



ESTABLISHED 1850

CITY OF VACAVILLE

650 MERCHANT STREET
VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95688-6908
www.cityofvacaville.com

STEVE HARDY Mayor
DILENNA HARRIS Councilmember

RON ROWLETT Vice Mayor
CURTIS HUNT Councilmember

MITCH MASHBURN Councilmember

October 5, 2011

Presiding Judge of the Solano Superior Court
Hall of Justice
600 Union Ave.
Fairfield, CA 94533

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter shall serve as response to the Grand Jury report entitled "Public Safety Volunteer Programs Fire Emergency Services."

V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1 – Not all Solano County cities are taking full advantage of fire safety volunteers, which could potentially decrease the cost to taxpayers for fire protection services.

Recommendation 1 – All Solano County cities should maximize the use of fire safety volunteers for their fire departments.

Response: - The Grand Jury Report is correct; the Vacaville Fire Department (VFD) does not have fire safety volunteers. Fire Fighters and combination Fire Fighter/Paramedic positions provide our fire safety services. This type of staffing allows for the most flexibility in performing our safety operations, as the City of Vacaville is the only City in the County who provides medical transport services through our Fire Department. To develop and implement a volunteer program, the City would need to carefully consider needed training and support for a volunteer program and evaluate impacts to response times and service delivery. The City Council has been evaluating various methods to use volunteers in the City, such as the very successful Volunteers in Police Service program that the City has developed.

Finding 2 – The Cities of Vacaville and Vallejo are not taking advantage of the use of fire safety volunteers to minimize the expense of providing emergency services to those communities.

Recommendation 2 – These cities should investigate and implement the use of fire safety volunteers.

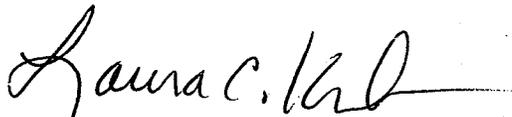
Response – The Grand Jury report is correct; the Vacaville Fire Department does not use fire safety volunteers in lieu of paid professional firefighters. However, it is important to note that the City is in the unique position of having funding that supports our Fire Department through a voter approved paramedic tax, and through funds generated by our medical transport billings. These funds help to offset the cost of our Fire Department as a whole. The City Council has developed a sub-committee that is developing recommendations for City Council consideration in the near future.

Page 2
Grand Jury Response
Public Safety Volunteers

In the future, it is respectfully requested that the Grand Jury submit requests for responses to its recommendations and findings through the City Manager's office. The process used for this particular report was extremely confusing, and ultimately led to our failure to submit a timely response. In the future, all requests need to be copied to the City Manager.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the report. If you have any questions, please contact me at 707-449-5335.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura C. Kuhn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Laura C. Kuhn
City Manager

C: Mayor and City Council
Brian Preciado, Fire Chief