



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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July 31, 2014

The Honorable Brian J. Back
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Response to Grand Jury Report–Detention Facilities Inspections

Dear Judge Back:

The City of Simi Valley has received the 2013-2014 Ventura County Civil Grand Jury report entitled "Detention Facilities Inspections," and pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933(d), we submit the enclosed response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

The City Council appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury in inspecting each facility in Ventura County where persons are placed into custody.

The City Council considered the Grand Jury Report at its July 21, 2014, meeting and authorized this response. We appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury in looking into this matter and this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Robert O. Huber
Mayor

/sz

Enclosure

cc: Foreperson, Ventura County Grand Jury
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
Chief of Police
Assistant City Manager, Government Affairs

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Detention Facilities Inspections

Report Date: June 16, 2014

Response By: Robert O. Huber

Title: Mayor, City of Simi Valley

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-10, and FI-12
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: FI-11

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-02, R-03, R-09, and R-11 have been implemented.

(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)

- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8/4/14

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 2

Finding Disputed

Finding FI-11: *Simi Valley does not have a logbook or signage for its AED.*

Dispute FI-11: The Simi Valley Police Department holding cell has always had a logbook for its AED, located in the program administrator's office since the program's original implementation, but this fact was miscommunicated during the inspection. Recommendation R-11, described below, addresses this further.

Recommendations Implemented

Recommendation R-01: *The Grand Jury recommends that the County, Cities, Sheriff, and Probation Department strive to operate detention and incarceration facilities at current or higher performance levels.*

Implemented Action R-01: The City of Simi Valley Police Department is continually seeking out new and innovative methods to operate its holding facility at its highest performance level.

Recommendation R-02: *The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and Cities continue to expand their focus on mutual respect, rehabilitation, and societal reentry; in particular, that they expand their evidence-based skills, attitudes, and CBT training programs, sharing the best programs and practices among all detention facilities where such programs are practical.*

Implemented Action R-02: The Simi Valley Police Department supports the philosophical approach outlined by the Grand Jury in this recommendation. Working closely with partner agencies, the Simi Valley Police Department already seeks alternatives to incarceration by promoting rehabilitation and societal reentry by utilizing the Youth Services Diversion Program and the cite and release procedure.

Recommendation R-03: *The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and Cities expand their staff training to include more training that specifically addresses realignment challenges, e.g., more emphasis on how to cope with the greater probability of physical and verbal attacks by inmates and increased workloads, perhaps offering more frequent refreshers of current relevant training programs such as stress reduction, anger management, and Crisis Intervention Training.*

Implemented Action R-03: The Simi Valley Police Department has ensured that its sworn staff attends Crisis Intervention Training and mandatory defense tactics training. The defensive tactics training also emphasizes effective communication tactics to de-escalate verbal challenges before they become physical attacks. The Department's entire sworn staff completed the Peace Officers Standards and Training Tactical Communications Training in March 2014.

Recommendation R-09: *The Grand Jury recommends that the cities of Port Hueneme and Simi Valley keep microwaveable meals on hand so that fast-food runs for arrestees are not necessary.*

Currently, the Simi Valley Police Department uses fast-food runs for arrestees, and officers are also able to utilize the "Avanti Market" as a meal source for arrestees in the holding cells. The market is located inside the police station and contains a variety of fresh foods such as microwaveable meals, cold sandwiches, and salads. When meals are procured from fast-food

restaurants, they are usually purchased and transported to the Police Station by civilian staff, which does not affect patrol staffing for other emergency police services.

Recommendation R-11: *The Grand Jury recommends that the Simi Valley Jail obtain and maintain an AED logbook.*

Implemented Action R-11: The Simi Valley Police Department has maintained an AED logbook for all AED devices since the program was originally implemented. The logbook is stored by the program administrator, who was off-duty during the Grand Jury inspection. The location of the logbook has also been re-shared with all appropriate Simi Valley Police Department staff to ensure that it is used when needed.