

# CITY OF SIMI VALLEY



3901 Alamo Street, Simi Valley, CA 93063-2102 • (805) 583-6950 • <http://www.simivalley.org>

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MARK E. LAYHEW, Chief of Police

April 7, 2003

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VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
APR 9 2003

OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE

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

Dear Judge Clark:

The City of Simi Valley is pleased to answer your request for information regarding *Police Information Systems within Ventura County*. Staff in the Police Department has worked with other agencies in the County for many years trying to integrate systems and information. This Grand Jury report has the potential to move the information sharing initiative forward and provide the sponsorship necessary to move all the agencies in the County in the same direction. In our view, information sharing in law enforcement is critical to our success in pursuing suspects and maintaining Homeland Security. Our answers to your inquiry follow:

## FINDINGS

- F-1 Concur
- F-2 Concur
- F-3 Concur
- F-4 Concur
- F-5 Concur in Part - In the new Versaterm system that Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD) is in the process of implementing, GPS is planned and will be enabled.
- F-6 Concur
- F-7 Concur
- F-8 Concur in Part - While the VCIJIS model is a good one, it does not allow for data sharing among agencies. In our inquiries, SVPD was told that there was no budget or staff time allocated to provide an interface to the VCIJIS system for outside agencies. When VCIJIS started, it was envisioned that the outside agencies would have access directly to most VCIJIS applications through a single point of contact. Currently, cities interface to the District Attorney's CRIMES program and through CLETS/Wants

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system. It is our understanding that CLETS service is being transitioned to a new Tiburon switch; however, no means for cities to interface has yet been discussed.

- F-9 Concur
- F-10 Concur
- F-11 Concur

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- R-1 Requires further study – SVPD knows of no such plan to design a data warehouse. It was discussed several years ago, but nothing ever happened.
- R-2 Requires further study – SVPD believes getting the costs for such an undertaking are important; however, we believe executive sponsorship by City Managers, and senior management is the most critical component of success. In addition, a memorandum of agreement and a working budget are also critical success factors.
- R-3 Requires further study – SVPD would be happy to participate in evaluating the concept for a data warehouse. Grants or federal appropriations for this purpose would be most welcome. It would be nice if the State set up a standard for information sharing for all agencies in the State, so that whatever money is spent on such a project would be useful beyond just the County agencies. Many states have adopted standards and agreements with all criminal justice agencies and have found ways to share data while maintaining security.
- R-4 Requires further study – SVPD supports GPS technology; however, there are usually union and/or personnel issues related to its deployment that have to be worked out within the individual agencies.
- R-5 Requires further study – SVPD would support the establishment of working groups for communications and data systems. We believe that a framework for working together needs to be established first. Without executive support, staffing and a means to fund specific recommendations, these committees are not effective.

I hope the information we have provided will be helpful to the Grand Jury. If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Layhew  
Chief of Police

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