



## CITY OF RIO VISTA

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CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

**VIA E-mail and U.S. Mail**

July 17, 2018

Mr. Terry Riddle  
Foreperson  
2017-2018 Solano County Grand Jury  
Hall of Justice  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Re: City of Rio Vista Response to 2017-2018 Grand Jury Report "Code Enforcement"

Dear Mr. Riddle:

The following is the City of Rio Vista's response to the Grand Jury Report regarding the Findings and Recommendations (1, 2 and 4) on Code Enforcement

**Finding 1**– City Code Enforcement Departments generally seek voluntary code compliance.

**City Response:** The City concurs with this finding and has experienced good results in working with violators to gain compliance.

**RECOMMENDATION 1** – Cities continue instituting fines as a last resort to achieve compliance.

**City Response:** The City concurs with this recommendation and believes fines should be used as a last resort to achieve compliance--and regrettably reports that on rare occasions, fines have been successfully used to gain compliance. It remains a strong tool to encourage compliance.

**FINDING 2** – The majority of municipal code enforcement is reactive rather than proactive and relies on citizens to report suspected code violations.

**City Response:** The City disagrees with the comment. Although the City does rely on citizens to report suspected code violations, the majority of the city's violations are discovered by the proactive program the city has developed. Primary code enforcement duties are managed by the police department who allocates 15 hours a week to the program--which seems appropriate for a city of around 10,000. The department has

one community services officer (non-sworn) who sweeps the city for violations and tracks noted violations through to remediation.

**RECOMMENDATION 2a** – Municipal Code Enforcement officers become more proactive in identifying and educating the public on code violations (i.e. Coffee with Code Enforcement).

**City Response:** The City agrees with the recommendation and will look for ways to educate the public on code violations through the use of pamphlets, flyers, and meetings.

**RECOMMENDATION 2b** – Work with refuse companies to inform the public of additional programs

Recommendation 3 – The City agrees with the recommendation and will reach out to the City's solid waste provider to discuss current solid waste refuse educational programs as well as any future program.

**RECOMMENDATION 4** – City Code Enforcement officials of all cities consider developing a comprehensive brochure using Vallejo's "Neighborhood Resource Brochure" as a prototype to better inform citizens of available resources.

**City Response:** The City agrees with the recommendation and has already developed an educational brochure that will be out this summer.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Kott  
Mayor

  
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Rob Hickey  
City Manager

cc: Solano County Supervisors