Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury
Part One: City of Patterson
Case numbers 11-01C, 11-02C, 11-03C, 11-04C, 11-05C, 11-06C, 11-07C, 11-08C, & 11-18C

INTRODUCTION

On July 1, 2010, the 2010/2011 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury (SCCGJ) was selected, sworn-in and began a one-year term. Complaints had been accumulating against appointed and elected officials from the City of Patterson. In total, nine (9) separate complaints were received. Many of the complaints contained multiple allegations, accusations and observations of wrongful actions naming specific members within the City of Patterson's political sphere.

In general, allegations of willful misconduct, conflicts of interest, violations of the Brown Act, violations of the California Government Code and the Municipal City Ordinance were made. After an examination of the complaints, the SCCGJ determined which allegations fell under the jurisdiction of incidents allowed to be investigated by statute. Due to the volume of both general and very specific accusations, the SCCGJ chose to investigate and report on both individuals and groups outlined within the complaints. Allegations and accusations were different among individuals so it was decided that the SCCGJ would divide this investigation into seven (7) parts. This was done intentionally so each report would be a stand-alone investigation, focusing on specifics to an individual or entity.

A common theme was the redundancy of allegations against various members of the Immediate Past City Council. For that reason, the reports may contain information, testimony, evidence and documents that will be replicated and referenced throughout the various portions of this report.

Some allegations date back to 2006. The complaints were investigated by the SCCGJ Government/Administration committee with results and reports provided to the full panel for review, editing, deliberation and voting. It is important to note that each subject of a report was not named in each complaint received by the SCCGJ, thus the reason the SCCGJ chose to address specific complaints to the specific individual or entity. The City of Patterson is a "general law" municipal City that has a Council-City Manager form of government.

Reports issued by the Civil Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code § 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person, or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Civil Grand Jury. The California State Legislature has stated that it intends the provisions of Penal Code § 929 prohibiting disclosure of witness identities to encourage full candor in testimony in Civil Grand Jury investigations by protecting the privacy and confidentiality of those who participate in any Civil Grand Jury investigation

RECUSAL ADVISEMENT

This report of cases 11-01C, through 11-08C and 11-018C are issued by the 2010/2011 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury with the following exception: One (1) member of the grand jury volunteered to recuse his/her participation due to a perceived conflict of interest. This grand juror was excluded from all phases of the investigation, including interviews, deliberations, voting, and in the writing and approval of this report. None of the information included in this report was obtained from the excluded grand juror as a means of mitigating a potential bias to the integrity of this report.