

READ AND CONSIDERED

DATE 10/15/08 BY [Signature]

OCT 15 2008



CITY OF SANTA ROSA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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October 2, 2008

The Honorable Knoel Owen, Presiding Judge  
Sonoma County Superior Court  
600 Administration Drive, Room 107  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

2007-2008 CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT – SANTA ROSA CENTRAL  
LIBRARY  
AT RISK

Dear Judge Owen:

This letter responds to the 2007-2008 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report section entitled “The Central Library at Risk.” The report requires the City of Santa Rosa to respond to Recommendations R3, R9, and R10.

JOHN SAWYER  
Mayor

SUSAN GORIN  
Vice Mayor

JANE BENNETT  
CAROL DEAN  
VERONICA FANTONI  
LEE FIERCE  
Council Members

**Recommendation R3** Enforce a smoke-free zone on all properties surrounding the library facilities.

The City of Santa Rosa (City) owns three library facilities located in central or downtown Santa Rosa, on Guerneville Road near Coddington Mall and in Rincon Valley next to Maria Carrillo High School. The City provides these facilities to the Sonoma County Library Commission for use and operation as public libraries. In order to allow the Commission to address the issue of smoking on library premises, the City has expressly granted the Commission authority to regulate the conduct and activities on these premises, consistent with all applicable federal, state and local laws, including, but not limited to, the prohibition of smoking on the premises of these library facilities.

**Recommendation R9** Coordinate with the Santa Rosa Police Department to schedule random, but regular, visits inside the library.

Officers from the Santa Rosa Police Department’s Downtown Enforcement team often conduct checks and walk throughs of the Santa Rosa Central library, including the exterior of the facility. The Police Sergeant assigned to the Downtown Enforcement team has noted that the addition of private security services at the library has aided in addressing potential problems at the library. Library staff and the City’s downtown enforcement officer have met to coordinate ongoing enforcement efforts.



**Recommendation R10** The Library Commission, City of Santa Rosa, and the Community Development Commission should coordinate a task force to investigate the feasibility of alternative daytime venues for the homeless community.

The City is choosing not to implement this recommendation because it is based upon an inaccurate finding, Finding F2, stating that there are no daytime drop-in shelters available in the Santa Rosa shelter system.

The City of Santa Rosa supports homeless services, including daytime services in Santa Rosa, by providing over \$600,000 a year to various organizations. The City of Santa Rosa provides a considerable portion of the funding for the Homeless Services Center, the daytime drop-in facility located on Morgan Street. The Living Room, a daytime center for homeless women and children, is located in downtown Santa Rosa and receives funding from the City. The City also funds the Brookwood, Samuel L. Jones Hall, and Family Support Center homeless shelters.

The City of Santa Rosa, as well as the City of Petaluma and the County of Sonoma, participate in the countywide Sonoma County Continuum of Care planning process. The Continuum of Care is a collaboration of local jurisdictions, homeless shelter and service providers, health professionals, law enforcement agents, affordable housing developers, and others who meet to discuss and plan for measures to address the issue of homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the recommendations of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Sawyer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOHN SAWYER  
Mayor

c: Sandra Cooper, Director, Sonoma County Library  
Kathleen Kane, Executive Director, Sonoma County Community  
Development Commission