

June 14, 2005

Honorable Judge Anderson
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Attention: Charles Foley, Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Dear Honorable Judge Anderson and Grand Jury Foreperson Foley:

The City Council, at their regular meeting held June 13, 2005, reviewed the Santa Barbara County 2004-2005 Grand Jury report entitled: "A Sobering Thought – the Santa Barbara Community Sobering Center – An Alternative to Jail" specifically as it relates to the City of Carpinteria and approved the following response to the specific finding and recommendation of the Report:

Finding 1: The Sobering Center has four major benefits:

- Saves booking fees and other jail-related costs
- Reduces overcrowding in the County jail
- Improves public safety by promptly returning police officers to patrol duties
- Provides a humane alternative for those temporarily under the influence of alcohol

Recommendation: Other Santa Barbara County communities should establish similar sobering centers.

Response: The City of Carpinteria contracts with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services. Under the terms of the contract, the County provides custody functions at the county's obligation and expense. The City is not invoiced for any costs associated with custody services including booking fees. Further, the City of Carpinteria is relatively small, less than 15,000 population, which is

unlikely to generate a number of arrests for being intoxicated in public or driving under the influence (the city averages less than 300 such arrests annually), to warrant the investment necessary to establish and operate the type of facility recommended. The city's expectation is that custody services are provided in a manner that is efficient and effective. The City is confident that the Sheriff's Department will explore all reasonable programs to remedy overcrowding of the county jail and to ensure that the city continues to receive the highest quality law enforcement services.

The City of Carpinteria thanks the Grand Jury for it's work.

Should you need any additional information please contact me at (805) 684-5405 extension 400.

Sincerely,

Dave Durflinger
City Manager