

Board of Supervisors Responses

VENTURA COUNTY HALL OF ADMINISTRATION: SAFETY, SECURITY, AND EXECUTIVE PROTECTION

R-01: The signage on the east facing main entrance of the HOA reading "no weapons" should be made more visible and easier to read by affixing an opaque white background to the signs, similar to the weapon signage on the lobby doors of the VCSD main jail facility. (C-02)

Concur. The Board supports modifying signage per your recommendation. The relevant penal code 171b will also be added as suggested by GSA.

R-02: The north entrance doors to the HOA should have weapon signage affixed to them. Since this entrance is not intended for public use, these doors should be configured as egress only. Access through this door could be provided for authorized employees via a pass card or a key pad. (C-01, C-02)

Partially Concur. The Board supports placing weapons signage on the north entrance. There is a plan to configure the north entrance for ADA accommodation currently underway, however the project does not include the installation of an access card reader that will limit entrance. The north door to the HOA is a public entrance, commonly utilized by members of the public arriving at the HOA via public transit.

R-03: During normal business hours a marked security screening checkpoint for weapons or other unauthorized items should be set up in the east facing main entrance foyer. Exiting persons could be screened to assure County owned property is not being illegally taken from the building. (C-01, C-03)

Do Not Concur. The Board is hesitant to enact such screening that may be viewed as an intrusion to the general public without sufficient cause. There is no history of violent crimes, shootings or other incidents involving weapons in the Hall of Administration. While there is no guarantee that such acts will not happen in the future, there is also no compelling case to be made for creating such an intrusion. Furthermore, employee theft has not been a problem significant enough to warrant exit screening.

R-04: The County's policy and procedures relative to security would be strengthened by amending County Ordinance 4036 to include items that should be excluded from public meetings, e.g., unauthorized amplified sound, large picket signs, large posters/banners, food, and drink. The amendment should also address cell phone and pager usage in public meetings. (C-04)

Do Not Concur. The Board respectfully disagrees with the Grand Jury on the exclusion of large picket signs, posters and banners. The hearings are a

platform for the public voice to be heard and as such, the Board welcomes these visual aids. They are viewed as an effective avenue for free and open communication. In regards to food/drink and the use of cell phone and pagers in a public meeting, there exists appropriate signage outside and within the Board room that adequately regulates usage to minimize meeting disruption.

R-05: The BOS should request the Sheriff to assign a VCSD deputy to serve as a Sergeant-at-Arms for each public BOS meeting. (C-01, C-04)

Concur. This recommendation was previously implemented by the Sheriff's Department in October 2006. The Department provides a plain clothed, armed Sheriff's Deputy at every Board of Supervisor's meeting. In addition, close attention is paid to items on the agenda that may create high turn out, have a history of extreme reaction, or create the possibility of extreme reaction. Under those or other circumstances where an elevated presence of security or Law Enforcement personnel is warranted, appropriate adjustments are made.

R-06: The dais where the Supervisors sit in BOS chambers should be modified to incorporate protective ballistic shielding. (C-01, C-04)

Partially Concur. The Board recognizes that ensuring its safety will minimize disruption of governmental operations. To that end, the Board will support examination of the cost effective ways in which protective ballistic shielding can be provided in the Board of Supervisors chambers.

R-07: A duress (panic) alarm should be installed at the BOS Chairman's position. (C-01, C-04)

Concur. Duress alarms are already in place at the Chairman's seat as well as the Clerk of the Board's seat.

R-18: The Clerk and Recorder should coordinate security planning and operations with GSA. (C-05, C-06)

Concur. The Board has recognized the importance of departmental and GSA coordination on security planning and operations. All County Clerk and Recorder staff attend mandatory Workplace Security Training every two years. GSA and the County Clerk's Office continue to coordinate security planning and operations in response to planned demonstrations by outside groups at the Clerk and Recorder's Office. GSA regularly monitors all video signals from the seven cameras in the County Clerk's Office main floor offices.

R-19: The fourth floor of the HOA should have secured access. (C-01)

Concur. A number of initiatives have been under consideration to enhance the security of the executive offices on the fourth floor. These include the installation

of additional card readers placed at strategic locations and strategically placed cameras. The Board believes these security enhancements can be made while maintaining an environment of open government.

R-20: The foyer/lobby to the County Executive Office (CEO) should be monitored by a security camera. (C-01)

Concur. GSA is currently implementing this project.

R-21: The entrance door to the interior office space of the CEO's lobby should be locked during normal business hours. (C-01)

Do Not Concur. The Board believes that the security enhancement under consideration in response to R-19 above will eliminate the need to lock the CEO lobby door.

R-22: A duress (panic) alarm should be installed in the reception lobby of the CEO's office. (C-01)

Concur. Such an alarm is currently installed in the reception lobby of the office.

R-23: A security camera should be installed in the inner reception lobby of the BOS offices. (C-01)

Concur. Such a camera will be part of the initiatives discussed in R-19 above.

R-24: A duress (panic) alarm should be installed in each BOS office. (C-01)

Concur. Such alarms are currently installed in each BOS office within the Hall of Administration.

R-25: A centralized notification system should be implemented to simultaneously alert all employees of critical incidents in each building of the GC. (C-04 through C-06)

Concur. A public address system, capable of broadcasting live and/or pre-recorded messages, already exists for all public access buildings at the Government Center.

R-26: County departments headed by an elected official, such as the TTPG and the Clerk and Recorder, should have a representative attend the bi-monthly County Physical Security Council meetings. (C-04, C-05)

Concur. The Board supports this recommendation. A letter of invitation drafted by the Council Chair has been sent to all elected officials.

R-27: All County employees working for a department headed by an appointed or elected official should receive the same security and awareness training. Specialized training should be provided by security professionals as designated and approved by the VCSD. (C-01, C-04 through C-06)

Concur. Such training is currently provided to all departments. The County of Ventura Administrative Policy Manual, Policy No. Chapter IV (B)-2, establishes security training standards and guidelines. This training is provided by the Human Resources Division and is provided to every new employee with mandatory refresher training provided every four years.