



Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Chad Bianco, Sheriff-Coroner

4095 Lemon Street • Riverside • California • 92501
www.riversidesheriff.org

July 21, 2021

Honorable John M. Monterosso Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Riverside
4050 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Civil Grand Jury Report titled Short Term Rental, Response to Finding 3 & Recommendation 3

Dear Presiding Judge Monterosso,

This correspondence is in response to the Grand Jury's request for my official comment on Finding #3 and Recommendation #3 of the report.

Recently, the Department has collaborated with the County Board of Supervisors by participating in an Ad Hoc Committee, addressing revisions to the proposed County Ordinance #927-Short Term Rentals. This Ad Hoc Committee included District 3 Board of Supervisor Chuck Washington, District 4 Board of Supervisor Manuel Perez, the head of County Code Enforcement, County Counsel, the Auditor Controller's Office, and three members from the Sheriff's Department including two of my Executive Command staff, among others.

During the meeting, the group discussed this grand jury report, the proposed draft to Ordinance 927, the Short Term Rental timeline, registration for STRs, Complaint and Compliance processes, Ordinance 924 – Unruly Parties, Ordinance 495 – Transient Occupancy Tax and Ordinance 725- Procedures and Penalties for Violators of Riverside County, as well as some of the public comments heard at the live Board of Supervisor meetings.

The group is working diligently to amend the proposed Ordinance 927 as well as considering several different options for ensuring the best and most effective final outcome. Due to ongoing discussions and further research being conducted, I'm not able to share with definitive certainty the results of this meeting, as there is still some more work to be completed.

Under my direction, a separate committee met internally that included members from the Sheriff's Department, County Code Enforcement and County Planning Department. This group agreed in

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part to the Grand Jury's Recommendation 3. The Sheriff's Department has agreed to develop a department-wide policy which will assist our employees in enforcing County Ordinances #847 and #924. These Ordinances are somewhat unique, and as such, a policy will ensure there will be department-wide consistency to effectively and efficiently handle the enforcement of noise related complaints.

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad Bianco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "B".

Chad Bianco, Sheriff

cc: Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey Van Wagenen, Riverside County Executive Officer
Juan Perez, Riverside County Chief Operating Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County Clerk Recorder
Riverside County Civil Grand Jury

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Introduction

The Sheriff's Department is actively participating in the County Board of Supervisors' Ad Hoc committee that has been empaneled to revise County Ordinance #927. The intent of the committee is to ensure that all involved County Departments work in collaboration to obtain a revision of the ordinance that is effective and will curtail issues that have been created by short-term rental units. In addition to participating in the Ad Hoc committee, executives from the Sheriff's Department met separately with the Deputy Directors of the County Code Enforcement and County Planning Departments to discuss the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations, as they pertain to the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's responses to those findings and recommendations are discussed below.

Grand Jury Finding #3:

According to the Grand Jury Report on Short Term Rentals dated June 7, 2021, page #12, under the heading "Findings #3"; the Ordinance 924, addressing multiple responses to loud and unruly parties, is not referenced in the STR Ordinance 927. This omission, the lack of a written procedure for implementation of 924 violations, as well as the difficulty for the Sheriff to enforce noise Ordinance 847, results in the lack of a clear and efficient process for dealing with noise complaints.

Response:

Respondent disagrees wholly with the finding.

Respondent Riverside County Sheriff's Department wholly disagrees with the Grand Jury as to Findings #3, as it pertains to the enforcement of County Ordinance #847. The ordinance allows for enforcement of its relevant subsections by the mere use of the human ear. No additional equipment is necessary and no particular difficulty in enforcing the ordinance exists. The absence of a reference to Ordinance #924 in STR Ordinance #927 and lack of a written procedure for implementation of Ordinance #924 does not impact the ability of the Sheriff's Department to enforce #924.

Grand Jury Recommendation #3:

The Rivco Planning Department, Code Enforcement, and the Sheriff must collaboratively pursue a process that will ensure County ordinances and Department procedures adequately address noise complaints. To be completed by December 31, 2021.

Response:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be in the future.

As discussed, County Ordinance #847, in its current form, adequately provides a mechanism to address noise complaints. Additionally, Respondent Riverside County Sheriff's Department met with the County Code Enforcement and Planning Departments on July 2, 2021 and discussed the procedures for addressing noise complaints in the unincorporated areas of the County.

As it pertains to Sheriff's Department procedures, many of the Department's individual stations have formal procedures in place for the enforcement of Ordinance #847; however, there is not currently a Department-wide policy that guides our employees' enforcement of the ordinance. Generally, the Department does not create such policies for the enforcement of particular laws or ordinances; however, Ordinance #847 is somewhat unique and, as such, a Department-wide policy will be implemented to provide consistency for the manner in which the ordinance is enforced throughout the unincorporated areas of the County. Additionally, such a policy would likewise be beneficial for the enforcement of Ordinance #924. These policies are currently being drafted by the Department's Research and Development unit and will be implemented by December 31, 2021.