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CITY OF LODI

2015 "Wine Region of the Year"

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August 1, 2018

Hon. Linda Lofthus, Presiding Judge
San Joaquin County Superior Court
180 East Weber Avenue Room 1306J
Stockton, CA 95202

RE: Response to the San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury Report titled "Code Enforcement Departments in San Joaquin County 2017-2018 Case No. 0117"

Dear Judge Lofthus:

The City of Lodi has reviewed the report of the 2017-2018 San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury Case No. 0117, regarding the Grand Jury's review of various code enforcement departments within the County, including the City of Lodi, to determine the level of enforcement within each jurisdiction. The Council has seriously considered Grand Jury findings F2.1 and F2.2, along with the Grand Jury's recommendations applicable to the City of Lodi, discussed the same with its professional staff, and pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, submits its comments as set forth below.

As required by Penal Code section 933(c), the Council's comments were approved at the Council's regularly scheduled meeting of August 1, 2018.

Findings pertaining to the City of Lodi:

Lodi F2.1: *The City of Lodi is still experiencing budget and staffing reductions created by the housing crash in 2008 but is using senior volunteers to deliver notices of code violations, resulting in a voluntary compliance rate of 62%.*

City Response: Lodi agrees with this finding.

Lodi F2.2: *The homeless population continues to grow and creates increased blight and health issues.*

City Response: Lodi agrees with this finding.

Recommendations pertaining to the City of Lodi:

Lodi R1.1: *Explore budget options and grant funding to improve code*

enforcement.

City Response: The City currently has two full time code enforcement officers, having added a second officer in September, 2016, and continues to use senior volunteers (Partners) to deliver notices of code violation within the City. No further action is needed at this time.

Lodi R1.2: *Plan for future expansion of code enforcement efforts to meet the increasing needs of the community, including the homeless population.*

City Response: The City continues to address issues involving code enforcement, including the needs of our homeless population, by partnering with community group 'Take Back Lodi' on cleanup efforts in homeless encampments and the retrieval of abandoned shopping carts; enforcement of the City's shopping cart ordinance adopted in September 2017; supporting efforts of the County Homeless Task Force; and work with the faith-based community on its annual 'Love Lodi' community wide improvement and beautification projects. In addition, the City created the position of a Community Liaison Officer within the Police Department to assist with outreach to the homeless community. The Community Liaison Officer is assisted by a part-time employee. In the past eleven months the Officer has been able to assist more than 100 homeless people with housing, program placement, or reunification with friends and family. Of those individuals, 26 were placed into programs; and four veterans were placed into housing and counseling programs. The City is continuing to look at creative ways to expand code enforcement efforts within the community.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Nakanishi
Mayor

c: Stephen Schwabauer, City Manager
Jennifer M. Ferraiolo, City Clerk
Janice D. Magdich, City Attorney
Police Chief Tod Patterson