

FINDINGS

F6. The Grand Jury encountered a lack of cooperation from the San Luis Obispo City Police Department. While one sworn officer did participate in an interview, efforts to interview two additional sworn officers were unsuccessful. This unwillingness to engage hindered the Grand Jury's ability to corroborate statements, obtain essential information, and maintain transparency in its oversight role.

CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO'S RESPONSE

Findings:

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(F6) The City disagrees with this finding. The Grand Jury was provided with unimpeded access to all records, the Police Chief himself and the Police Department's Public Affairs Manager, who is among the most knowledgeable on these topics. These individuals participated in extensive interviews—one lasting 90 minutes—and provided thorough written responses to multiple rounds of follow-up questions. Additionally, the City submitted requested documentation, including thousands of current and historical data points relevant to the Grand Jury's investigation.

At no point was the City or any member of the Police Department served with a subpoena for additional testimony or documentation. The department declined subsequent voluntary interview requests only after providing full access to its most knowledgeable representatives: the Chief of Police, the City Manager who directly supervises the Chief, and the designated staff lead on operational issues related to the issues explored by the Grand Jury.

Further interviews with the patrol or shift-level personnel requested by the Grand Jury were not appropriate or necessary, as those individuals have limited scopes of responsibility and were not positioned to speak authoritatively about policy direction, broader planning efforts, or historical context. The City's goal was to ensure the Grand Jury received the most accurate and comprehensive information possible, and that objective was met through detailed, direct engagement with senior staff.

The City regularly receives inquiries from the Grand Jury on a wide range of topics, including property annexations, municipal processes, and service delivery, and responds promptly and cooperatively to each. This inquiry was no exception. Throughout the process, the City and Police Department provided information with transparency and in good faith.