



MAYOR  
JIM WOOD

# CITY OF OCEANSIDE

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AUG 22 2016

SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY GRAND JURY

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

JACK FELLER  
JEROME KERN  
CHARLES "CHUCK" LOWERY  
ESTHER SANCHEZ

August 10, 2016

San Diego County Grand Jury

## **RE: Citizen Oversight Boards of Police Behavior – City of Oceanside Response**

Dear Members of the Grand Jury:

The recommendations of the 2015/2016 San Diego County Grand Jury will not be implemented at this time because they are currently not warranted, nor are they reasonable given the City's fiscal status. California Department of Justice policy states that local government has primary responsibility for citizen complaints against law enforcement agencies. In compliance with Penal Code section 832.5, the Oceanside Police Department has a written complaint procedure in place that is readily available to the general public. All complaints received from the public receive an assigned number and thereafter rigorously and thoroughly investigated by a full-time sergeant specifically dedicated to this task. All disciplinary recommendations must be approved by the Chief of Police. The Department has a robust history of imposing appropriate discipline when an investigation reveals it is warranted. Citizen complainants are advised of the general outcome of the investigation.

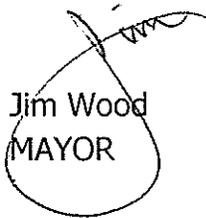
Oceanside does not have a history of complaints about police conduct that have not been investigated and resolved to the satisfaction of the complaining citizen. Further, the Department has initiated a "Coffee with a Cop" program, has multiple social media outlets accessible to citizens, and officers regularly attend neighborhood meetings throughout the community. These meetings and sites provide alternate forums for citizens to express their thoughts on policy changes and implementation, as well as any perceived misconduct on the part of Oceanside officers. Likewise, the City has an established Police and Fire Commission where the public is afforded an opportunity to express grievances regarding the investigation process, officer conduct, or the outcome of a particular investigation should they so wish.

Finally, the City has a long-established Neighborhood Policing Team, the members of which have as their primary duty regularly meeting with all sectors of the public, listening to any concerns both inside and outside a particular neighborhood, and working toward a mutually-beneficial resolution to those concerns.

Members of the Oceanside Police Department have been and will continue to be answerable for their conduct and actions during the performance of their duties. At this time, the City feels confident that its complaint and investigation procedures are accepted by the public, are independent and unbiased, and hold officers accountable for violations of policy. Oceanside shall continue to review and evaluate our citizen complaint process to ensure compliance with applicable law and the Police Officers' Bill of Rights.

To that end, the City will continue to evaluate the Grand Jury's recommendations, with the input of the community and area agencies, for potential implementation at some future time.

Sincerely,



Jim Wood  
MAYOR