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County of Los Angeles **CIVIL GRAND JURY**

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June 30, 2012

The Hon. Patricia M. Schnegg, Supervising Judge
Criminal Justice Center
Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Foltz Criminal Courts Building
210 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Judge Schnegg:

In compliance with California Penal Code §933(a), the 2011-2012 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury hereby submits its Final Report to your attention. This Final Report represents the efforts of twenty-three Civil Grand Jury members who spent the 2011-2012 fiscal year dedicated to fulfilling their mission to safeguard citizens' interests by performing as a "watchdog" over the operations of public agencies within Los Angeles County.

The task of assembling twenty-three heretofore strangers and setting out to fulfill the Penal Code's mandate to the Civil Grand Jury within a one-year period initially appeared daunting to the newly-installed Civil Grand Jury members as they formally met on July 1, 2011 for the first time. However, I am extremely pleased to report that these members immediately hit the road running. Necessary committees were quickly formed, governing policies and procedures were agreed upon, and the larger task of determining a "compass" by which to select potential topics for research and investigation was promptly addressed.

Pursuant to California Penal Code §919, this Civil Grand Jury completed a detailed evaluation of the conditions and management of 93 separate detention facilities within Los Angeles County. In addition, the Civil Grand Jury received and considered 61 complaints from citizens of the County. Finally, the 2011-2012 Civil Grand Jury members generated and debated the merits of investigating 36 different areas of public government and policy-making, before deciding to focus its resources on 17 specific topics, including six governance subjects, eight subjects covering social issues, and three subjects resulting from citizens' complaints.

To assist the Civil Grand Jury in becoming aware of potential issues and concerns within the various levels and functions of public government in Los

Angeles County, 21 prominent public officials made presentations to the Civil Grand Jury; in addition, field trips were taken by the Civil Grand Jury to 10 public facilities. It is appropriate to note that the great majority of public officials and employees that the Civil Grand Jury interacted with and observed were very cooperative and represented their agencies in a thoroughly professional manner.

As Foreperson of the 2011-2012 Civil Grand Jury, I was very fortunate to be surrounded by twenty-two persons, each of whom demonstrated his and her commitment to the ideals and expectations of the Civil Grand Jury on a daily basis. The size and complexity of the County of Los Angeles, including all its municipalities, county agencies, and special districts, presented significant challenges to the Civil Grand Jury as it deliberated how best to determine serious investigative subjects that would provide substantial results and meaningful recommendations for the benefit of the citizens of Los Angeles County. Despite the cultural, occupational, and age differences of our individual Civil Grand Jury members, we blended together as one to reach consensus on all matters large and small. All members advocated for matters they felt strongly about, but also demonstrated the willingness to compromise when situations called for compromise. To all my fellow Grand Jurors I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for this achievement.

In addition I would like to express the Civil Grand Jury's thanks to the following persons:

- Jennifer Lehman, Principal Deputy County Counsel, who made sure that our legal rudder was always pointed straight ahead; and
- Civil Grand Jury staff members Mark Hoffman, Cora Artizada, and Natalie Rascon, who cared for and looked after twenty-three persons for an entire year.

As prior Civil Grand Jurors have often expressed regarding their own experience, the year that our Civil Grand Jury members spent researching, investigating, reading, listening to, discussing, and debating significant public policy issues is simply the most fulfilling and comprehensive civics class imaginable. We thank the Los Angeles Superior Court and you, Judge Schnegg, for this opportunity to both serve and learn.

Sincerely,



Alf Schonbach, Foreperson
2011–2012 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury



Seated L-R: Margaret Yzaguirre, Leah V. Granof, Jocelyn Keene (Foreperson Pro-Tem), Alf Schonbach (Foreperson), Diana S. Lee, William Frank Guzman, Thomas C. Wentz
 Standing L-R: Karen Stracka, Rik Shubb, Sharon S. Burgess, Gregory Steve Alvarado (Secretary), Bobbi Miller, Thomas Joyner, Bill Bertrand (Sergeant-at-Arms), Magdalene Y. Ho, Jon W. Valliere, Sr., Elizabeth B. Calvert (Secretary), Eunice Carr, Delora Brown