



# ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY

*Presented by* **Grand Jurors' Assn of Orange County**

# What is the GRAND JURY?

The Orange County Grand Jury is tasked with civil oversight as well as criminal indictments.



# Role of the Grand Jury

- Ensure the performance of county, city, and other local agencies is proper and ethical!
- Improve government with their recommendations!
- Respond to citizen complaints about local government agencies!
- Issue indictments for serious crimes!
- Make sure our local tax dollars are wisely spent!
- Evaluate conditions at our county jails!
- P.S. . . . . **NOT** Jury Duty



# How is the Grand Jury empowered?

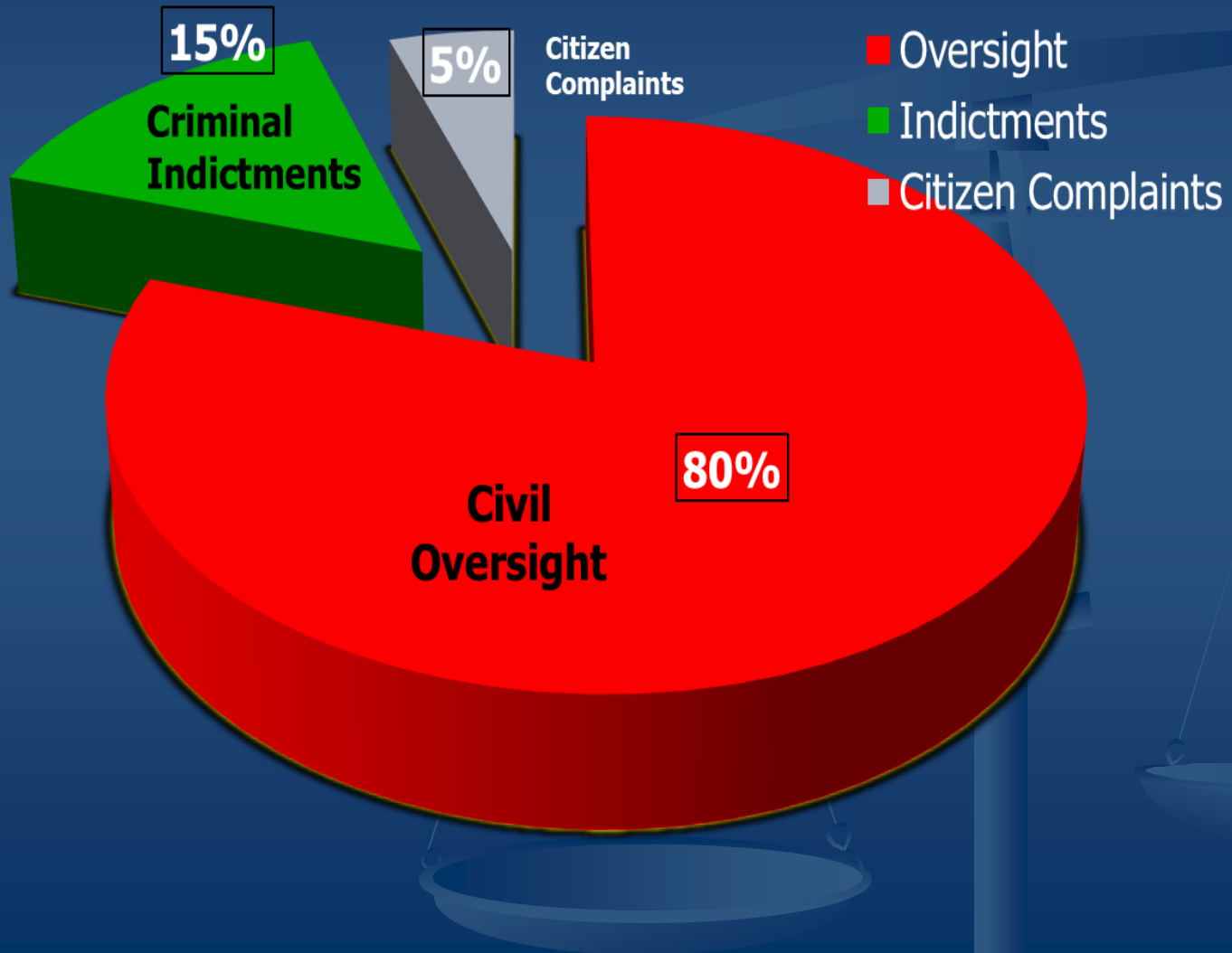
## CRIMINAL INDICTMENTS

The Grand Jury considers evidence for possible **indictment of individuals** for criminal charges.

## CIVIL INVESTIGATIONS

The Grand Jury provides **civil oversight** of local governments by reviewing and evaluating county and city departments, agencies, special districts, and jails within Orange County.

# Time Allocation



# Criminal Indictment Process

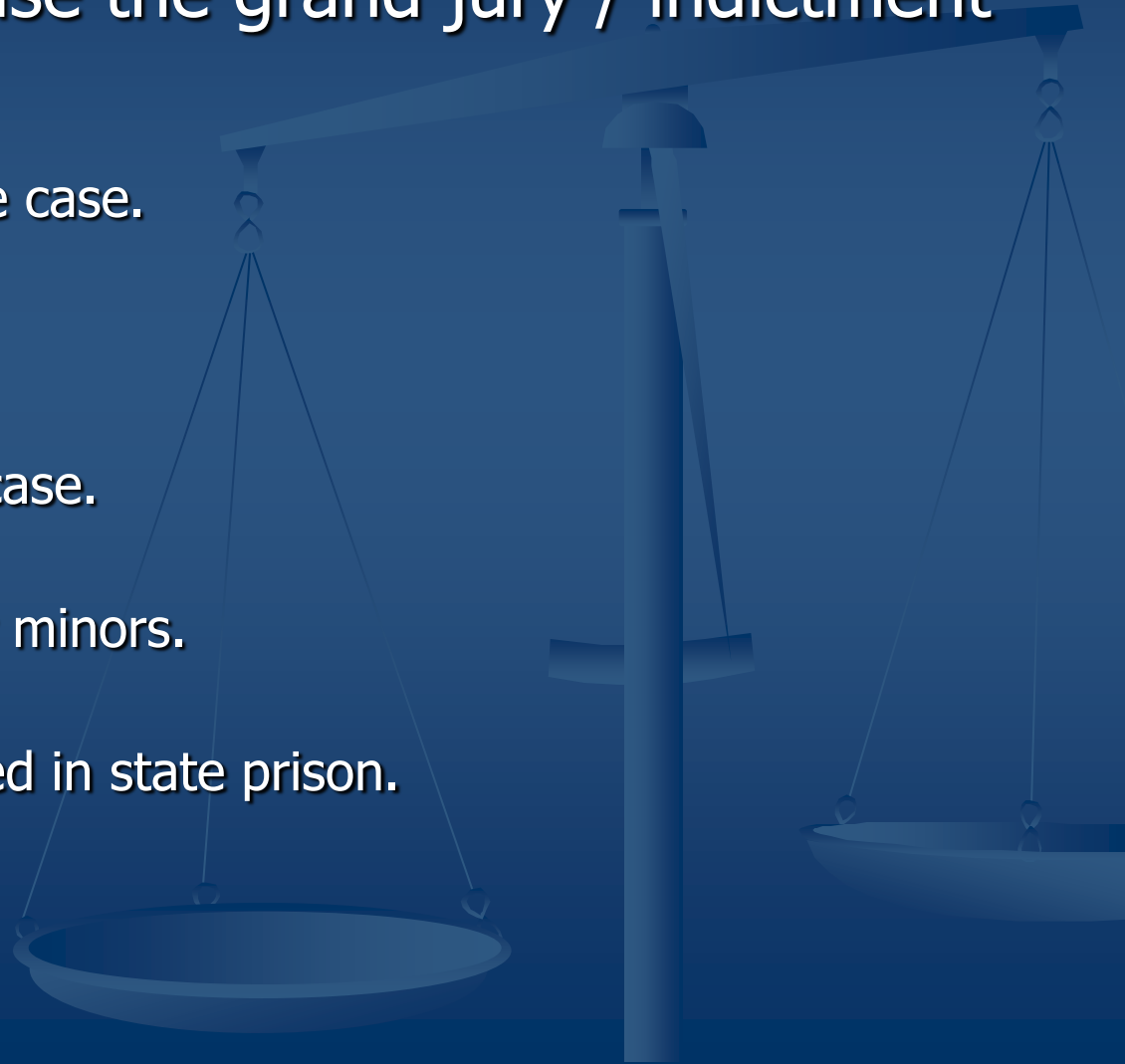


- The D.A. presents a case/facts.
- Examination of witnesses and evidence.
- Grand Jury deliberates:
  - Legal standard: “Preponderance of evidence”, not “Beyond a reasonable doubt”.
  - Indictment, not conviction.
  - D.A. does NOT have to prosecute further.

# Criminal Indictments:

DA's more likely to use the grand jury / indictment process if:

- High public interest in the case.
- Court calendar is packed.
- D.A. wants to "test" the case.
- Witnesses are children or minors.
- Witnesses are incarcerated in state prison.



# Mexican Mafia killer- turned- snitch could walk free this month



Mexican Mafia boss Rene "Boxer" Enriquez, 52, could be freed later this month, thanks to his work as an informant. He's currently serving two life sentences.

By TONY SAAVEDRA | [tsaavedra@scng.com](mailto:tsaavedra@scng.com) | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: February 13, 2015 at 8:25 a.m. |  
UPDATED: July 30, 2018 at 11:31 a.m.





Celeb Chefs' Best Recipes / **Goodbye, Mr. Spock**

LEONARD NIMOY 1931-2015

# People

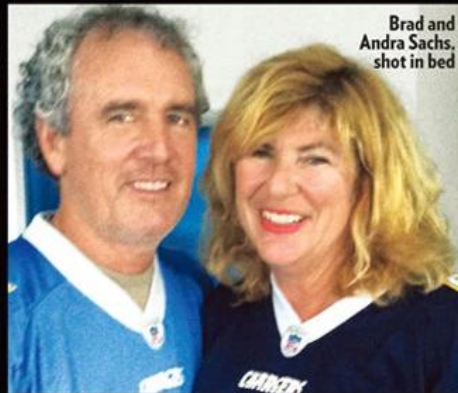
March 16, 2015

**WHY DID A TEEN KILL HIS PARENTS?**

## PERFECT FAMILY, SHOCKING MURDER



Ashton Sachs, 19



Brad and Andra Sachs, shot in bed

Ashton Sachs was an honor student and a 'sweet boy'—until he opened fire in his California home.

**INSIDE A WEALTHY FAMILY'S DARK SECRETS**





# Civil Investigations:

Investigate County Organizations

Investigate City and County Governments

Investigate County Procedures

Malfeasance of Public Officials

Public Complaint Letters



# Civil Investigations -- Watch Dog Oversight

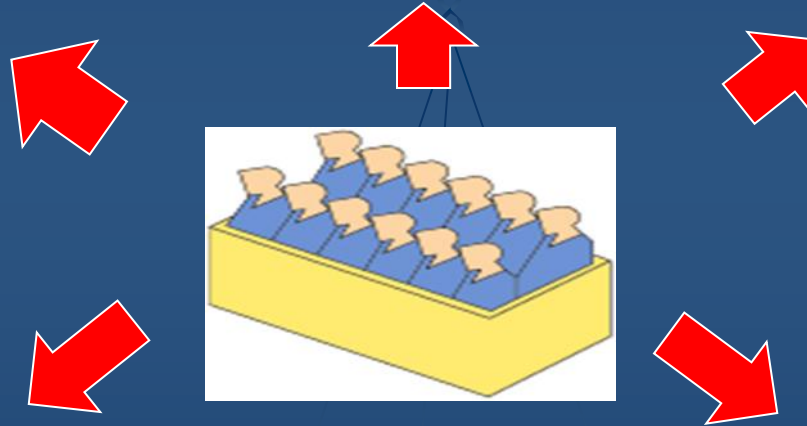
Tax Dollars



Jails



County Departments

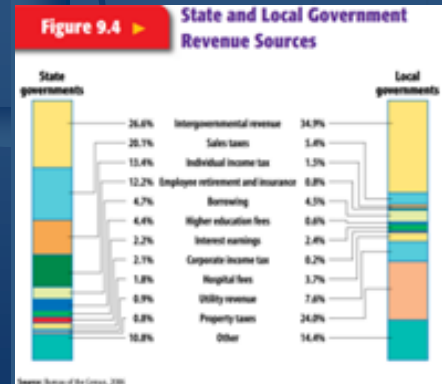


Agencies



Districts

34 cities



# Past 5 Years of Reports

Aviation / Airport

Cannabis

County / City Gov Ops

Criminal Justice / Sheriff Ops

Cybersecurity

Economic Development

Environmental

Ethics / Corruption

Fire / Emergency

GJ Report Follow-ups

Irvine "Great Park"

Jail / Detention Facilities

Mental Health / Homelessness

Pandemic

Pension / Retiree Funds

Schools / Education

Transportation

Vector Control

Voting / Elections

\* Most reports written

\* Most recent reports

# Investigations and Reports



- As a truly independent body, each **grand jury is free to choose** which governmental entities or public officials to investigate.

- **Ideas** for investigations:

1. citizen complaints,
2. matters raised by the members of the grand jury,
3. referrals from the preceding grand jury,
4. whatever is currently “trending”.



- While the Grand Jury has no authority to order or otherwise compel compliance, it is through its reports that the **grand jury wields its power. Media attention often prompts the changes.**

# Responses

- The California Penal Code provides requirements to respond to the Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury report.
  - Public agencies must respond within **90 days**;
  - Officer must respond within **60 days**.

# Findings



- Respondent **agrees** with Finding;
- Respondent **disagrees** wholly or partially with Finding;

# Recommendations



## The Recommendation. . . . .

- **has been implemented;**
- **has not yet been implemented** *but will be implemented in the future... (with a timeframe).*
- **requires further analysis**...*(not to exceed 6 months);*
- **will not be implemented** *because it is not warranted or is not reasonable...(with an explanation therefor).*



## Grand jury report:

“Orange County animal shelter plagued by deplorable conditions, disease”



# Newly constructed OC Animal Shelter today



# 2020 / 2021 Reports



## 2020 / 2021 Reports:

- \$28 Billion for a \$2.8 Billion Road *6/21/21*
- A Look Behind the Bars of the Orange County Jails *6/14/21*
- “Pot Luck” Santa Ana’s Monopoly on Licensed Retail Adult-Use Cannabis in Orange County *6/03/21*
- Orange County Sheriff’s Department Evidence Booking Issue - Has it Been Resolved? *5/24/21*
- Orange County Pandemic Preparedness *5/12/21*



# Newspaper Reporting

Orange County Jury Issues Report on County's pandemic response



In Scathing Report, OC Grand Jury Describes Shackles During Birthing, Care Delays in Custody





## Grand Jury Reports

All Grand Jury Reports are in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. [Click here](#) to download Acrobat Reader.

Grand Jury Reports and responses (when available) may be viewed at the links below or at the Orange County Public Law Library located in the Civic Center Plaza, building #32.

[Expand All](#) / [Collapse All](#)

- 2020-2021 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2019-2020 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2018-2019 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2017-2018 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2016-2017 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2015-2016 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2014-2015 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2013-2014 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2012-2013 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2011-2012 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2010-2011 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2009-2010 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2008-2009 Reports, in order of release.**
- 2007-2008 Reports, in order of release.**



## 2019-2020 Reports, in order of release.

• [2019-2020 Grand Jury Final Report](#) 07/30/20

• [Status Update on open 2019-2021 Grand Jury Implementation Items](#) 03/23/21

• [OC Recycling: Doing it the Right Way](#) 06/30/20

- [City of Santa Ana](#) 12/14/20
- [City of Irvine](#) 11/24/20
- [City of Orange](#) 11/06/20
- [City of Brea](#) 11/05/20
- [City of Huntington Beach](#) 10/07/20
- [City of Buena Park](#) 09/23/20
- [City of Dana Point](#) 09/10/20
- [City of Anaheim](#) 09/02/20
- [City of Anaheim](#) 08/26/20
- [County of Orange Executive Officer](#) 08/25/20
- [City of Garden Grove](#) 08/25/20

• [Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve](#) 06/30/20

- [City of Seal Beach](#) 01/15/21
- [City of Huntington Beach Police Department](#) 12/21/20
- [City of Cypress](#) 12/09/20
- [City of Irvine](#) 11/24/20
- [City of Brea](#) 11/12/20
- [City of Placentia](#) 11/12/20
- [City of Santa Ana](#) 11/10/20
- [City of Orange](#) 11/10/20
- [City of Los Alamitos Police](#) 11/09/20
- [City of Laguna Beach](#) 11/03/20
- [City of Mission Viejo](#) 11/06/20

# Qualifications to Serve



## Legal:

- US Citizen
- OC Resident
- 18 or older
- No felony convictions
- Knowledge of English
- Sound Judgment

## Operational:

- Research ability / Experience
- Writing ability / Experience
- No Personal / Political Agendas
- Ability to analyze data
- Able to work in a group environment
- No extended absences

# Organization of the Grand Jury



➤ **1 Year Term – July 1 to June 30**

➤ **Members:**

- Applications rec'd      100 - 200
- Applications vetted      90
- Final Selection      25 – 30 applicants
- Seated      19
- Alternates      11

➤ **Working Hours:**

- Mon-Thurs 8:30 – 3:30
- Fridays      8:30 – Noon

➤ **Stipend** of \$50/day; + Mileage

➤ **Officers:**

- Foreperson (selected by Judges)
- Foreperson Pro-Tem
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Sergeant at Arms
- Historian / Parliamentarian





# Committees



- **Standing Committees**

- Cities

- County Government

- Criminal Justice

- Environment / Transportation

- Health / Human Services

- Special Issues / Ethics

- **Administrative Committees**

- Recruitment & Orientation

- Continuity & Editorial

# Judge Maria Hernandez

## Assistant Presiding Judge



# 911 Emergency Call Center



# Orange County Tours and Visits



**Board of Supervisors**



**Elected Officials & Judges**



**Sheriff's Dept.**



**OC Animal Care**



**OC Dept. of Education**



**Health Dept.**



**Orange County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**

# County Departments



# Ride-Alongs with OC Sheriff

(Patrol Car, Harbor Boats, Equestrian, Helicopter)



**Youth Guidance Center**



**Juvenile Hall**



**Youth Leadership Academy**



**Joplin Boys Ranch**

# Juvenile Facilities



# Central Jail, Theo Lacy Jail, Musick Jail



**Great Park in Irvine**



**Huntington Beach**



**Downtown Santa Ana**



**City Council Meetings**



**Dana Point Harbor**

**Cities**



**Irvine City Hall**



# Orange County Grand Jury



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

[www.ocgrandjury.org](http://www.ocgrandjury.org)