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Your Shasta County Grand Jury

Authority to Act

In California, the state constitution requires each county to maintain at least one empanelled Grand Jury. Here in Shasta County, as elsewhere in California, Title 4 of the California Penal Code and other state laws and statutes govern and guide Grand Juries. More specifically, Sections 925 et. seq. of the California Penal Code authorizes the Grand Jury to investigate and report on the operations of any department or municipal agency within the county. The Shasta County Grand Jury functions as an arm of the Judicial Branch of the government, operating under the guidance of the presiding judge of the Superior Court of Shasta County. In this capacity, the Grand Jury inquires into and investigates, when necessary, the operations of local government agencies and officials insuring that activities are valid and services are efficiently and legally provided.

All communication with the Grand Jury is confidential. Information provided to the grand jury to support a complaint is carefully reviewed to determine what further action, if any, is required. If it is determined that the matter is not within the investigative authority of the grand jury no further action is taken. If the matter is within the legal scope of the grand jury's investigative powers and warrants further inquiry, the grand jury will contact and interview those individuals who may be able to provide additional information. During an investigation all information and evidence will be considered, however, a review may not result in any action or report by the grand jury. The section of the California Penal Code, which governs grand jury investigations, restricts the release of investigation results. The presiding judge in a public report may release results of the investigations.

Areas of Empowerment

Acting on its own initiative or responding to a written complaint, the Grand Jury:

- May investigate aspects of county and city government's departments, officials' functions and duties, service districts, and special districts funded in whole or in part by public funds. Almost any entity that receives public money may be examined.
- May review criminal investigations and return indictments for crimes committed in the county. When an indictment has been voted on the case proceeds through the Criminal Justice System. The decision of whether or not to present criminal cases to the Grand Jury is made by the county District Attorney.
- May bring formal accusations against public officials for willful misconduct or corruption in office. These accusations can lead to removal from office.

The Grand Jury must inquire into the condition and management of all the adult or juvenile detention or correctional facilities within the county. The jury is not allowed to continue an oversight from a previous panel. If the jury wishes to look at a subject which a prior panel was examining, it must start its own investigation and independently verify all information. It may use information obtained from the prior jury but this information must be verified before it is used by the current jury.

Confidentiality of the Grand Jury exempts the jury from the requirements of the open meeting law (Brown Act). Direction and action taken requires that 12 of 19 members of the Grand Jury agree. This ability to internally police itself allows the Grand Jury to operate completely independent of external pressures. The desired result is a self-directed body of citizens that has the power to pursue unlawful conduct to its very source, including local government itself.

Citizen Complaints

The Grand Jury reviews all complaints and investigates when appropriate. Each complaint is treated confidentially. The complainant may be asked to appear as a witness. A complaint form may be obtained by contacting:

Shasta County Grand Jury

P.O. Box 99286

Redding Ca. 96099-2085

(530) 225-5098 or online at www.co.shasta.ca.us

Why should you serve?

As a citizen you will have an opportunity to make a difference. You will become involved with other interested citizens in learning more about city and county governments and special districts. The Grand Jury issues informational reports about local government agencies performance. A challenging year of investigations, interviews and deliberations will give you an education and unique experience.

To be a Grand Juror

The Shasta County Grand Jury is composed of 19 concerned county citizens. Prospective jurors should; be willing to work as a team member, understand small group dynamics, and be willing to work in a collaborative manner to reach consensus. Although not essential, access to a computer and the ability to research topics on the internet will be helpful to the prospective juror. Prospective jurors apply in April/May for the coming fiscal year. The presiding judge selects 30 names. To preserve continuity, the presiding judge may select a few jurors to continue into a second term, however jurors may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The balance of the jurors are randomly selected by a drawing.

Prospective Grand Jurors

An application to serve on the Grand Jury may be requested from the following address:

Shasta County Superior Court

Courthouse room 205

1500 Court Street

Redding, Ca. 96001 or on line at www.co.shasta.ca.us

2009/2010 Shasta County Grand Jury

Dale Trudeau, Foreperson

Cathy Arentz	Richard Kalford
Jim Berg	Samuel Kekaha
Joyce Bianchini	Al Parker
Karen David	Lesla Donnelly
Marion Schmitz	Harla Hanford
Ronald Sechrist	Andy Hobbs
Stan Smith	Colleen Hopper
Susan Thorsteinson	Al Jensen
Harry Tully	

Grand Jury Committees

Audit and Finance
City Government
Continuity
County Government
Criminal Justice
Editorial
Information Technology
Local Districts and Agencies

Summary of 2009/2010 Grand Jury Activities

Agencies, Departments and Districts toured	24
Autopsies attended	3
Committee meetings held	141
Complaints received	44
Criminal Hearings held	0
Interim Report	0
Final Report	1
Governmental Board Meetings attended	65
Indictments	0
Joint Audit Committee Meetings attended	3
Meetings of Full Grand Jury	28
Number of interviews conducted in the course of investigations	95
Citizen Reviews with Shasta County District Attorney	0

Responses to the Grand Jury Final Report

Section 933.5 of the California Penal Code requires that public agencies respond to the final report of the Grand Jury no later than 90 days if the respondent is a governing body or 60 days if the respondent is an elected official. The responses must be sent to the presiding judge of the Superior Court of Shasta County. The respondents are required to comment on the findings and recommendations contained in the report. The respondent must indicate whether the respondent agrees with the finding, disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, has implemented the recommendation, plans to implement the recommendation in the future, will further analyze and study the recommendation, or will not implement the recommendation and, if not, provide an explanation as to why it will not be implemented.

Copies of Grand Jury Reports and the required responses made by responsible governmental agencies may be found on the Shasta County Grand Jury webpage. Electronic copies of reports and responses date back to the 2001/02 Grand Jury report at www.co.shasta.ca.us

The Grand Jury investigates and reports on the operations of any department or municipal agency within the county. - Section 925 et seq. of the California Penal Code

At the time this report was compiled, the information contained therein was accurate to the best of the Grand Jury's knowledge. However, some facts may have changed since the original compilations were filed. Whenever possible, the report has been updated.

When there is a perception of a conflict of interest involving a member of the Grand Jury, that member is required to recuse herself or himself from any investigation involving such a conflict and from voting the acceptance or rejection of the related subject.