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Madera County Grand Jury

Secretary's Letter

May 16, 2008

Citizens of Madera County:

Your 2007-2008 Madera County Grand Jury is made up of as diverse a group of individuals as you might find anywhere. Each is selected from the community at large and they come from all walks of life and each with his or her own diverse background.

I am proud to have served on this Grand Jury and have the opportunity to work with people selected to do the same. We all had a learning curve to contend with and training along with the experiences of returning Jury members helped achieve this. Be they new or experienced, there was a common goal to be obtained and that was to meet our responsibilities as a 'watchdog' for the taxpayers of our community. It required, in total secrecy, for us to investigate every aspect of our County and City Government. Additionally, we investigated citizen complaints and assisted in criminal indictments. Witnesses brought in were required to take an oath and admonished never to discuss with anyone what transpired in an interview. Nor could the Grand Jury members discuss an investigation with anyone other than fellow panel members, not even their spouses.

When an investigation report was completed and approved by majority vote of the panel it would then be reviewed by our presiding judge for approval before being sent to all responding individuals and/or departments. Forty eight hours later it would be released to the press for public consumption. We never knew how it would be received; however, we were confident the report contained accurate, factual and substantiated content.

The 2007-2008 Grand Jury came together in a responsible manner, learning more about our local Government than we anticipated, and challenged with expectations while achieving results we are proud of. It has been a privilege and honor to have served you and them.

As my final act as Secretary for the 2007-2008 Madera County Grand Jury, I hereby state that all completed and approved final reports created by the 2007-2008 Madera County Grand Jury are incorporated in this year-end final report, and represent all of the completed and approved investigations and work performed on behalf of the citizens of Madera County.

Respectively,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donald Holley", written over a horizontal line.

Donald Holley
Secretary