



November 18, 2015

Ms. Sherry Rufini, Foreperson
2014-2015 Contra Costa County Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 421
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Subject: City of Orinda response to Grand Jury Report No. 1510, "Community Courts, Unburdening the Traditional Court System"

Dear Ms. Rufini,

The City of Orinda provides this response to Grand Jury Report No. 1510, "Community Courts, Unburdening the Traditional Court System," dated June 8, 2015 (received by the City of Orinda on September 8, 2015) pursuant to California Government Code Section 933.05(b).

The City of Orinda, with collaboration between the City of Lafayette and the Town of Moraga, intend to establish a "Lamorinda" Community Court wherein the court will hear eligible cases from all three cities.

FINDINGS:

F1: Participants in Community Court benefit by resolving their issues outside of the traditional court system and avoiding having a criminal record.

Response: The City of Orinda agrees. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.

F2: The City benefits by receiving income from fines imposed on Community Court participants.

Response: The City of Orinda agrees with the findings. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.

The fine structure involving the City of Orinda has yet to be determined with the Community Court Services and the Contra Costa County District Attorney. Any fines collected by the City of Orinda will be utilized by the Police Department to purchase necessary materials, supplies, and equipment in furtherance of its overall mission to protect and serve the community.

F3: The City benefits from Community Court participants providing compulsory community service hours.

Response: The City of Orinda agrees with this finding. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.

F4: The District Attorney's Office and Superior Court both benefit from Community Court due to the reduction in misdemeanor cases that each must process.

Response: The City of Orinda agrees with this finding. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.

F5: The hearing officer for Community Court issues directives that include fines, restitution, community service, diversion programs, and/or counseling.

Response: The City of Orinda agrees with this finding. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.

F6: The city does not have a Community Court program.

Response: The City of Orinda agrees with this finding. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1: The city should consider establishing a Community Court.

Response: The City of Orinda has researched the issue and intends to establish a "Lamorinda Community Court" with agreement and in conjunction with the cities of Lafayette and Moraga.

The Orinda City Council approved this response at the November 17, 2015 City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Orr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dean Orr
Mayor