

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

PAUL V. GALLEGOS
District Attorney



WES KEAT
Assistant District Attorney
JEANNIE Y. DUNCAN
Legal Business Manager
MICHAEL R. HISLOP
Chief Investigator

July 2, 2010

The Honorable Judge Christopher G. Wilson
County of Humboldt Superior Court
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: **Findings and Recommendations**
Grand Jury of Humboldt County 2009-10 – Hess - 3

Dear Judge Wilson,

The District Attorney responds as follows:

Finding 1:

The inefficiency and/or lack of cooperation from the District Attorney's office.

Response to Grand Jury Finding 1:

The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

The current Grand Jury consults with and uses both the District Attorney's Office and County Counsel's Office on the same matters and interchangeably. This creates inefficiencies, waste, confusion and a distortion of clear lines of responsibility and accountability and results in increased consumption of time which, in turn, causes delays. This results in perceived inefficiencies in and a lack of cooperation from the District Attorney's Office that do not exist.

Requests for assistance are also communicated to staff within the District Attorney's Office instead of the District Attorney. This causes a further distortion in lines of responsibility and accountability which results in increased delays. The District Attorney responds that requests for assistance that are directly communicated to the District Attorney can and will result in both responsible and prompt responses from the District Attorney and his staff.

CRIMINAL DIVISION
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Recommendation 1:

That the District Attorney's office, when presented a request by the Grand Jury, act responsibly and promptly on the matter.

Response to Grand Jury Recommendation 1:

The recommendation has been implemented. Requests for assistance from the District Attorney's Office, that are communicated to the District Attorney, and which require assistance, that is not also being simultaneously sought from the County Counsel's office, will result in prompt assistance.

Respectfully,



WES KERT FOR PAUL GALLEGOS

Paul V. Gallegos
District Attorney

cc: ✓ Sue Hemmann, Foreperson, Grand Jury, County of Humboldt
Phillip Smith-Haines, CAO, Humboldt County

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Phil Hanes-Smith
FROM: Paul V. Gallegos
DATE: September 29, 2010
RE: The Grand Jury of Humboldt County 2009-2010 Final Report

Grand Jury Report # 2010-Hess-03
Delayed Action on the Part of the District Attorney's Office

Response to the Finding:

The respondent, District Attorney, disagrees with the finding.

The current Grand Jury consults with and uses both the District Attorney and County Counsel Offices on the same matters interchangeably. This creates inefficiencies, waste, confusion and a distortion of clear lines of responsibility and accountability, resulting in increased time consumption, which in turn, causes delays, creating a perception of inefficiencies and lack of cooperation from the District Attorney's Office.

Requests for assistance are also communicated to staff within the District Attorney's Office instead of the District Attorney. This causes a further distortion in lines of responsibility, and accountability, which again, results in increased delays.

The District Attorney responds, that requests for assistance directly communicated to him, can and will result in both responsible and prompt responses from him and his staff.

Response to the Recommendation:

The recommendation has been implemented.

Requests for assistance from the District Attorney's Office that are: (1) communicated to the District Attorney and, (2) not also simultaneously sought from the County Counsel's Office, will result in prompt assistance.

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