

CITY OF
VENTURA

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SEP 08 2010

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

September 3, 2010

City Council

Bill Fulton, Mayor
Mike Tracy, Deputy Mayor
Neal Andrews, Councilmember
Brian Brennan, Councilmember
James L. Monahan, Councilmember
Carl E. Morehouse, Councilmember
Christy Weir, Councilmember

Don Cody, Ed.D., Chairman
Grand Jury Review Committee
Robert A. Peskay, Foreman
2010-2011 Ventura County Grand Jury
Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#3751
Ventura CA 93009

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report: Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities

Dear Chairman Cody and Foreman Peskay:

Acting on behalf of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Ventura, I am respectfully enclosing a copy of the response sent originally on June 7, 2010 to the Grand Jury, and copied to our City Councilmembers at that time. I apologize for any procedural error in the mailing of this response, and hope that this fulfills the requirements asked for by the Grand Jury.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Cole
City Manager

Enclosure

C: Honorable Kevin J. McGee, Presiding Judge Ventura County Superior Court
Bill Fulton, Mayor
Ventura City Councilmembers

CITY OF
VENTURA
POLICE DEPARTMENT

June 7, 2010

Ventura County Grand Jury
800 S. Victoria Ave., L#3751
Ventura, CA 93009

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JUN 18 2010

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Subject: Grand Jury Report *Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities*

On May 11, 2010, the Ventura Police Department received a copy of the final Grand Jury report titled, *Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities*. Also enclosed was a request for response. Most of the findings and recommendations did not fall under the control of the City of Ventura or the Ventura Police Department. The report did discuss issues relating to the relationship between the Probation Agency and local law enforcement agencies. Our responses to the *findings* and *recommendations* are listed below.

F-60. Police departments within the County and the Sheriff's Department have extensive written policies and procedures regarding the detention, arrest, and disposition of juvenile offenders as required by State law.

Response: We concur with this finding.

F-61. The majority of Officers interviewed by the Grand Jury contact Intake to receive prior approval before transporting juveniles to the Juvenile Justice Facility (JJF). The Grand Jury was unable to find any instance where doing so is a specific written policy.

Response: We concur with this finding.

F-63. Officers said that they believe all felony and violent misdemeanor offenses should qualify for booking into the JJF.

Response: We disagree with this finding.

We do not believe that violent misdemeanors and all felonies should automatically meet the RAI criteria for booking. Certain violent misdemeanors such as school fights and simple batteries are not always worthy of booking. Likewise certain felonies such as thefts should not automatically qualify for

booking. As we mention in response F-65 we do feel the RAI should be constantly assessed in order that it aligns with the overall goal of public safety.

- F-64.** Felony and violent misdemeanor crimes do not automatically meet the RAI criteria for booking into the JJF.

Response: We concur with this finding.

- F-65.** Officers expressed concern that some chronic repeat offenders did not meet the RAI criteria for acceptance into the JJF and expressed belief that such offenders should be accepted.

Response: We concur in part with this finding.

The RAI is a useful tool designed to separate lower risk juveniles that can be released, with or without restrictions, from higher risk juveniles that need to be detained. However, its focus is on adjudicated offenses within the prior 24 months as opposed to mere arrests. Officers may not have the same access to information on adjudicated cases as JJF personnel. A downside to using adjudications rather than arrests is in the instances where juveniles accumulate numerous offenses within a short time. The RAI also places a low point value on prior misdemeanor adjudicated offenses. The Ventura Police Department feels it is a good practice to regularly assess and, if necessary, fine-tune the RAI. The Ventura Police Department would look forward to participating in this effort.

- F-68.** The Probation Agency states that it has made police departments and the Sheriff's Department aware of the RAI and of JDAI by contacting police chiefs and by attending some shift briefings on an ongoing basis.

Response: We concur with this finding.

- R-10.** Police chiefs and the Sheriff should provide Officers with Probation Agency information regarding the criteria for accepting juveniles into the JJF, the use of the RAI and JDAI.

Response: Will be implemented.

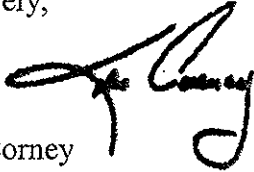
While the Probation Agency has provided training at patrol briefings and the RAI is included in our Juvenile Detention Log, the Grand Jury Report indicates a need for additional training on this topic. We appreciate the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury and will take the following steps to improve the understanding amongst our officers of the RAI and of JDAI. These steps will be implemented by the end of October, 2010.

1. The Department will provide training to patrol officers on the RAI and the criteria for lodging juveniles into the JJF.

2. The Department will provide training to patrol officers on JDAI and how it relates to public safety as a whole.
3. The Department will provide training for its sworn and civilian supervisors and managers on the use of the RAI and JDAI.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this response, please contact Assistant Chief Quinn Fenwick at 339-4434.

Sincerely,

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

Ken Corney
Chief of Police

Cc: Honorable Kevin J. McGee, Presiding Judge Ventura County Superior Court
Bill Fulton, Ventura Mayor and City Council members
Rick Cole, Ventura City Manager