

GRAND JURY

SEP 27 2007

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CITY OF
SANTA ROSA

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September 19, 2007

The Honorable Robert S. Boyd, Presiding Judge
Superior Court for the County of Sonoma
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

SUBJECT: Response by City of Santa Rosa to 2006-2007 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Boyd:

BOB BLANCHARD
Mayor

LEE PIERCE
Vice Mayor

JANE BENDER
SUSAN GORIN
VERONICA JACOBI
MIKE MARTINI
JOHN SAWYER
Councilmembers

The City of Santa Rosa appreciates this opportunity to respond to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury recommendations contained in its June 28, 2007 Final Report. The City's responses to these recommendations are attached.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury recommendations. Please feel free to contact our City Manager, Jeff Kolin, at (707) 543-3020 should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

BOB BLANCHARD
Mayor

BB/sks

attachment

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Recommendation (R-6)

The legality of all billboards in the county should be examined and any illegal billboards should be removed.

City Response (R-6)

This recommendation is currently being implemented.

In the normal course of their duties our Code Compliance staff and particularly Mike Reynolds has developed a close working relationship with his counter part Ben Nueman, Sonoma County Code Enforcement Manager. Our two jurisdictions have cooperated on mutual cases as well as the sharing of mutual information, practices and procedures in the field of code enforcement to develop consistency in methods of operation.

In conversation with Mr. Nueman, several weeks ago, he apprised Mr. Reynolds of the fact that the Grand Jury was reviewing or had reviewed the subject of possible illegal billboards within the county. He stated that both the county and all city governments would receive this review with a request for a plan of action on how the issue of illegal billboards would be addressed. Mr. Nueman and Mr. Reynolds discussed the appropriate course of action that would be required, and discussed the need for a mutually consistent plan between our departments to address any violations.

Subsequently, Mr. Nueman informed Mr. Reynolds that the Assessor's office was directed to identify all billboard locations within the county by use of Geographic Information System photographs. He stated that this information was slated to be available to all jurisdictions at the end of August, 2007.

Once this information is made available to Santa Rosa Code Compliance, members of our code compliance enforcement team will evaluate all planning and building records to establish the legality of all billboards that are determined to be within the City limits.

Once it is established that there are illegal billboard signs within the city limits, a code compliance case will be logged in to our computer system, assigned to a code enforcement officer, and the appropriate notification will be mailed to the responsible parties identifying any and all violations and the necessary course of action required to bring the property into compliance with city code.

Following identification of the illegal billboard signs, the Santa Rosa Code Compliance division will prepare a quarterly status report addressing the progress in achieving code compliance.