



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- **GEOFF DEAN**
Sheriff
- **GARY PENTIS**
Assistant Sheriff
- **JOHN CROMBACH**
Assistant Sheriff

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

July 23, 2012

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

**Subject: Grand Jury Report - Sheriff's Academy and Bond Measure S (Dated
May 25, 2012)**

Dear Judge O'Neill:

In August of 2011, the Ventura County Grand Jury initiated an investigation pertaining to the Sheriff's Academy and Bond Measure S. The Grand Jury learned that the County of Ventura contracted with the Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) to lease the newly constructed training academy in the city of Camarillo. The lease was for a period of fifteen years at a total cost exceeding \$2.6 million. Pursuant to California Penal Code §933(c)(d), our responses are listed on the following pages.

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-

FINDINGS

Finding FI-01:

When the Bond was passed in 2002, the budget for the Sheriff's rent at the Academy was \$1 per year. The \$2.6 million rent to be received by VCCCD was not authorized by the voters when they approved the Bond. (FA-01, 07)

Response:

This finding is factually inaccurate and appears to be based on FA-07 which states, "Before moving into the new Academy in October 2011, the Sheriff was paying \$1/year to rent its old facility..."

Prior to moving into the new facility, the Sheriff's Office was paying the Ventura County Department of Airports, through an internal service fund, an annual lease rate of \$116,376. The charges consisted of \$81,648 for the actual building and \$34,728 for the surrounding grounds.

Finding FI-02:

Prior to the passage of the Bond, the Sheriff and VCCCD publicly agreed to partner in a program for a new Sheriff's academy where cadets would receive credits toward an associate's degree in criminal justice in conjunction with Academy training. (FA-01-03)

Response:

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

Finding FI-03:

The subsequent failure of VCCCD and the Sheriff to agree on terms of a partnership in education and training at the Academy led to the execution of a lease dated 2010 between the parties as landlord/tenant with an exponential increase in rent. (FA-04, 07-09)

Response:

The partnership between the Sheriff's Office and VCCCD related to education and training is a separate and distinct issue from the landlord/tenant arrangement pertaining to the lease of the physical building.

Finding FI-04:

Payment of rent to VCCCD by the Sheriff for a facility built with the Bond funds is an unaccounted cost absent from the ballot when the Bond was passed in 2002. Now it is an unintended expense for County taxpayers who are already paying for the facility with the repayment of Measure S bonds. (BA-01, 04, 07-09)

Response:

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

Finding FI-05:

Absent an agreement to partner in education and training, as well as the potential loss of academic accreditation at VCCCD colleges, a future partnership is improbable for VCCCD and the Sheriff at the Academy. (FA-04, 10)

Response:

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

Finding FI-06:

According to VCCCD, it would prefer not to be a landlord. The lease is the only agreement that obligates VCCCD to be a landlord at a time where their attention should be focused on maintaining accreditation and other obligations to its students. (F-07, 10, 11)

Response:

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

Finding FI-07:

The Academy is underutilized according to the Bond's promise "...to prepare students for jobs and four year colleges....." (FA-01, 12)

Response:

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation R-01:

The VCCCD should adjust its leasehold at the Academy and the Sheriff's rent should be returned to \$1 per year. (FI-01-06)

Response:

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees that the rent should be \$1 per year.

Recommendation R-03:

The VCCCD and the Sheriff's Department should partner to develop a curriculum and financial arrangements for students seeking a criminal justice agree or certificate through the VCCCD education system as approved in the Bond. (FI-02)

Response:

Recommendation numbered R-03 has not been implemented. The Ventura County Sheriff's Office is willing to work with VCCCD to develop a curriculum and financial arrangements for students as per the Grand Jury's recommendations. However, we believe the implementation of this recommendation must be contingent upon the development of a new fair and equitable lease arrangement in order to comply with the fiscal concerns mentioned elsewhere in the Grand Jury's Final Report.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury Report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Commander Rick Barrios at (805) 654-2378.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoff Dean". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "D".

Geoff Dean
Sheriff

Response to Grand Jury Report
Sheriff's Academy & Bond Measure S
July 23, 2012
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Cc: Frank Chow, Analyst, CEO
Jay Whitney, Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury
John Crombach, Assistant Sheriff, VCSO

EXHIBIT 3

FY 2011-2012 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

RESPONSES TO FINDINGS (FI) AND RECOMMENDATIONS (R)

Report Number (& Date)	Report Title	Respondents (with FI and R #)
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REPORT NO. 03. (May 25, 2012)

Title: Sheriff's Academy and Bond S

Required
Respondent: Ventura County Sheriff (FI-01 thru FI-07) and (R-01 & R-03)