



CHICO CITY COUNCIL

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August 7, 2019

Honorable Tamara Mosbarger
Presiding Judge
Butte County Superior Court
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Re: FY 2018-19 Butte County Grand Jury Report, City of Chico Responses

Dear Judge Mosbarger,

The Chico City Council has reviewed the 2018-19 Grand Jury final report, and is providing this response, as attached, pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.

It is the Chico City Council and staff's desire to appropriately address the Butte County Grand Jury's findings and recommendations as related to its FY 2018-19 Annual Report. To reiterate, the City of Chico is committed to effective Code Enforcement services. The matters raised by the Butte County Grand Jury are consistent with the concerns of the Chico City Council and appreciated considering the challenges that the organization faces. If additional information and clarification are necessary, the City will be more than pleased to respond further.

The City Council wishes to thank the Butte County Grand Jury for its commitment to ensuring oversight of the City of Chico's government activities and evaluating and providing input on the way our government operates so it best serves the needs of our residents. It is our mission to accept the Grand Jury's report, reflect upon comments received and put into place improvements to ensure efficient and effective governance.

Yours truly,

Randall Stone, Mayor

Councilmembers:

Alex Brown, Vice-Mayor
Ann Schwab, Councilmember
Sean Morgan, Councilmember
Karl Ory, Councilmember
Scott Huber, Councilmember
Kasey Reynolds, Councilmember

CC: Mark Orme, City Manager
Chris Constantin, Assistant City Manager
Debbie Presson, City Clerk
Vince Ewing, City Attorney
Tony Lindsey, Community Development Director
Michael O'Brien, Police Chief

City of Chico Response to 2018-19 Butte County Grand Jury Report

DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

- F1 The current Code Enforcement Department tracking system (PERMITS Plus) is inefficient.**

Agreed. The City of Chico is currently transitioning to a new system called eTRAKIT which should address weaknesses found in our existing, legacy system.

- F2 Non-certified Code Enforcement Officers are not reimbursed for training that improves departmental efficiency.**

Agreed. The City of Chico has transitioned from part-time hourly staff and has hired an additional full-time staff member. The training budget has also been increased to cover the training of this full-time resource.

- F3 The Camp Fire has resulted in an increase in the Code Enforcement Department workload.**

Agreed. The City of Chico has experienced increasing workload due to the increased population residing in Chico post-Camp Fire.

- F4 Chico Police Department does not track automobile abatement which reduces the city's AVA reimbursement.**

Partly Agree. The Chico Police Department has tracked automobile abatement since March of this year. In addition, the Chico Police Department does not typically abate automobiles which qualify for AVA reimbursement.

- F5 Abandoned vehicles create a significant nuisance and/or serious health risk.**

Agreed. The City of Chico has an Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program and Municipal Code Chapter 10.52 dedicated to the abatement of abandoned vehicles.

- F6 The current 30-day vehicle abatement notice is too long.**

Agreed. The City of Chico Municipal Code requires a 30-day notice to remove an Abandoned vehicle. The abatement process could be expedited if a narrower window of compliance was implemented. California State Vehicle Code section 2266.1(d) requires a 10-day notice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1 City of Chico Code Enforcement Department should complete the migration from the current tracking system to eTRAKIT before the license renewal date of the current software (PERMITS Plus).**

Partly Implemented - In progress. The City of Chico purchased and is migrating to the new eTRAKIT software, implementing CodeTrak for code enforcement activities. Code Enforcement estimates implementation this calendar year.

- R2 City of Chico should finance training for all Code Enforcement Officers through CACEO by January 1, 2020.**

Implemented. The City of Chico increased the Code Enforcement training budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

- R3 Chico Police Department should transfer responsibility for abatement of abandoned, inoperable automobiles to the Code Enforcement Department by January 1, 2020.**

Implemented. The Chico Police Department will transfer the responsibility for the abatement of abandoned, inoperable automobiles that meet the AVA criteria to the Code Enforcement Department, effective immediately.

- R4 Chico City Council should amend CMC 10.52.120 to reduce the 30-day vehicle abatement notice to a 10-day notice, in conformance with the standard State of California 10-day notice.**

Not Implemented – Further Analysis Needed. The City of Chico requires approval of City Council to amend a time-frame adopted by ordinance. This matter can be prepared for City Council discussion within the next 6 months.

- R5 The City should establish a policy for overtime compensation that ties the rate paid to the work being performed.**

Implemented. The City of Chico has Labor Agreements with employees regarding pay, hours and other terms and conditions of employment.

- R6 The City should continue to invest in its parks, art, and cultural programs to the extent possible.**

Implemented. The City of Chico values its parks, art and cultural programs and devotes significant financial and staff resources to those priorities. The 2019-20 budget continues its commitment.