

The Honorable Brian J. Back
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Response to Grand Jury Report-Detention Facilities Inspections

Dear Judge Back:

The City of Fillmore has received the 2014-2014 Ventura County Civil Grand Jury report entitled "Detention Facilities Inspections," and pursuant to the Penal Code Sections 933 (c) and 933(d), we submit the enclosed response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

The City Council appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury in inspecting our facility. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Captain Dave Wareham at 524-2758 or dave.wareham@ventura.org.

Sincerely,

Manuel Minjares,
Mayor

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Detention Facilities Inspections

Report Date: November 22, 2014 Response By: Manuel Minjares, Mayor

FINDINGS

I agree with the findings numbered: FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, and FI-09.

Recommendations Implemented

Recommendation R-01

The Grand Jury recommends that the County, Cities, Sheriff, and Probation Department strive to operate detention and incarceration facilities at current or higher performance levels.

Response: The Sheriff's Office and the City of Fillmore agree with the recommendation to strive to operate its detention facilities at current or higher performance levels. To that end, jail managers continually evaluate practices and processes in order to provide the most constitutionally sound, as well as safe and secure detention environments for staff and inmates.

Recommendation R-02

The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and Cities continue to expand their focus on mutual respect, rehabilitation, and societal reentry; in particular, that they expand their evidence-based skills, attitudes, and CBT training programs, sharing the best programs and practices among all detention facilities where such programs are practical.

Response: The Sheriff's Office and the City of Fillmore agree with the recommendation to continue to expand its focus on mutual respect, rehabilitation, and societal reentry for inmates under its care. There are challenges ahead that threaten the funding required to implement sound programs, such as AB1876 (Quirk), which has the potential to dramatically undermine inmate program funding, however the Sheriff's Office is committed to work proactively with its public safety and community based partners to overcome those challenges.

Recommendation R-03

The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and Cities expand their staff training to include more training that specifically addresses realignment challenges, e.g., more emphasis on how to cope with the greater probability of physical and verbal attacks by inmates and increased workloads, perhaps offering more frequent refreshers of current relevant training programs such as stress reduction, anger management, and Crisis Intervention Training.

Response: The Sheriff's Office and the City of Fillmore agree with the recommendation to expand its staff training to address the challenges associated with Realignment. These challenges include the increase of physical and verbal attacks by inmates on staff, and increased stress and workloads caused by the need to safely care for higher inmate populations. Of course, increased training equates to an increase in costs associated with this training. In order to fulfill this recommendation without impacting our budget, jail supervisors regularly provide training to staff during shift briefings. The topics of these training sessions oftentimes target issues directly related to the challenges of Realignment.

Recommendation R-04

The Grand Jury recommends that detention facilities, wherever feasible, expand their efforts towards sustainable ecologies; e.g., capturing solar energy; recycling bottles, cans and cartons; and composting and/or recycling yard and food waste (FI-14).

Response: The Sheriff's Office and the City of Fillmore agrees with the recommendation, wherever feasible, to expand its efforts toward sustainable ecologies. We will continue to look for opportunities to improve efficiencies as we continue to be a good partner in the communities we serve.

Recommendation R-05

The Grand Jury recommends that the County's detention and incarceration facilities continue to expand their use of technology, reducing their dependence on paper files (FI-06).

Response: The Sheriff's Office and the City of Fillmore agree with the recommendation to continue to expand its use of technology, reducing our dependence on paper files. One example of our ongoing efforts to expand our use of technology is in the area of adherence to the Affordable Care Act. We have been working collaboratively with the County's Human Services Agency to ensure that our inmates have access to affordable health care once they are released from custody. This has involved the automated sharing of database information to assist local health care professionals in registering inmates into eligible programs.

Recommendation R-08

The Grand Jury recommends that the City of Fillmore correct three safety hazards that could lead to injuries to officers or detainees: (1) secure the fire extinguisher inside the booking area, near the exit door, so that it cannot be picked up by a detainee; (2) strap the toilet-tank top in the restroom to the tank itself with metal bands or another secure method; and (3) secure the door mat in the entrance or replace it with a no-slip version. (FI-09)

Response: The Sheriff's Office and the City of Fillmore agrees with the recommendation to correct three safety hazards that could lead to injuries to officers or detainees: (1) secure the fire extinguisher inside the booking area, near the exit door, so that it cannot be picked up by a detainee; (2) strap the toilet-tank top in the restroom to the tank itself with metal bands or

another secure method; and (3) secure the door mat in the entrance or replace it with a no-slip version. To that end, (1) the fire extinguisher has been moved to an area outside the booking area and is secured in the approved manner; (2) the toilet and adjacent sink have been replaced with a stainless steel custody approved toilet and sink combination. There are no removable parts.; (3) The mat in the entrance has been secured.