Chief Administrative Officer continue to: Provide the sitting Grand Jury with copies of the Implementation Review Committee’s reports to the County.

County Response: This recommendation will be implemented. The Chief Administrative Office staff who support the County’s Past Grand Jurors Association Implementation Review Committee (PGJAIRC) will continue the current practice of sending PGJAIRC meeting materials and the PGJAIRC annual report to the Grand Jury, via Grand Jury staff.

ATTACHMENT B

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO 2007/08 GRAND JURY REPORT “NOTIFICATION AND TRAINING IN CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES”

Issued May 13, 2008

Findings:

1. Of the cases we examined, the Grand Jury found no record of written notification at the time of removal.

County Response: Agree.

2. Many workers are unable to absorb fully a large volume of theoretical material presented over a short period of time without being able to apply it to practical situations.

County Response: Agree.

Recommendation 08-55 – The 2007/2008 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the County of San Diego’s Health and Human Services Agency: Amend the Child Welfare Services Program Guide to include the addition of a procedure and a form to notify parents or caretaker relatives of the reason(s) why a child is being removed from their custody at the time the removal is being effected.

County Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The social worker is required by State regulations and by the County’s Child Welfare Services (CWS) policy to conduct in-person interviews with parents to investigate the specific allegation(s) reported to the Child Abuse Hotline. That interview/investigation is a mutual exchange of verbal information in which the social worker discusses the specific concerns and risk to the child(ren), and the parents provide their account of the events or situation.

If the child is removed and a petition is filed in Juvenile Court, the parents’ responses to the allegations must be included in the “Parents/Legal Guardians Statements” section of