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June 19, 2012

Honorable James LaPorte
Kings County Superior Court
1426 South Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

Dear Judge LaPorte:

The City of Lemoore has received the Grand jury Report titled "Lemoore Police Department Child Protective Emergency Response". As requested, we are providing the following comments to the recommendations contained in the report.

Finding 1:

The Lemoore Police Department has not consistently followed the Welfare and Institutions code requirements. The Lemoore Police Department often violated this code by placing children without notifying CPS before assigning custody of the child.

Recommendation 1:

Develop police department policies which conform to the Welfare and Institutions code. Provide officer training sessions regarding these policies and their implementation.

City Comments:

The Lemoore Police Department has reviewed our policies regarding the placement of children. The policies has been changed to conform to the Welfare and Institutions code. Additionally, we are providing briefing training to all members of our department so they will be trained in the updated policy.

Finding 2:

In extreme cases of child welfare and endangerment, neglect, abandonment, and abuse (safety issues), CPS has agreed to respond to Lemoore Police Department in a timely manner as they are aware of the officer's need to stay available for normal duties due to limited personnel.

Recommendation 2:

None.

City Comments:

The Lemoore Police Department has taken positive steps toward a productive working relationship with CPS. We have asked members from CPS to attend briefings so our officers have a better understanding as to what CPS does on a daily basis. We will continue to work on strengthening our relationship with CPS for the safety of all children.

In closing, the City of Lemoore appreciates the contributions that the Kings County Grand Jury provides for the community. Their dedicated public service is an invaluable tool and aid to the governance of Lemoore.

Sincerely,

Willard J. Rodarmel
Mayor