



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST REPORT

Date Issued: September 8, 2014

IBA Report Number: 14-30REV

City Council Meeting Date: TBD

Item Number: TBD

Response to Grand Jury Report

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

OVERVIEW

On May 21, 2014, the San Diego County Grand Jury filed a report, which was directed to both the Mayor and the San Diego City Council, entitled “Say What You’ll Do and Then Do What You Say: Past Grand Jurors Association Implementation Review Committee.” This Grand Jury report discusses ensuring transparency and accountability with respect to the implementation of Grand Jury recommendations that have been accepted by the City.

The Grand Jury Report included four findings and two recommendations. Only one of the recommendations was directed to the Mayor and City Council (the other recommendation applies to the San Diego County Office of Education); and only one finding applies specifically to the City.

Per the Grand Jury report, the Mayor and Council are required to provide comments to the Presiding Judge of the San Diego Superior Court on each of the findings and recommendations directed to the City within 90 days, on August 19, 2014. However, due to the Council recess in August, the Council President’s office has requested and received an extension for such responses to October 17, 2014.

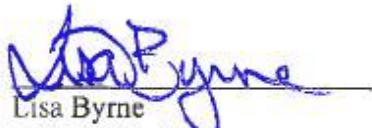
In responding to each Grand Jury finding, the City is required to either (1) agree with the finding or (2) disagree wholly or partially with the finding. Responses to Grand Jury recommendations must indicate that the recommendation (1) has been implemented; (2) has not yet been implemented, but will be in the future; (3) requires further analysis; or (4) will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Explanations for responses are requested when applicable.

On July 30, 2014 the IBA presented two proposed response alternatives to the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations (ED&IR) Committee. Alternative 1 provided for a Council Committee review process to assess the implementation status of accepted recommendations for past Grand Jury reports. Alternative 2 involved a process for direct website posting of implementation status by the appropriate departments (on a newly established webpage), which was suggested to our office by Councilmember Sherman's Office. During the presentation of the proposed responses, our office noted:

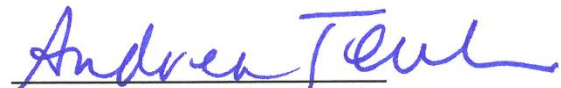
- Both of these approaches would provide more transparency and accountability regarding implementation of Grand Jury recommendations that have been accepted by the City.
- A combination of elements in the two alternatives could also be considered.

At the July 30, 2014 meeting, the ED&IR Committee requested that the two alternatives be combined into one proposed response, and that the item be moved forward to the full City Council with a recommendation for approval. Additionally, the Committee requested that the IBA, Mayor's Office, City Attorney's Office, and Committee Consultant develop a Council Policy regarding the proposed response (pending approval of this item by the full City Council).

In the revised proposed response (see Attachment 1 to report 14-30REV) the IBA combined the most salient aspects of the two original alternatives in order to make the response more cohesive and concise. As requested by the Committee, the revised response specifies that the proposed Committee review process would be accomplished through standing Council Committees based on the subject matter, as is that case with the City Council's original Grand Jury responses. The Mayor's Office made minor changes to our revisions and is amenable to providing a joint response with the City Council, based on the attached proposed response.



Lisa Byrne
Fiscal & Policy Analyst



APPROVED: Andrea Tevlin
Independent Budget Analyst

Attachments:

1. Revised Proposed Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report Entitled "Say What You'll Do and Then Do What You Say: Past Grand Jurors Association Implementation Review Committee"
2. San Diego County Grand Jury Report entitled "Say What You'll Do and Then Do What You Say: Past Grand Jurors Association Implementation Review Committee"