



Jeri Williams
Chief of Police

Police Department

R. Jason Benites
Assistant Chief
Scott Whitney
Assistant Chief

August 24, 2012

The Honorable Vincent J. O'Neill, Jr.
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Your Honor,

Enclosed please find my agency's response to the Ventura County Civil Grand Jury's findings and recommendations concerning the Oxnard Police Department Detention Facility.

Should you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (805) 385-7624.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeri Williams".

Jeri Williams
Chief of Police

Cc: Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury
Karen Burnham, Oxnard Interim City Manager
Oxnard City Council

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Subject: Grand Jury Response to Oxnard Police Department Detention Facility

On May 30, 2012, the Ventura County Grand Jury completed a Final Report on detention facilities across the County of Ventura. This included a full and unadulterated inspection of the Oxnard Police Department Holding Facility located at its main station, 251 South 'C' Street. The Grand Jury found the Oxnard Holding Facility met all minimum standards as dictated by the Corrections Standards Authority(CSA), found in Titles 15 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

While all legal standards were satisfactorily met, the Ventura County Grand Jury noted several areas for improvement and made the following recommendations:

R-01: That the cities of Oxnard and Santa Paula purchase or make visible AEDs or Automatic External Defibrillators. (FI-07)

R-02: That the City of Oxnard provide off-the-floor accommodations in order to insulate an arrestee from the concrete cell floor. (FI-05, FI-06)

Response

R-01: The Oxnard Police Department has been working closely with the Oxnard Fire Department on implementing an AED program in our jail facility. We have acquired a Medtronic Lifepak 500 AED which is consistent with the devices currently being used at the Ventura County Main Jail. We have also secured a cabinet which will house the defibrillator in our jail facility in an easily accessible and visible location.

The Department has several CPR/First Aid instructors which are trained to provide AED training to all department personnel. This training will be completed by October 31st as our intent is to have the life saving device operational by November 1, 2012.

R-02: The Oxnard Police Department Holding Facility processes over 7,000 prisoners each year, making it the busiest holding facility in the County of Ventura. The average holding time for a prisoner in our custody is 4 hours. As such, we truly recognize the need to provide special accommodations for prisoners who remain in our custody in excess of 6 hours as this occurs approximately 5-10 times each year.

Based on your recommendation, we have purchased a mattress pad to be used by prisoners who remain under our supervision for over 6 hours. This generally occurs during complex investigations whereby a suspect is held in our custody in order to

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execute search warrants or the prisoner needs to be interviewed after other investigative techniques have been exhausted.

After careful consideration, the installation of benches or bunks does not remain a viable option for our facility at this time. These amenities would inevitably create additional hazards in our cells as temperaments amongst prisoners are unpredictable and often difficult to gauge. We strongly believe the additional comfort of a sitting platform does not outweigh the potential hazard it creates. Furthermore, while the average prisoner is in our facility for a period of 4 hours, it is estimated only half of that time is spent sitting on the concrete floor. The remainder of the time is spent standing during jail searches, sitting comfortably in an interview room, standing while making phone calls, or standing while being processed by booking officers.

The Oxnard Police Department takes the recommendations of the Ventura County Grand Jury very seriously and will continue to remain diligent in providing the citizens of Oxnard with exceptional service. We will remain transparent in our daily operations and encourage thoughtful insight from those sharing the same mission.



Jeri Williams
Chief of Police

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Mandatory Detention Facilities Inspections
Report Date: May 30, 2012
Response by: Andrew Salinas Title: Police Commander

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: **FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-04, FI-05, FI-06, FI-07**
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **n/a**
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered **R-02(see attached)** have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered **R-01(see attached)** have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered **(none – see attached)** require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope of 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 public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered **(none – see attached)** will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation)

Date: August 24, 2012

Signed:

Number of pages attached: 2