



## City of Colusa California

### STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** August 2, 2022  
**TO:** City of Colusa Mayor and Council Members  
**FROM:** Jesse Cain, City Manager

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Council to consider adopting Resolution 22-\_\_ Grand Jury Council response

**Recommendation:** Council to review the response and provide comments and consider approving the Resolution.

**BACKGROUND ANALYSIS:**

On June 15, 2022, the City of Colusa City Mayor received the Colusa County Grand Jury Report for 2021-2022. The City of Colusa was investigated for the misuse of public funds and multiple code and policy violations. The grand jury has investigated the City several times over the past number of years on different things that they think the City needs to improve on. This is part of the grand Jury's responsibility. One of the previous grand jury reports investigated the City and made recommendations that the City of Colusa police department is understaffed, underpaid, and that their building was not up to standards to operate a police department. They recommended that we find them a different location, hire more police officers, and pay them better. The City response was simple, we do not have the funds to be able to do that. I bring this only as an example of the types of things the grand jury investigates.

In the 2021-2022 Grand Jury Report for the City of Colusa the grand jury finds that the City violated several city policies and government codes. As the City Manager, I agree that we can improve upon our procedures related to City-sponsored events, but I am not aware of any state laws that the City had violated. I believe that some of our old City policies were ambiguous and may not have been clear to the public or council on spending, but we did not violate any policy other than purchasing alcohol with a city credit card and if we go back a few years. However, the policies needed to be updated and amended, which we have done.

With regarding to the events, the City was trying something new and different that would bring life back to the City of Colusa as the world just came out of a complete shutdown that no one has ever experienced before. If covid-19 taught us anything is that the general public wants the City to provide them with things to do events, recreational activities and just show that we care and support the citizens of our great community and last year proved that. If we can keep people here and happy then they spend money here and that results in higher taxes that the City receives. Not all citizens feel this way and there are a small group of people that don't

want to see the city run these types of event. I understand that, but if we are not growing then we are dying. I get out in the public a lot and talk to a lot of citizens, some conversations are really good and some are not so good and I need to hear both sides. But, I truly believe that the majority likes what the City is doing. We just need to do what we're doing in a more transparent way with better protocols and procedures. My point is that there were some mistakes made last year and I could have been more transparent about how things transpired but nothing was done that didn't have the City's best interest at heart.

The City has now changed how we do events and how we inform the public so there was some good lessons learned from last year.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** None

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Council to review grand jury response and comment