



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 10, 2014

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## **Board of Supervisors Responds to Grand Jury Report Regarding the Yolo County Sheriff**

**(Woodland, CA)** – Today, the Yolo County Grand Jury issued a report titled, “Yolo County Sheriff: Leadership Practices from the Wild, Wild West”. This report follows a grand jury investigation in response to a referral from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors requested this review after having received numerous serious complaints and allegations from employees about the Yolo County Sheriff and the work environment in the Sheriff’s Department.

The Board of Supervisors believes the report is not responsive to the concerns brought forward by county employees. Furthermore, the Board believes the grand jury’s findings, in many cases, are superfluous to the more serious allegations. Along with those more significant matters of concern, the Board of Supervisors will also seek clarification to the Yolo County Grand Jury’s findings and recommendations concerning the Yolo County Sheriff.

The California state constitution provides independent authority to elected department heads, thus limiting the role of county administration. Appointed county staff strive to provide advice and assistance whenever possible. Despite the independent nature of the Sheriff’s office, on three occasions, county administration initiated investigations in response to employee concerns. These investigations helped inform the advice and counsel that county administration provided the Sheriff. Ultimately, however, the Sheriff is an independently elected department head and not directed or evaluated by county administration.

“The Board of Supervisors has a strong commitment to ensuring a safe work environment and a culture of support for all employees of Yolo County, regardless of the department in which they work,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Don Saylor. “We are deeply concerned about the grand jury’s findings and the results of investigations previously initiated by the county.

Yolo County will respond completely to all findings and recommendations in the Yolo County Grand Jury report concerning the Yolo County Sheriff. The Board of Supervisors will also be formally requesting additional information from the grand jury.

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