



## City of Martinez

525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA 94553-2394

POLICE DEPARTMENT

November 23, 2015

Celia E. Lopez  
Civil Grand Jury Office  
725 Court Street  
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Dear Ms. Lopez,

We received the letter from your office regarding the analysis of the Community Court model and we are reporting back our findings. In reviewing your analysis and conducting research with cities that currently use this model, we agree with the findings contained in Grand Jury Report No. 1510 that the City of Martinez consider the implementation of Community Court.

We currently do not have any model in place that resembles Community Court and we agree with the Grand Jury Findings that:

- Participants in Community Court benefit by resolving their issues outside of the traditional court system and avoiding having a criminal record.
- The city benefits by receiving income from fines imposed on Community Court participants.
- The city benefits from Community Court participants providing compulsory community service hours.
- The District Attorney's Office and Superior Court both benefit from Community Court due to the reduction in misdemeanor cases that each must process.
- The hearing officer for Community Court issues directives that include fines, restitution, community service, diversion programs, and/or counseling.

On November 18, 2015 the Martinez City Council unanimously approved a resolution recommending that we implement Community Court. We will begin working on implementing processes for our model and we have met with Brian Hinckley from Community Court Services to discuss the structure of the program.

Should you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  


Manjit Sappal  
Chief of Police