



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

- BOB BROOKS
SHERIFF
- CRAIG HUSBAND
UNDERSHERIFF

800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CA 93009 PHONE (805) 654-2380 FAX (805) 645-1391

July 25, 2002

Honorable Bruce A. Clark
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Response to the 2002-2003 Ventura Grand Jury Report entitled *After Hours Access to Ventura County Law Enforcement Facilities.*

Dear Judge Clark:

In accordance with California Penal Code section 933.05, this report is a response to the findings and recommendations of the 2002-2003 Ventura Grand Jury Report entitled *After Hours Access to Ventura County Law Enforcement Facilities.* The following are my responses:

Recommendations

- R-1 Each police station should be staffed on a 24 hour basis. That said, consideration must be given to ensure personnel and expenditures are utilized in such a manner as to provide citizens the highest degree of safety. By reallocating patrol staffing to ensure around the clock coverage at each area station, dramatically reduces available patrol units to respond to emergencies and other calls-for-service within the respective patrol areas. Clearly marked phones have been installed at the front of each patrol station to ensure immediate contact with the Sheriff's Communication Center. The only exception is the East County Station in Thousand Oaks where available staffing allows for a uniformed station deputy during all shifts.
- R-2 The Acting Chief of Police of each Sheriff's contract city, along with the unincorporated jurisdictions station managers, have reviewed both the signage and lighting in and around patrol stations from both a safety and public works perspective.

SPECIAL SERVICES

6401 Telephone Road, Suite 200
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 477-7011 FAX (805) 477-7010

PATROL SERVICES

2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
(805) 494-8261 FAX (805) 494-8295

DETENTION SERVICES

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-2305 FAX (805) 654-3500

SUPPORT SERVICES

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-3926 FAX (805) 654-2109

After Hours Access

June 25, 2002

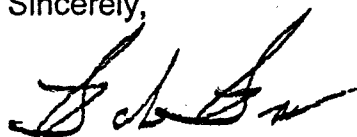
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R-3 Each station is located in areas that do not have a high level of after hours foot or vehicle traffic. Significant structural changes would be required to provide for protective areas, especially those areas that are not actively monitored. Allowing lobby areas to remain open without security will leave the station open to acts of vandalism and other related crimes. Even though alarms tend to attract a visual inspection from those in close proximity, they also tend to be magnets for those who wish to create a disturbance by falsely activating the alarm.

R-4 Sheriff dispatchers have protocols for determining the level of response necessary for in-progress requests for assistance. The on-duty watch commander determines appropriate and expeditious responses for any emergencies and has the authority to allocate available resources as deemed necessary.

The Sheriff's Department appreciates the constructive input relating to public safety and will continue to seek opportunities to provide for additional security at each of our patrol stations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Brooks', written in a cursive style.

BOB BROOKS
Ventura County Sheriff

After-Hours Access To Ventura County Law Enforcement Facilities

Background

It came to the attention of the Ventura County 2001-2002 Grand Jury that there might be a lack of accessibility to county law enforcement offices outside the usual business hours.

We became aware of a terrifying experience that occurred as a woman drove home from work during the early morning hours. After exiting the freeway, she noticed that she was being followed and that attempts were being made to force her off the road. Elusive measures failed. She headed for the local police station for help and upon arrival, she found a poorly lit building with no clearly marked entrance and no sign of any police personnel. She left and continued to be followed until she found a parked police cruiser out in the community.

Methodology

Grand Jurors visited all primary city and county law enforcement offices within Ventura County during the late evening or early morning hours. Several sites were visited again during business hours.

Findings (Also See Table 1)

- F-1. All but one facility had an outside telephone connected to dispatch. Dispatch may or may not be on-site.
- F-2. Only four of the ten offices visited had unlocked access to the lobby after hours.
- F-3. Three of ten offices were described as "hard to find" by inspecting jurors.
- F-4. Six of ten had adequate to good lighting in the parking lot and at the entrance.
- F-5. Three of ten could guarantee that a uniformed officer was on site at all times.
- F-6. Four of ten offices had no personnel on site after hours.
- F-7. Five of ten offices had 24-hour monitored and working cameras in the lobbies, at entrances and in parking lots.
- F-8. No facility provided a protected environment or alarm system at the outside telephone.
- F-9. Only one of the ten offices had personnel stationed within sight of the front door.

Conclusions *(Also See Table 1)*

- C-1. The majority of the law enforcement facilities in Ventura County are inaccessible after usual business hours. (F-2)
- C-2. Some facilities are hard to find and poorly lit. (F-3, F-4)
- C-3. Most facilities have no uniformed officers scheduled to be within the facility after hours. (F-5)
- C-4. The locked, unmanned sites do not have 24-hour monitored camera surveillance of the outside area. (F-7)
- C-5. Locked and unmanned law enforcement facilities provide no safe haven. (F-8)

Recommendations

- R-1. All law enforcement facilities should provide a safe haven 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (C-1 through C-5)
- R-2. All law enforcement facilities should be easy to find, clearly identifiable and well lit. (C-2)
- R-3. If unmanned and/or locked, a protected area such as access to the lobby and/or a loud, widely heard alarm system should be available and clearly marked at all facilities. (C-5)
- R-4. Written procedures and policies should be in place to address minimal response time to calls for help at all facilities. (C-5)

Reponses Required

City Managers: (R-1 through R-4)

Camarillo
 Fillmore
 Moorpark
 Ojai
 Oxnard
 Port Hueneme
 Santa Paula
 Simi Valley
 Thousand Oaks
 Ventura

Police Departments of: (R-1 through R-4)

Oxnard
 Port Hueneme
 Santa Paula
 Simi Valley
 Ventura

Ventura County Board of Supervisors (R-1 through R-4)

Ventura County Sheriff (R-1 through R-4)

Table 1 - After Hours Law Enforcement Facilities Visited

CITY	ENFORCEMENT	ACCESS	PHONE	CAMERA	LIGHTING	MANNED	OTHER
Camarillo	Ventura Co. Sheriff	LL	Yes	* PL, L, P	Good	No	Not monitored after business hours
Fillmore	Ventura Co. Sheriff	LL	Yes	No	Good	No	
Moorpark	Ventura Co. Sheriff	LL	Yes	No	Poor	No	Hard to find
Ojai	Ventura Co. Sheriff	LL	Yes	No	Poor	No	Hard to find
Oxnard	Oxnard P.D.	LO	Yes	PL, L, P	Good	D	Inad-equate Sign
Port Hueneme	Pt Hueneme P.D.	LO	No*	No	Good	U, D	Dispatch within sight of front door 24/7.
Santa Paula	Santa Paula P.D.	LL	Yes	PL, L, P	Good	D	
Simi Valley	Simi Valley P.D.	LO	Yes	PL, L, P	Good	U, D	
Thousand Oaks	Ventura Co. Sheriff	LO	Yes	PL, L, P	Good	U, D	
Ventura	Ventura P.D.	LO	Yes	Not Working	Poor	D	Hard To Find

Legend:

Co. - County

PD - Police Department

LO - lobby open

LL -lobby locked

Camera On:

L - lobby

PL -parking lot

P - phone

U - uniformed

D - dispatch

county of ventura

Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 477-1600
Fax: (805) 477-1610

May 1, 2002

Sheriff Bob Brooks
Ventura County Sheriff's Department
L#3330

Dear Sheriff Brooks:

Enclosed is a copy of the 2001-2002 Ventura County Grand Jury report entitled *After-Hours Access to Ventura County Law Enforcement Facilities*.

In accordance with California Penal Code section 933.05, this report is being provided to you two working days prior to its public release. Please note that you are not permitted to disclose any contents of the report outside your agency prior to the public release.

The above-cited penal code also requires that you respond to the report's findings and recommendations within 90 days. A summary of these requirements follows:

Findings

State whether you concur, concur in part, or disagree with the Grand Jury's findings. Explain the reasons why you disagree, in whole or in part, with each applicable finding.

Recommendations

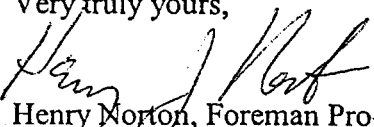
State whether each applicable recommendation has already been implemented, will be implemented (with expected date of implementation), will not be implemented (with an explanation of the reason) or requires further study.

Please send your response **in duplicate** to:

Honorable Bruce A. Clark
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Ventura County Hall of Justice
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

The duplicate copy will be forwarded to the Grand Jury.

Very truly yours,


Henry Norton, Foreman Pro-tem
Ventura County 2001-2002 Grand Jury



Rec'd 5-3-02

AFTER-HOURS ACCESS TO VENTURA COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITIES

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Port Hueneme
Santa Paula
Simi Valley
Ventura

Ventura County Board of Supervisors (R-1 through R-4)

Ventura County Sheriff (R-1 through R-4)

AFTER HOURS LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITIES VISITED

<u>CITY</u>	<u>ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>ACCESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>CAMERA</u>	<u>LIGHTING</u>	<u>MANNED</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
Arillo	Ventura Co. Sheriff	LL	YES	* PL, L, P	GOOD	NO	*Not monitored after business hours
re	Ventura Co. Sheriff	LL	YES	NO	GOOD	NO	
ark	Ventura Co. Sheriff	LL	YES	NO	POOR	NO	HARD TO FIND
	Ventura Co. Sheriff	LL	YES	NO	POOR	NO	HARD TO FIND
d	Oxnard P.D.	LO	YES	PL, L, P	GOOD	D	INADEQUATE SIGN
ueneme	Pt Hueneme P.D.	LO	NO*	NO	GOOD	U, D	*Dispatch within sight front door 24
Paula	Santa Paula P.D.	LL	YES	PL, L, P	GOOD	D	
alley	Simi Valley P.D.	LO	YES	PL, L, P	GOOD	U, D	
and Oaks	Ventura Co. Sheriff	LO	YES	PL, L, P	GOOD	U, D	
ra	Ventura P.D.	LO	YES	NOT WORKING	POOR	D	HARD TO FIND

ND:

Co. - County
PD - Police Department

LO - lobby open
LL - lobby locked

Camera On:
L - lobby
PL - parking lot
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