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August 25, 2011

Honorable Richard J. Loftus, Jr. Presiding Judge Santa Clara County Superior Court 191 North First Street San Jose, CA 95113

RE: City of Morgan Hill response to "Rehiring of Pensioners: Bad Policy, Good Business or Both?"

Dear Judge Loftus:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's report on rehiring pensioners, and resulting recommendations and findings.

Finding 1

In spite of public opinion, there are situations that warrant rehiring pensioners and often it makes good business sense to do so. All managers interviewed follow existing procedures, which allow rehiring of pensioners.

Agree.

Recommendation 1

If the...City...desire[s] to end the practice of rehiring pensioners, they should make that official by means of a policy decision.

Agree.

Finding 3

The fifteen towns and cities...and the County may be inadvertently creating a demand to rehire pensioners because the public sector retirement age is relatively young at 50 (police and fire) or 55 (administrative positions).

Agree

Recommendation 3

The fifteen towns and cities...and the County should continue to pursue a higher retirement age with its public sector unions and associations.

Agree. The city council has already adopted a policy of negotiating with our three bargaining units reduced pension costs by a combination of increased retirement age, decreased benefit formula and higher employee contributions beginning with labor contracts slated to take effect July 1, 2013.

Sincerely,

Steve Tate

Mayor

City of Morgan Hill