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2020-2021 Grand Jury Response Summary Chart

ROHNERT PARK ELECTION DISTRICTS

Background: In October, 2019 the City of Rohnert Park initiated actions to change City Council representation from an at-large basis (individuals vote for all council seats) to a district basis (individuals vote for only the seat for the district in which they reside). In response to citizen concerns the Grand Jury investigated the procedures that were followed in the transition process. They concluded that the rules governing the creation of district-based representation were followed, as were the rules governing election sequencing. Further, the Grand Jury found no credible evidence that open meeting laws were violated. However, the Jury did find a deficit in implementing and monitoring the required ethics training of City Council members, and noted a potential need to update district boundaries in response to the 2020 census.

RES = Respondent; GJ = Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
 CRP = City of Rohnert Park; CCRP = City Council of Rohnert Park;

RECOMMENDATIONS	RES.	RESPONSES	2021-2022 GJ OBSERVATIONS
R1. The City of Rohnert Park establish a procedure to monitor and track ethics training for publicly elected officials as required by California Assembly Bill No. 1234. This should occur by December 31, 2021.	CRP	This Recommendation has been implemented. Procedures are in place to arrange and provide training and to monitor compliance with AB 1234.	The Grand Jury acknowledges that this Recommendation has been implemented.
R2. The City of Rohnert Park notify elected officials of ethics training bi-annual deadlines by December 31, 2021.	CRP	This Recommendation has been implemented. Notifications of online training were sent in November 2020.	The Grand Jury acknowledges that this Recommendation has been implemented.
R3. The City Council members proactively plan in advance and allocate time in Council Meeting agendas to give the public opportunity for robust and ongoing discussion of any changes to the City’s demographics that need to be addressed when the new Census data is released on September 30, 2021. This should occur by December 31, 2021.	CCRP	This Recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Plans have been established for contracting with demographic and outreach consultants. At least four public hearings will be scheduled in 2021 in order to give the public opportunities for robust and ongoing discussion on any changes in the City’s demographics that need to be addressed. The City’s actions will comply with the Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions (Fair Maps) Act.	The Grand Jury acknowledges that this Recommendation will be implemented in the future.