



COUNTY OF LAKE
COUNTY ASSESSOR-RECORDER

255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
Assessor's Office 707 / 263-2302
Recorder's Office 707 / 263-2293
Fax 707 / 263-3703

RICHARD A. FORD
ASSESSOR-RECORDER

August 20, 2020

Honorable Michael S. Lunas
Presiding Judge
Lake County Superior Court
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

Subject: 2019-20 Civil Grand Jury Final Report, "Tax Default Auctions," R3.

Honorable Judge Lunas and Members of the Civil Grand Jury,

While I agree with the concept that discourse would be favorably conducted in a civil manner, I realize that this is not always the case, and our country has history of uncivil discourse that can lead to necessary change. The ability to engage in free, and sometimes even uncivil, discourse is protected by the first amendment, and that does not get left behind when an elected official takes public office.

As an illustration, in the position I currently hold, many times, I need to apply a rule or methodology that can be perceived by some as unfavorable. This office in no way can be or should be influenced by any perceived unfavorable reaction; it is unethical to do so.

While I and my office do prioritize and prefer civil discourse, I will retain the right to respond in an appropriate manner to clarify or communicate, where I feel it is necessary.

I appreciate the service of the members of the Civil Grand Jury and the opportunity to respond.

Thank You.

Respectfully,

Richard Ford
Assessor-Recorder

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Richard Ford", is written over the printed name and title. The signature is stylized and extends across the line.