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## **CITY OF SANTA ANA**

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December 4, 2006

Nancy Wieben-Stock, Presiding Judge Orange County Superior Court 700 Civic Drive West Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: OC Grand Jury Report: "Oversight of OC Law Enforcement, Resolving a Dichotomy!"

Dear Judge Wieben-Stock:

The following responses are provided in accordance with California Penal Code 933 and 933.05 to the above referenced report.

- 6.1 *Best practices goal:* The Grand Jury refers to adopting "best practices" as a guide for local police departments in developing their policies and procedures. Unfortunately, no such guide currently exists that would provide meaningful information on internal affairs practices in the State of California, or in policing across the country.
- 6.2 **Independent reviews of LEAs:** Police department practices are continually subject to the scrutiny of independent reviews by the communities that they serve. Beyond complaining to the law enforcement agency itself, community members have a myriad of options to seek redress if they believe that they have been treated unfairly, that the police have acted unlawfully, or that the police are not performing competently.
- 6.3 **Orange County is changing:** There is no evidence that communities within the County of Orange will face the amount or type of criminal activity that has affected our surrounding counties.
- 6.4 *LEA self-assessment:* Many law enforcement organizations in Orange County engage in ongoing self-assessment to ensure that their organizations are achieving their missions in accordance with their values.
- 7.1 Best practices guidelines: Refer to 6.1 Best Practices Goal for this discussion.
- 7.2 Near-term independent review of LEA policies, procedures, and compliance: The Orange County Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association does not support the expenditure of funds for near-term independent review.
- 7.3 *Periodic, independent reviews of LEA compliance to policies and procedure:* Refer to 7.2 and 6.1 for a discussion on contracting for independent review and best practices.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the recommendations prepared by the 2005/2006 Orange County Grand Jury in their report entitled, "Oversight of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies, Resolving a Dichotomy!"

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