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BY:.....

July 26, 2016

The Honorable Jeffrey B. Barton, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  
P.O. Box 122724  
San Diego, CA 92102-2724

Re: Grand Jury Report on "Citizen Oversight Boards of Police Behavior"

Dear Judge Barton:

On May 25, 2016, the San Diego County Grand Jury released its report on "Citizen Oversight Boards of Police Behavior," which included a number of findings and recommendations for local government and law enforcement agencies. State law requires that any public agency that the Grand Jury has reviewed, and about which it has issued a final report, provide comments to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the agency. This letter will provide the comments for the City of La Mesa, signed by Mayor Mark Arapostathis, for Recommendations 16-30 and 16-31, and the La Mesa Police Department, signed by Chief of Police Walt Vasquez, for Recommendations 16-58 and 16-59.

#### Recommendations

16-30: Establish independent citizen commissions for oversight of police behavior.

16-31: Determine the specific commission model with community input to ensure acceptance, independence, and accountability.

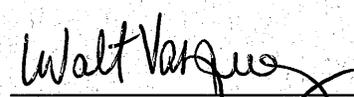
The City of La Mesa disagrees with these recommendations and does not have immediate plans to establish an independent citizen oversight commission at this time. The La Mesa Police Department has citizen complaint procedures in place per California Penal Code section 832.5 that define the current investigative process. Citizen complaints against La Mesa Police Department personnel are taken seriously and reviewed at all levels, including the Chief of Police.

La Mesa does not have a history of complaints about Police behavior that have not been resolved through existing channels and procedures. Even though there is not a history of complaints about Police behavior, the La Mesa Police Department shall continue to review and evaluate the current citizen complaint policy. The constant evaluation and potential changes to the citizen complaint policy is to ensure compliance with California Law, the Peace Officers Bill of Rights and current investigative procedures.

Even though the City of La Mesa does not plan to institute a citizen oversight of police behavior at this time, the City will continue to explore possible options in the future.

Yours truly,

  
The Honorable Mark Arapostathis  
Mayor of La Mesa

  
Walt Vasquez  
Chief of Police