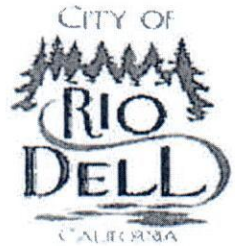


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*Rio Dell City hall
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532
riodellcity.com*

July 2, 2013

Honorable Dale A. Reinholtsen, Presiding Judge
Humboldt County Superior Court
825 5th Street, Room 231
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Response to 2012-13 Grand Jury Recommendation

Dear Judge Reinholtsen:

On July 2, 2013 the Rio Dell City Council considered the Findings and Recommendation made in the 2012-13 Humboldt Grand Jury Report that pertained to Rio Dell. The Report was placed before the Council and community as a regular agenda item and the Council's action as set forth herein was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Council.

We would like to note that the incidents reported to the Grand Jury occurred 4 years ago and more. This Council took immediate action to investigate the matter and had the results of that investigation delivered the Humboldt County District Attorney for prosecutorial determination. Corrective actions as to policies and procedures were taken by the City immediately thereafter in 2009, perhaps 3 years before a complaint was filed with the Grand Jury.

The Findings of the Grand Jury state that the City hired an Investigator to examine the claims and that it received a confidential report on the matter which was directed by the City Council to be given to the District Attorney's Office (DA) for action. The employee named in the report separated from City employment. The Grand Jury also found that the City revised numerous policies and procedures to strengthen internal controls.

Specifically, the Council concurs with Grand Jury Findings F2, F3, F4, and F5. As to Finding F1, felonies may have been committed and that's why the City had the matter investigated and sent to the Humboldt County District Attorney. Since the DA did not pursue prosecution, we do not know if "felonies were apparently committed", but we agree that the conduct raised concerns about potential criminal acts and warranted reporting to the DA for evaluation. That is why the City caused the information to be submitted to the DA in 2009.

Finding F6 states that "complainant did not provide the Grand Jury any evidence that the City's employees continue to commit crimes, misuse public funds, or otherwise continue the pattern of misconduct substantiated by the Stokes Report".

In response, what the complainant said and what evidence was provided to the Grand Jury is unknown to the City. However, what we do know is that substantial and direct corrective action was taken by the Rio Dell City Council when the Stokes Report was received, establishing a zero tolerance for the misuse of

public property and tightening internal controls. The City concurs that there is no evidence to support the claim and that it was properly found by the Grand Jury to be without factual support.

A redacted copy of the investigative report was ultimately ordered by the Superior Court to be made public, deleting the information that the Court determined would serve no public purpose. Releasing an unredacted copy of the Report that the complainant wanted would have been in violation of a court order.

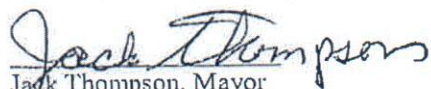
The Recommendation of the Grand Jury, to which the City Council must also respond, reads as follows:

“In order to more responsibly serve its residents, the City of Rio Dell should continue to improve its policies and procedures. Its employees should receive annual training covering any changes in those policies and procedures.”

The City’s response to the Recommendation is that it agrees with the recommendation and in fact has implemented new policies and updated others as far back as 2009 on matters mentioned in the Report. Those policies are strictly enforced today and training in this area occurs with every new hire.

The Rio Dell City Council greatly appreciates the thoroughness of the 2012-13 report and the courtesy followed by the Grand Jury in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jack Thompson, Mayor
City of Rio Dell