November 7, 2011

The Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report- "Compensation Study of Orange County Cities"

Dear Judge Borris:

Following is the City of Los Alamitos' response to the finding and recommendation reported in the Grand Jury's Report entitled "Compensation Study of Orange County Cities."

Findings:

F.4: Public disclosure of municipal compensation levels is widely inconsistent, ranging from good to non-existent.

Response: The City of Los Alamitos is unable to agree or disagree with this Finding as the City has not reviewed the websites of all 34 incorporated cities in Orange County. The City of Los Alamitos does provide direct access to all bargaining agreements on its website and the gross incomes of its employees also are posted on the State Controller’s website.

F.7: There is currently no disclosure of written employment contracts on the majority of cities websites.

Response: The City of Los Alamitos is unable to agree or disagree with this Finding as the City has not reviewed the websites of all 34 incorporated cities in Orange County. The City of Los Alamitos provides direct access to its employment contracts on its website.
Recommendations:

R.1: Transparency - All cities in Orange County report their compensation information to the public on the Internet in an easily accessible manner. The Compensation Disclosure Model (Appendix 4) provides a sample as to the items that should be included in determining total compensation.

Response: The City of Los Alamitos currently makes compensation information available to the public on its website and pursuant to Public Records Requests. Similar information is also posted on the State Controller’s website.

R.2: Employment Contracts - Each city reveal any individual employment contracts in an easily accessible manner.

Response: The City of Los Alamitos has updated its website to include a copy of the City Manager’s contract.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the recommendations of the Grand Jury in their report entitled "Compensation Study of Orange County Cities." If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (562) 431-3538 Extension 222.

Sincerely,

Anita Agramonte
Finance Director
City of Los Alamitos

Cc: The Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Kenneth Stephens, Mayor
Jeff Stewart, City Manager