



Office of the Independent Budget Analyst

Proposed Council Response to County Grand Jury Report

**“Say What You’ll Do and Then Do What You Say:
Past Grand Jurors Association Implementation Review
Committee”**

**Presentation for the
Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations
Committee**

July 30, 2014

Item #4

IBA Report 14-30



Overview

- The Grand Jury filed this report, directed to the City Council, on May 21, 2014.
- City Council and the Mayor are required to provide response to Presiding Judge by October 17, 2014 – extended due date.



Overview

- The report discusses ensuring transparency and accountability with respect to the implementation of Grand Jury recommendations that have been accepted by the City.
- The report includes 1 finding and 1 recommendation specific to the City.



Format for Responses

Prescribed Grand Jury responses include:

- For each Finding:
 - Agree
 - Disagree wholly or partially
- For each Recommendation:
 - Has been implemented
 - Has not yet been implemented, but will be
 - Requires further analysis
 - Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable



Proposed Response to Finding

Grand Jury report contains only one finding specific to the City:

Finding 02: The City of San Diego failed to make the Grand Jury Implementation Review Committee permanent in 2009 despite its success in insuring that Grand Jury recommendations were implemented.

–Proposed Response: Partially disagree



Proposed Response to Finding

- Agree that the Grand Jury Implementation Review Committee was not made permanent in 2009.
- No additional information is included in the Grand Jury report supporting the statement regarding the Review Committee's success in ensuring Grand Jury recommendations were implemented.
- The City believes a better use of resources would be to utilize a different approach - as outlined in the alternative proposed responses to the Grand Jury recommendation.



Recommendation 14-81

Recommendation 14-81: *Establish an Implementation Review Committee similar to the one established in 2007-2009 and patterned after the current San Diego County Past Grand Jury Implementation Review Committee.*

- **Proposed Response:** The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.
 - The City believes there are more efficient and effective approaches for providing transparency and reviewing the implementation status of previously accepted Grand Jury recommendations.



Recommendation 14-81

Proposed response includes two alternatives:

- Alternative 1: Council Committee review process to assess the implementation status of accepted recommendations for past Grand Jury reports
- Alternative 2: Direct website posting by departments, on newly established *Grand Jury Reports* webpage (suggested by Councilmember Sherman's Office)



Recommendation 14-81

Proposed Response–Alternative 1

Council Committee review of implementation status:

- Avoids additional support expenses associated with a separate Committee process
- Provides a more widely known public platform
- Council Committees have authority to direct follow-up
- Could be implemented via one central Council Committee or, alternatively, by individual Committees based on the subject matter



Recommendation 14-81

Proposed Response–Alternative 2

Direct posting by departments of implementation status to a new *Grand Jury Reports* webpage:

- Avoids additional support expenses associated with a separate Committee process
- Implementation would include creation of a Council Policy and Administrative Regulation to outline:
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Timeframe and frequency for posting of status updates to the new webpage
 - What materials would be posted to the website



Summary and Next Steps

- Either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2 would provide more transparency and accountability regarding implementation of Grand Jury recommendations that have been accepted by the City.
- A combination of elements in the two alternatives could also be considered.



Summary and Next Steps

- The IBA has had discussions with the Mayor's Office, with the idea of submitting a joint Council/Mayoral response to the Grand Jury report.
 - We have drafted the proposed alternatives as joint responses, but final determination would depend on the ultimate composition of the response.
- We request the Committee provide feedback and direction and move this item forward to the full City Council for consideration.