

**Tim Flynn**  
Mayor



**Office of the Mayor**

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November 17, 2014

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

Judge Back:

Enclosed please find the City of Oxnard's response to the Ventura County 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) 385-7450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Flynn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Flynn  
Mayor

Cc: Robert Stewart, Ventura County Grand Jury Foreman  
Frederick Scott, Grand Jury Review Committee Chair  
Oxnard City Council  
Greg Nyhoff, Oxnard City Manager  
Jeri Williams, Oxnard Police Chief

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**VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY**



R. Jason Benites  
Assistant Chief  
Scott Whitney  
Assistant Chief

Jeri Williams  
Chief of Police

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Mandatory Detention Facilities Inspections  
Report Date: June 16, 2014  
Response by: Andrew Salinas Title: Police Commander

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: **FI-08**
- 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-07(see attached)** have been implemented.  
*(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)*
- Recommendations numbered **R-07(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: October 28, 2014

Signed:

Number of pages attached: 2



**Jeri Williams**  
Chief of Police

## Police Department

**R. Jason Benites**  
Assistant Chief  
**Scott Whitney**  
Assistant Chief

### **Subject: Grand Jury Response to Oxnard Police Department Detention Facility**

On June 16, 2014, the Ventura County Grand Jury completed a *Final Report on Detention Facilities in the County of Ventura*. This included a full and unconditional 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-07:** The Grand Jury recommends that the City of Oxnard provide raised seating or mattress pads in their cells, to insulate arrestees from the concrete cell floors. (FI-08)

#### **Response**

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 recommendations from the 2012 report, we 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 execute search warrants or the prisoner needs to be interviewed after other investigative techniques have been exhausted. The mattress pad is also available upon request for any prisoner who finds the hard concrete floor unacceptable.

After reviewing the recommendations from 2012 and the most recent recommendation in 2014 by the Grand Jury, we have ordered bench-like seating to be accommodated in two(2) of our seven(7) holding cells, one for males and one for females. These benches will be erected in the two cells which often leverage the most prisoner down-time. These benches will be installed by December 31, 2014. Following a period of one (1) year, we will re-evaluate the need and logistics of adding additional seating in the remaining cells.

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.