



CITY OF EUREKA

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MAYOR

October 5, 2011

Honorable Bruce Watson, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Humboldt
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Judge Watson:

The 2010-11 Humboldt County Grand Jury Report addressed two subject areas within the City of Eureka.

At the Eureka City Council meeting on October 4, 2011, the City Council discussed the Grand Jury findings, conclusions, and recommendations. As directed, the City Council provides their response for the 2010-11 Grand Jury's Report.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Jäger
Mayor
City of Eureka

Cc: Tim Marks, Foreperson, Humboldt County Grand Jury
County Administrative Office

Grand Jury Report – 2011-AF-01

Findings

1. There is definite need to delineate protocol for investigations concerning strong relationships between employees within a department or among employees from any other related departments. The manual in this area is ambiguous and needs to be written more clearly so there is no misunderstanding about any conflict of interest in regard to investigating within the city power structure.

AGREE

2. Despite being told by a member of the EPD that it really wasn't that important that the "out of house" protocol be followed in this case, it is our contention based on all findings that even a hint of conflict of interest merits being extra vigilant.

AGREE – The policy was not followed per the decision of the department head.

Recommendations

The Grand Jury recommends that the Eureka Police Department Policy Manual be updated to avoid further questioning of the appearance of the above concerns. This would include precise instructions on how to handle conflict of interest or nepotism. Currently, there are no specific instructions or they are nebulous. No department deserves to be tainted by rumor or innuendo when a simple manual rewrite and procedural accuracy can prevent it

The Eureka Police Department uses the law firm Lexipol, LLC to provide with a Policy Manual. Policy No. 1050, Conflict of Interest, has been forwarded to Lexipol, for update or rewrite. Implementation of the revised policy will be based on the response time by the outside law firm.