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SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY
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August 8, 2007

Honorable Janis Sammartino, Presiding Judge
San Diego County Superior Court
Main Courthouse, Third Floor
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Sammartino:

2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury Report dated May 10, 2007, and titled "San Diego City Real Estate Assets"

Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933(c), the San Diego City Attorney provides the following response to the findings and recommendations of the 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury report referenced above:

Finding (sixth): The Grand Jury did find that there have been issues, friction, and in some instances a lack of cooperation between READ and the City Attorney's Office.

Response. Since the hiring of the new Real Estate Assets Department [READ] Director a year ago, and READ'S more recent reorganization, the level of cooperation and satisfaction has increased dramatically. The City Attorney's Office has consistently devoted between two and three Deputy City Attorneys to advising READ. Unfortunately, READ'S need for legal services has run in cycles, resulting in periodic backlogs of work requests. The City Attorney's staffing level does not permit either over-staffing or intermittent re-staffing of Deputies to accommodate short-term fluctuations in work requirements. We will continue to respond to READ'S needs for legal services and strive to improve response times within our staffing limitations.

Recommendation 07-22: Establish an efficient and timely working relationship to maximize the return on all City Property.

ORIGINAL

Honorable Janis Sammartino,
Presiding Judge

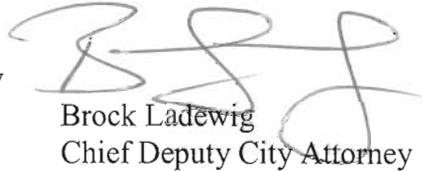
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Response: READ and the City Attorney's Office have implemented a pilot program whereby READ will no longer create an initial document draft, but rather send a "deal points" summary with each request for legal services. The issue necessitating the program is that many times READ property agents will devote a great deal of time writing to a form document that has become out-dated, causing lengthy re-writes by the attorneys. The expected result is improved turnaround, since time will be saved at both ends of the process. READ and the City Attorney's Office will evaluate the new process at the end of September 2007, and make adjustments as needed to establish and maintain a more efficient and timely working relationship to maximize the return on all City property.

MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE, City Attorney

By



Brock Ladewig
Chief Deputy City Attorney

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