

- I. 2000-2001 Grand Jury report on CITY OF SANTA BARBARA HARBOR
- II. Published June 16, 2001
- III. The Grand Jury investigated the City owned and operated harbor. It concluded the Waterfront Department was well run and the Marina well maintained. However, the slip assignment policy was “inherently unfair and improper public policy”. This report urges that the policy be changed.
- IV. Key Grand Jury Recommendations where there is disagreement or need for follow up:

Recommendation 1a: The Waterfront Department Rules should be changed (possibly after a limited, e.g., five-year, transition period) to eliminate the ability of a permit holder for a slip to transfer that slip along with the sale of a boat.

Recommendation 1b: Appropriate new Rules should be adopted, along with a strong City ordinance, to prevent subterfuges, around the basic idea that all slip transfers should be by way of the official Waiting List, and that attempts to circumvent this policy will be punished severely (e.g., major fine plus loss of slip).

City of Santa Barbara Responses: The recommendations will not be implemented because they are not warranted or reasonable.

The City does not intend to eliminate the Slip Transfer Policy, but instead will continue to assess and pursue a substantial transfer fee for the privilege of transferring slip permits to new vessel owners.

The City Council intends to direct the Harbor Commission and Waterfront staff to further evaluate intrinsic values involved in the slip transfer process and request that the Commission and staff develop recommendations regarding slip transfer fee adjustments that will further address this issue. The direction from Council is not focused on eliminating the Slip Transfer Policy, but intends that the analysis and recommendations focus on substantial fees or other economic disincentives geared toward eliminating profiteering or private financial benefit from the license transfer of public assets (slips).

- V. Synopsis:
 - Number of responses to recommendations required -- 7
 - Number of responses to recommendations in which the respondent agreed with or implemented the recommendation – 4
 - Number or responses to recommendations in which the respondent disagreed with the recommendation -- 3