November 10, 2018

The Honorable Charles Margines
Presiding Judge, Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: RESPONSE ADDENDUM to 2017-2018 Orange County Grand Jury Report,
“Competition or Collaboration-Orange County’s Public Agency Helicopters”

Honorable Judge Margines:

As the City Manager of the City of Anaheim, I am providing this addendum to our initial response to the 2017-2018 Orange County Grand Jury Report, “Competition or Collaboration-Orange County’s Public Agency Helicopters.” While the City’s initial response addressed the issue collocation relative to Recommendation 6, it inadvertently failed to specifically address Finding #10 of the Report concerning the same issue. That specific response is provided below. On behalf of the City or Anaheim, please accept our apologies for this oversight.

The City’s responses address the Orange County Grand Jury Report’s findings and recommendations relevant to the report and are in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933.05 (a).

FINDING F10:

Orange County air support units could benefit from co-locating at Fullerton Airport where they can leverage existing facilities.

Response: The City of Anaheim agrees with this finding, in part. While it is true that San Diego and San Bernardino counties operate from consolidated locations (San Bernardino operates from two: one in San Bernardino and another in Apple Valley) to provide aerial support for their respective counties at large, those examples also have a single entity providing those services. If the current model in Orange County wherein multiple agencies provide services to their respective jurisdictions remains, co-location could actually result in significant initial cost increases related to property acquisition and construction of new facilities. The Anaheim PD facility at Fullerton Airport, for example, meets the needs of Anaheim’s operation but would require more hangar and office space in order to consolidate with another operator.
As stated in our response to Recommendation 6, the City of Anaheim welcomes the opportunity to be part of any discussion pertaining to the development of a centralized approach to delivering public safety air support services. The potential benefits of consolidation include but are not limited to eventual cost savings among the current operators, fleet standardization, consistency in training, reduction in communication issues highlighted in the Report and potential increase in air coverage countywide. It is important to note, however, that consolidation and co-location in Orange County is a concept deserving of careful analysis due to the complexities involved including assessment of various service models, discussion and consideration of potential sites, potential degradation of service delivery to the jurisdictions currently providing air support services, and consideration of available cost sharing plans wherein end users across the county (cities) contribute financially for the service.

I would like to again express my appreciation for the efforts of the Orange County Grand Jury. The City is committed to providing a safe and peaceful environment for all who live, work and play in Anaheim. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Anaheim Police Deputy Chief Julian Harvey, at (714) 765-1601 or jharvey@anaheim.net.

Sincerely,

Chris Zapata
City Manager

cc: Orange County Grand Jury
City Clerk, City of Anaheim