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GRAND JURY
County of Yolo
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, California 95776

Honorable David W. Reed
Judge, Superior Court of California
1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95776

Dear Judge Reed:

The 2018-2019 Yolo County Grand Jury is honored to prepare and present our consolidated Final Report to you and the citizens of Yolo County.

The Grand Jury received and reviewed 22 citizen complaints. Of those complaints, seven were referred to the different Grand Jury Committees, seven were declined, and one was investigated but no report was written. Additionally, due to the timing of the submitted complaints, twelve are being forwarded to the incoming 2019-20 Grand Jury so the complaints may receive adequate review and investigation.

In its final comprehensive document, the Grand Jury presents six specific reports based on its investigations. The Grand Jury reviewed the County Detention Facilities as stipulated by the California Penal Code as well as visiting the various police departments within the County. Four reports were based on investigations initiated by the Grand Jury, and two were based on citizen complaints.

The 2018-19 Yolo County Grand Jury is composed of a diverse group of selfless volunteers from throughout the county. The Final Report represents the commitment and hard work of the Jurors, who were dedicated to finding the truth and improving the county community. I personally wish to express my sincere gratitude and admiration to all those who applied their various skills and interests to form a cohesive and cooperative jury in accomplishing this task.

The Grand Jury appreciates and thanks all the Yolo County employees and officials, as well as those in Jury Services, for providing us with outstanding support and guidance throughout the process. We could not have completed this herculean effort without them. It has been our honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Yolo County.

Geoffrey Engel
Geoffrey Engel, Foreperson

The 2018-2019 Yolo County Grand Jury

Geoffrey Engel, Foreperson ~ Davis

Erik Shank, Foreperson Pro Tem ~ Woodland

Ardith Allread-Atkins ~ Woodland

Sujev Aviles ~ Winters

Charlene Chick ~ West Sacramento

Leslie Field ~ Davis

Linda Jackson ~ West Sacramento

Jerry Jones ~ Davis

Michael Neff ~ Davis

Lynn Otani ~ West Sacramento

John Picone ~ West Sacramento

Brian Scaccia ~ Davis

Mohamed Elfatih Sidahmed ~ Davis

Enid Williams ~ Woodland

Paul Zindel ~ Davis



ABOUT THE GRAND JURY

The United States Constitution's Fifth Amendment and the California Constitution require that each county appoint a Grand Jury to guard the public interest by monitoring local government. Per California Penal Code Section 888, the Yolo County Superior Court appoints 19 Grand Jurors each year from a pool of volunteers. These Yolo County citizens, with diverse and varied backgrounds, serve their community as Grand Jurors from July 1st to June 30th. The Yolo County Grand Jury is an official, independent body of the court, not answerable to administrators or to the Board of Supervisors.

FUNCTION

The California Grand Jury has three basic functions: to weigh criminal charges and determine whether indictments should be returned (Penal Code 917); to weigh allegations of misconduct against public officials and determine whether to present formal accusations requesting their removal from office (Penal Code, 992); and to act as the public's "watchdog" by investigating and reporting on the affairs of local government (e.g., Penal Code 919, 925, et seq.). The purposes of any Grand Jury civil investigation are to identify organizational strengths and weaknesses and to make recommendations aimed at improving the services of county and city governments, school districts, and special districts under study. Based on these assessments, the Grand Jury publishes its findings and may recommend constructive action to improve the quality and effectiveness of local government.

Recommendations from the Grand Jury are not binding on the organization investigated. The governing body of any public agency must respond to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations within 90 days. An elected county officer or agency head must respond to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations within 60 days. The following year's Grand Jury will then evaluate and report on the required responses.

The findings in this document report the conclusions reached by this year's Grand Jury. Although all the findings are based on evidence, they are the product of the Grand Jury's independent judgment. Some findings are the opinion of the Grand Jury rather than indisputable statements of fact. All reports included in the document have been approved by at least 12 jurors. Any juror who has a personal interest, or might be perceived to have a personal interest, in a particular investigation is recused from discussion and voting regarding the matter. All reports are reviewed by the Grand Jury's lead advisors to ensure conformance with prevailing laws.

While the Yolo County Grand Jury's primary function is civil review of government agencies, it is also called upon to participate in criminal indictments, usually based on evidence presented by the district Attorney. On its own initiative, the Grand Jury may investigate charges of malfeasance (wrongdoing), misfeasance (a lawful act performed in an unlawful manner), or nonfeasance (failure to perform required duties) by public officials.

The Grand Jury investigates complaints from private citizens, local government officials, or government employees; initiates investigations based on ideas generated from the jury; and follows California Penal Code that requires it to inspect the county's jails.

Copies of the Grand Jury's comprehensive final report, consisting of each year's individual reports on departments and agencies and responses to the prior year's report, are available in hard copy at the courthouse, in all public libraries, and on the Grand Jury's website, <http://www.yolocounty.org/grand-jury>. The report may also be obtained by contacting the Yolo County Grand Jury at 530-406-5088 or at P.O. Box 2142 In Woodland, CA 95776. Grand Jurors

and all witnesses are sworn to secrecy and, except in rare circumstances, records of meeting may not be subpoenaed. This Secrecy ensures that neither the identity of the complainant nor the testimony offered to the Grand Jury during its investigations will be revealed. The Grand Jury exercises its own discretion in deciding whether to conduct an investigation or report its findings on citizen complaints.

HOW TO SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

Complaints must be submitted in writing and should include any supporting evidence available. A person can pick up a complaint form at the county courthouse, the jail, or any local library; can request a form be mailed by calling 530-406-5088 or by writing to the Grand Jury at P.O. Box 2142, Woodland, CA 95776; or by accessing the Grand Jury's website at <http://www.yolocounty.org/grand-jury>. Complaints should be mailed to P.O. Box 2142 in Woodland or sent to the Grand Jury's email address, grandjury@yolocounty.org. It is not necessary to use the printed form as long as the essential information is included in the complaint. Complaints received after February, when the Grand Jury's work is coming to a close, may be referred to the next year's Grand Jury for consideration.

REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION OF GRAND JURORS

To be eligible for the Grand Jury you must meet the following criteria:

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be 18 years of age or older.
- You must have been a resident of Yolo County for at least one year before selection.
- You must be in possession of your natural faculties, of ordinary intelligence, of sound judgement and fair character.
- You must possess sufficient knowledge of the English language.
- You are not currently serving as a trial juror in any court of this state during the time of your Grand Jury term.
- You have not been discharged as a Grand Juror in any court of this state within one year.
- You have not been convicted of malfeasance in office or any felony.
- You are not serving as an elected public officer.
- In addition to the requirements prescribed by California law, applicants for the Grand Jury should be aware of the following requirements:
 - Service on the Grand Jury requires a minimum of 25 hours per month at various times during the day, evening and weekend. During peak months, 40 hours a month is typical, with more hours for those in leadership positions.
 - Jurors must maintain electronic communications to participate in meeting planning, report distribution, and other essential jury functions. Such communications can be supported by computers at local libraries or personal electronic devices.

Each spring, the Yolo County Superior Court solicits applicants for the upcoming year's Grand Jury. Anyone interested in becoming a Grand Juror can submit his or her application to the Court in the spring, usually in April. Application forms are available at the courthouse or from the Grand Jury's website at <http://www.yolocounty.org/grand-jury>. Applications are managed by the Jury Services Supervisor, Yolo County Courthouse, 1000 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695, telephone 530-406-6828. The Court evaluates written applications and, from these, identifies and interviews potential jurors to comprise the panel of nineteen citizens. Following a screening process by the Court, Grand Jurors are selected by lottery as prescribed by California law.

INVESTIGATIONS

2018-2019 YOLO COUNTY GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

