



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

Civil Grand Jury Required Response: Honoring Commitments to the Public

Gina Liebig <gliebig@santacruzca.gov>

Wed, Oct 23, 2024 at 9:02 AM

To: Santa Cruz Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>, Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@santacruzca.gov>

Good morning, Santa Cruz Grand Jury,

This message is bcc'd to the Mayor and City Council.

At the Santa Cruz City Council meeting on October 22, 2024, the attached response was approved by the Council: ***Honoring Commitments to the Public.***

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,



Gina Liebig

Principal Management Analyst

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The 2023–2024 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury
Requires the

Santa Cruz City Council

to Respond by September 16, 2024

to the Findings and Recommendations listed below
which were assigned to them in the report titled

Honoring Commitments to the Public

Review of 2020-21 Grand Jury Report Responses

Responses are **required** from elected officials, elected agency or department heads, and elected boards, councils, and committees which are investigated by the Grand Jury. The California Penal Code (PC) [§933\(c\)](#) requires you to respond as specified below and to keep your response on file.

Your response will be considered **compliant** under [PC §933.05](#) if it contains an appropriate comment on **all** findings and recommendations **which were assigned to you** in this report.

Please follow the instructions below when preparing your response.

Instructions for Respondents

Your assigned [Findings](#) and [Recommendations](#) are listed on the following pages with check boxes and an expandable space for summaries, timeframes, and explanations. Please follow these instructions, which paraphrase [PC §933.05](#):

1. **For the Findings, mark one of the following responses with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
 - a. **AGREE with the Finding**, or
 - b. **PARTIALLY DISAGREE with the Finding** – specify the portion of the Finding that is disputed and include an explanation of the reasons why, or
 - c. **DISAGREE with the Finding** – provide an explanation of the reasons why.
2. **For the Recommendations, mark one of the following actions with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
 - a. **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – provide a summary of the action taken, or
 - b. **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – provide a timeframe or expected date for completion, or
 - c. **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – provide an explanation, scope, and parameters of an analysis to be completed within six months, or
 - d. **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – provide an explanation of why it is not warranted or not reasonable.
3. **Please confirm the date on which you approved the assigned responses:**

We approved these responses in a regular public meeting as shown
in our minutes dated _____.

4. **When your responses are complete, please email your completed Response Request as a PDF file attachment to both**

The Honorable Katherine Hansen, Grand Jury Supervising Judge
Katherine.Hansen@santacruzcourt.org and

The Santa Cruz County Grand Jury grandjury@scgrandjury.org.

If you have questions about this request form, please contact the Grand Jury by calling 831-454-2099 or by sending an email to grandjury@scgrandjury.org.

Findings

F6. With regard to the City Manager's response to Recommendation R8, the City's FY 2024 Annual Budget does not provide a detailed plan and accounting of how homeless funds have been used. The City's response only partially fulfilled its commitment to make related budget figures available.

AGREE

PARTIALLY DISAGREE

DISAGREE

Response explanation (required for a response other than **Agree**):

The Annual Budget as presented by the City of Santa Cruz provides an overview of General Fund revenues and expenditures and Capital Investment Program for the City. The budget document provides information about total expenditures by department and is not intended to be a detailed expenditure plan for a specific program as recommended by the Grand Jury. An Annual Budget is a financial plan, policy document, operations guide and a communication device.

The specific request relates to funds received in December 2022 in the amount of \$14M from a grant from the State of California, and \$4.7M from the American Recovery Act. Both sources of funds were one-time in nature and utilized over two Fiscal Years, FY23 and FY24. A detailed accounting of those funds was presented to the City Council during the FY24 Budget Hearing's and was attached to the City Council Report which is publicly available on the City's website located here: [FY24 Budget Hearings Homelessness Response](#). The report details the FY23 expenditures and the planned expenditures for FY24 on page 17 of the power point presentation.

The recently adopted FY25 budget provides an overview of the expenditures for homelessness response programs that occurred in FY24 and the budget for FY25. These expenditures are contained in three City Departments: City Manager, Public Works and Police Department under the Activity Code 6105. While the expenditures are not broken out into expenses by detail, they are reported categorically as is consistent with all of the city program budgets and consistent with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) accounting and financial reporting standards. The FY25 budget is publicly available on the City's web site.

Recommendations

R5. Within 90 days the City Manager should publish the figures that their initial response indicated were available for prior for years. (F6)

- HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

On May 23, 2023, during the budget presentation for the FY24 budget, staff provided a power point presentation which includes detailed expenditures for the \$14M State of California Grant and the \$4.7M ARPA funds on page 17 of the presentation. The FY24 expenditures for the homelessness response program are presented in three departments: City Manager’s Office, Public Works and the Police Department. This document is available on-line on the city’s website located here: [FY24 Budget Hearings Homelessness Response](#).

The recently adopted Three Year Homelessness Response Strategic Plan (Plan) requires an annual update to the City Council on the progress made on the Plan. This update will be provided to the City Council in June of 2025. Included in this update will be a fiscal analysis of the past year’s activities.

R6. Within 90 days the City should publish the summary of expenditures as presented to the City Council in May 2023 that expand on the figures provided in the FY 2024 Annual Budget. (F6)

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- HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

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