



**ROD PACHECO
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

July 21, 2009

The Honorable Thomas Cahraman
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Riverside
4100 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: Supplemental Response to the Grand Jury Report 2008 - 2009

Dear Judge Cahraman:

Please find attached a seven (7) page Supplemental Response to the Grand Jury Report. We ask that it be posted to the Grand Jury website in addition to our earlier response of May 22, 2009.

We are well within the deadline established by the Code and provided to us in the original communication from the Grand Jury's foreperson. The deadline is August 18, 2009.

Very truly yours,

ROD PACHECO
District Attorney

RP:wsc

Attachments: Supplemental Response to Grand Jury Report of 2008 - 2009
dated July 21, 2009



ROD PACHECO
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

July 21, 2009

John Todd, Foreperson
2008-2009 Riverside County Grand Jury
P. O. Box 829
Riverside, CA 92502

RE: SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT 2008-2009

Dear Mr. Todd,

This letter is sent to supplement our letter to the Grand Jury dated May 22, 2009. It is specifically directed to supplementing the information previously provided in response to the Grand Jury's Finding #4 and the Recommendation thereto.

It remains the position of the District Attorney that Finding #4 and Recommendation are uninformed and unfounded.

The Office of the District Attorney has an Executive Division staffed by eight (8) people. Each of those members of this team serves this county in positions approved by the Board of Supervisors. This Executive Division has its roots in the prior administration although the staff members were not called members of an executive division. In the history of this office we were blessed to be served by a staff development officer and members of the training department who completed a few of the tasks currently handled by our Executive Division. Over time, we were able to add a DA Information Officer in 2002. With the growth of our staff, the growth of our county's population and the growth of the needs of our community, the Board of Supervisors recognized, supported and approved our office's development of this team to better serve our community. With our current District Attorney, we have chosen to co-locate this staff and place them in one division called the Executive Division. This decision is a management decision that has clarity both in concept and in implementation. The clarity rests in good management concepts.

Members of the Board of Supervisors, by their vote, recognize the strong benefit to our community to be able to reach out, inform, provide training, serve, applaud and honor members of our community. The Board has so indicated in approving similar positions throughout our county's departments. Other Riverside County Departments have similar or parallel positions

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authorized in the budget for 09/10. These departments share a common mission with the District Attorney: connect with and serve our community.

The Executive Office has one (1) Public Information Officer and one (1) Public Information Specialist – C.

The Code Enforcement agency has a Community Improvement Program which, according to their website is "...the public relations and community involvement side ..." of their department. This team has one (1) supervising specialist, six (6) community improvement specialists and two (2) technicians. According to the information available on the website of Code Enforcement, the department has ensured that each of the five (5) county districts is served by a specialist. The sixth specialist is designated to provide media issues coverage throughout our county.

The Animal Control division of the Community Health Agency has one (1) Senior Public Information Specialist, four (4) Volunteer Services Coordinators and one (1) Volunteer Services Program Manager.

The Human Resources Department has one (1) Director of Leadership and Organizational Development and one (1) IT Web Developer II-C.

The Economic Development Agency Administration has one (1) EDA Marketing and Information Officer, two (2) IT Web Developers II, one (1) Supervising Web Developer and one (1) IT Web Developer I. We are in receipt of five (5) brochures published at the same time by a Senior Development Specialist with EDA. Each of the five features each of the five (5) Supervisor's Districts.

The Auditor-Controller has a Staff Writer.

The Child Support Services Department has a Child Support Program Manager and a Staff Development Officer.

The Sheriff's Department has one (1) Sheriff's Legislative Assistant, one (1) Senior Public Information Specialist, two (2) Public Information Specialists, one (1) Graphic Arts Illustrator, one (1) Research Specialist I, one (1) IT Web Developer, one (1) Volunteer Services Program Manager and one (1) Media production Specialist.

The Sheriff's Department has established a "Media Information Bureau" staffed by nine (9) people. There is one (1) Chaplain, one (1) Sergeant, one (1) Deputy, one (1) Sheriff Service Officer II, one (1) Senior Public Information Specialist, two (2) Public Information Specialists, one (1) Graphic Arts Illustrator, and one (1) Media Production Specialist.

The Fire Department has one (1) Volunteer Services Program Developer, one (1) Senior Public Information Specialist, one (1) Public Information Specialist, one (1) Senior Media Production Specialist and one (1) Web Developer III. The website for the Fire Department notes four (4) positions supporting their Media and Public Information Line: Two (2) Captains, one (1) Senior Public Information Specialist and one (1) Public Information Specialist.

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The Mental Health Department has six (6) Mental Health Services Program Managers, two (2) Volunteer Services Coordinators and one (1) Staff Development Officer.

The Public Health Department has one (1) Health Information and Community Outreach Manager and one (1) Staff Development Officer.

Riverside County Regional Medical Center has one (1) Volunteer Services Program Manager and one (1) Public Information Specialist.

The Department of Public Social Services has two (2) Staff Development Managers, five (5) Staff Development Officers, and three (3) Graphic Arts Illustrators.

Local Initiative Administration DCA has one (1) Senior Public Information Specialist in their Department of Community Action.

Flood Control has one (1) Senior Public Information Specialist.

In sum, specific to public information officers, there are fifteen (15) other employees in Riverside County whose job description closely matches that of our DA Information Officers. The Board has approved various departments to have positions called Public Information Officer, Senior Public Information Specialist, Public Information Specialist-C, Public Information Specialist, Media/Communications Coordinator, Senior Media Production Specialist, Media Production Specialist and EDA Marketing and Information Officer. Some departments have elected, in addition to their "PIOs" to support their media outreach with staff specially assigned to their media teams. There is four (4) additional staff assigned to media relations beyond the fifteen positions approved in other departments.

In valuing similar positions it is interesting to make these comparisons:

- DA Executive Officer is funded at \$127,214
 - Director of Leadership and Organizational Development with Human Resources is funded at \$177,223.
- DA Program Manager is funded at \$92,699.
 - Child Support Services Program Manager and Mental Health Services Program Manager are funded at \$102,500.
 - Staff Development Manager in the Department of Public Social Services is funded at \$100,350.
- DA Legislative Administrator is funded at \$92,699.
 - Sheriff's Legislative Assistant is funded at \$104,764.
- DA Information Officer is funded at \$92,699.
 - Public Information Officer for the Executive Office is funded at \$130,225.

If we had had the opportunity to provide information to the committee of the Grand Jury, we would have provided them with the information that District Attorneys offices throughout our nation are supported by staff doing exactly the same kinds of support to their communities as the

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Executive Division is doing for Riverside County. District Attorneys throughout the United States recognize how important it is to reach out to the community, to educate and inform our citizens about the efforts necessary to make our community safe. District Attorneys in all part of our country are supported in these efforts by their governing boards for their counties.

We took a close look at eighteen (18) other counties. Like our department, all of those counties have staff devoted to media relations. The majority, as we do, have staff producing publications, coordinating community events, facilitating community relations and connecting with their state legislatures. Twelve (12) of the eighteen counties create and promote crime prevention events and programs, as we do. We found programs in common as between the work of our Executive Division and that of other counties: Pima County, Arizona has a special project called "88-CRIME" which is similar to our "Riverside County's Most Wanted". Both Marion County, Indiana and Prince George's County, Maryland have a Victims' Rights Week Walk as we have a week where we recognize and honor our county's victims. One other county, Maricopa County, Arizona, conducts a Citizen's Academy, as we do. Three (3) counties, including ours, Westchester County, New York and Denver County, Colorado conduct intern programs.

We have made the choice to use lower paid staff to communicate and inform the public. An ancillary benefit is it allows us to focus lawyers on prosecution work. We were interested to note that fifteen (15) of the counties give these types of assignments to attorneys. Those counties include the largest counties in the country: Los Angeles County; Cook County, Illinois; Maricopa County, Arizona; Orange County; Miami-Dade County, Florida. Those counties include counties smaller than Riverside County: Denver County, Colorado; Middlesex County, Massachusetts; Bronx County, New York; and Pima County, Arizona, to name a few. Only three (3) counties other than ours, declines to have attorneys assigned to their team handling executive division tasks. Those other three counties are San Diego County; Kings County, New York and Suffolk County, Massachusetts. Our office does not have attorneys assigned to the Executive Division. In addition there is a cost savings inherent to that priority.

Riverside County is ranked eleven (11) in population in the United States. Smaller counties with smaller prosecution teams have good sized executive division teams: Prince George's County, Maryland, is ranked at 62nd and has ten (10) staff members handling tasks similar to those handled by our division. Prince George's County prosecutor's total staff is just 170 people. Bronx County, New York ranked number 26 has fourteen (14) staff members doing these jobs. Westchester County, New York; at 43rd has eight (8). Denver County, Colorado is one hundredth (100th) in population and has five (5) staff assigned to handle these types of jobs. Suffolk County, Massachusetts, ranked number 78 in population, has nine (9) staff assigned. Number 47, Pinellas County, Florida has six (6). Westchester County, New York, number 43 has eight (8). Los Angeles County resting in the number one position of most populous counties has nineteen (19) staff handling publications, writing, media, legislation, community relations, graphics, crime analysis and web support.

The committee of the grand jury rendered its conclusion regarding the Executive Division of our office without discussing their purpose, their work or their successes on behalf of the citizens of

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this county with Rod Pacheco or any member of that staff. The grand jury committee certainly has the authority if not the duty, to seek to determine the truth of any suggestion by taking a balanced approach and review. Balance comes in taking the time to hear the "other side". The grand jury failed to exercise due diligence in doing so.

Our collaborative team of hardworking people have served our community in assuming some tasks completed during the prior administration by members of the training staff, freeing that staff to provide training. Our Executive Division team has expanded the scope of projects developed during the prior administration and in many instances have completed those projects at less cost to the county. This team has been resourceful in creating new events and support to the community that help to bring to our citizens a better understanding of the work of the District Attorney and help citizens of this community become more comfortable in the safety of our community.

The programs that this team inherited as our District Attorney determined each was important included a one and one-half days training for 120 management staff at a total cost of just \$900. Kudos go out to this team for bringing that training to those numbers of managers at such a reduced cost in these tough budget times. The 25th annual PRIDE banquet honoring all staff for their accomplishments in 2008 was produced by this team for under \$400 this year. Almost 600 people attended this event. In years past this event has cost on average, \$15,000. The interoffice newsletter, previously printed and distributed across the distance to all of our offices is now produced and published on the intranet at no cost. The annual report was a publication completed bi-annually, provided in word document form to a vendor to be designed, edited and printed. That entire publication is now done annually. It is written, designed and edited by this team. This year it will be published on-line.

New publications have been done by the Executive Division: K-12 School Crimes Guide, Witness Rights Brochure, Investigator Recruitment Brochure, Marsy's Law Brochure, and a Real Estate Fraud Brochure to name a few. There is a DA Community Newsletter available as an outreach tool to any who subscribe via the District Attorney's website. It offers updates on the District Attorney's legislative agenda, community programs and noteworthy cases.

The trio of DA Information Officers serves each of the three geographical divisions of our offices consistent with the map of court operations. It is a DA Information Officer who built and maintains the "Riverside County's Most Wanted" fugitives program. To date, pairing with two local media outlets running weekly programming featuring a fugitive, more than 8 fugitives have been located. Here are two examples of the success of this program: **Robert Richard Frescas** was wanted for the molestation of two young females under the age of 14. He had fled to Mexico. After being named to the most wanted list, a tipster contacted the IPD investigator assigned to the case and gave the investigator Frescas' specific location in Mexico. The information was accurate and two of our investigators from the bureau went to Mexico and arrested him. **Daniel Robert Medina** was wanted for assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping and witness intimidation stemming from an incident in which he became very violent with his former girlfriend. He was arrested in Beaumont approximately three months after he was named to the most wanted list. When the Beaumont Police officers noticed his suspicious behavior they approached him and asked him questions. Before he was arrested, Medina told the officers that

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he was a wanted fugitive who had been featured on a television series. These two are in custody because of this program, the work of the Executive Division.

This team fields all media inquiries and has processed and recorded those inquiries numbering 2912 between June 20, 2008 and June 30, 2009. In 2008 they issued 56 news releases and 9

media advisories. In 2009 to date, those numbers are on the rise, with 41 news releases, 15 media advisories and 21 criminal case updates. Each is responsible in turn for the various news conferences, 5 in 2008 and 5 so far in 2009. These DA Information Officers work constantly with the media and the trial prosecutor linking last minute information regarding cases in trial to the media. The prosecutor's work is eased considerably as each is able to focus on the trial, brief the DA Information Officer who will handle the media inquires for the prosecutor. These DA Information Officers attend and participate in meetings held by senior trial staff regarding serious cases. This permits quick and accurate information available to the media. These staff members attend community meetings, handle requests for speakers and assist other staff in managing California Public Records Requests that typically come first to them. Each member is responsible for tracking and archiving news. During the previous administration and at a cost of \$7400 per year, we had a subscription to a program that would attempt to capture television footage relating to the work of this office. This team has established a system to do it ourselves at no cost with the assistance of a simple computer program. After January 2009, more than 200 videos have been recorded using this method. There is simply no viability to the suggestion that the "County's PIO" could manage this job for this office.

With the leadership and excellent work ethic of the members of the Executive Division, we have instituted both a Citizen's Academy and a College Academy. What better outreach to the citizens than to raise their awareness of the criminal justice system in our community. The college internship program is a 10 week program open to undergraduate college students and high school students in the spring, fall and summer. The academy is at no cost and trains the students and assigns each to a mentor prosecutor, paralegal or advocate. For six weeks they work side by side with a member of our staff. This program benefits our office and the community as it provides a basis for recruiting advocates, paralegals and prosecutors. Frequently this experience also helps the student to focus on the next career step, it certainly builds the resume and the mentors find them to be helpful to their work as well.

Finally, the Executive Division works long hours with our Victim Services Division to bring to our citizens the opportunity to give back to the victims of our community some hope for healing in the recognition of their family members who died violently at the hands of another. It gives us an opportunity to honor them. This Victims of Crime week consists of three Vigils, a March, and a Guardians of Justice luncheon. Each requires significant planning. This team assists with that planning, creates all of the publications related to the event and is credited with the creation of the poignant annual tribute to victims video. It is difficult to express in words what it means to prosecutors and staff who labor long and hard to seek justice, to be able to attend these events and find solace and sometimes joy in the celebration of their work on behalf of the victims of this county.

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For some who do not fully understand the work of our office, we may be "just a prosecutor's office". We are not just so. We are all doing very important work for our community. It is the talent and work of the Executive Division that takes our work beyond that of "just a prosecutor's office". It is their work that takes our efforts beyond the courtroom and out into the community. They do the outreach; they take our programs out into the community. They take our successes out into the community assuring the citizens that they can be and will continue to be safe. No one else in our office can do the work that this team does. It is their work that provides an informational source bringing a balance to the various misrepresentations that can occur in any community. It is extraordinarily clear their work benefits this county. The leaders in this county and the leaders in other counties throughout this nation do recognize, have supported and should continue to support the work of these people who, on behalf of District Attorneys, provide this service to the citizens throughout our land.

Sincerely,



Sue F. Steding
Chief Assistant District Attorney