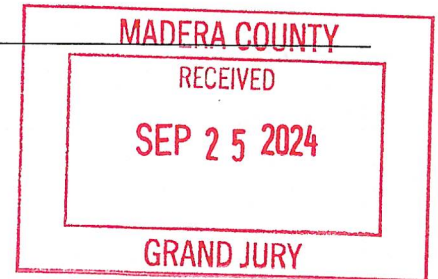


CITY OF CHOWCHILLA CALIFORNIA



September 13, 2024

Madera County Grand Jury
PO Box 534
Madera, CA 93639



Honorable Judge Jurkovich:

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05(a) and (b), please allow this document to serve as the response from the City Council of Chowchilla (City) to the findings and recommendations in the Grand Jury Report entitled, "Madera County Animal Services: It's a Dog's Life" (hereafter, referred to as, "Report").

Firstly, let the City state that we respect the role of the Grand Jury to act as the public's "watchdog" and its role in investigating and reporting upon affairs of local government. However, prior to addressing the findings and recommendation of the report, the City must express concern in regards to the content of the Report.

In regards to the Report, the City notes the following concerns:

On October 23, 2023, Amy Toler, the Director of the Madera County Animal Services in Madera, CA, advised there was no contract between Madera County and the City of Chowchilla regarding animal services.

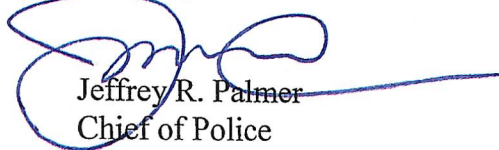
During the 2023 -2024 fiscal year the Chowchilla Animal Services paid the Madera County Animal Shelter for all services. The only exception was in December 2023, the Madera Animal Services came to the Chowchilla Animal Shelter and took 9 dogs to the Madera Animal Shelter to assist in finding rescue or adoption for those animals at no charge. Other than those 9 dogs, all services through the Madera County Animal Shelter were paid for by the City of Chowchilla. The Grand Jury report states that "Chowchilla does not contribute financially to MCAS." Whatever services the City of Chowchilla receives from Madera County Animal Services are paid for by the City of Chowchilla.

The Madera County Animal Services did provide microchips earlier in 2023 when the prior Madera County Animal Director was there. The microchips were provided to Madera County through a grant.

The City of Chowchilla is willing to discuss and consider negotiating a contract with the Madera County Board of Supervisors although at this time we are not receiving services from the Madera County Animal Services that we are not paying for when we request assistance.

The City of Chowchilla appreciates your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey R. Palmer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey R. Palmer
Chief of Police
Chowchilla CA 93610