



B.J.B.  
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VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

CITY OF  
**VENTURA**

SEP 18 2014

OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE

City Council

Cheryl Heitmann, Mayor  
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Neal Andrews, Councilmember  
James L. Monahan, Councilmember  
Carl E. Morehouse, Councilmember  
Mike Tracy, Councilmember  
Christy Weir, Councilmember

September 16, 2014

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

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VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

Re: Detention Facilities Inspections

Dear Judge Back:

The City of Ventura received the 2013-2014 Grand Jury report, "Detention Facilities Inspections". In accordance with Penal Code section 933.05, we submit this response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations.

The City Council appreciates and welcomes the efforts of the Grand Jury in annually inspecting facilities of incarceration in the County.

The Grand Jury requires a response to findings FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-11, recommendations R-01, R-02, R-03, R-04, R-05, and R-06.

**Findings**

**FI-01:** All jail holding cells in the county were satisfactory or better for the areas reviewed.

Response to FI-01: The City agrees with the findings. The Ventura Police Department (VPD) has maintained policies and procedures that ensure the Department's incarceration locations meet and exceed the minimum standard of the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA).

**FI-02:** Realignment has put more demands and stress on public safety workers due to heavier workloads, more difficult detainees, and greater potential for physical and verbal abuse.

Response to FI-02: The City agrees with the findings. VPD has maintained one sworn police officer to Post-Release Offender (PROS) enforcement since 2011 as a result of realignment.

**FI-03:** Mandated collaborative implementation plans among all parties responsible for Realignment, as well as other new documentation requirements, takes significant time and effort away from public safety employees' important other duties.

Response to FI-03: The City agrees with the findings. VPD participates in the Community Correction Partnership. As part of their duties, the VPD PROS Officer partners with key members of the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) assigned to supervise and provide services to county post released offenders. Furthermore, the VPD PROS officer monitors released offenders, participates in compliance terms and in probation and post-release reentry planning, shares data, and collaborates with VPD personnel in an effort to reduce realignment workload on VPD officers.

**FI-11:** All facilities have adequate first aid supplies available except Ventura, which lacked an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in its holding area.

Response to FI-11: The City agrees with the findings. An AED has been installed in the police headquarters holding area.

### **Recommendations**

**R-01:** The Grand Jury recommends that the County Cities Sheriff and probation departments strive to operate detention and incarceration facilities at current or high-performance levels.

Response to R-01: This recommendation has already been implemented. VPD has maintained policies and procedures that ensure that the Department's incarceration locations meet and exceed the minimum standard of the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA).

**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 Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) training programs, sharing best programs and practices among all detention facilities where such programs are practical.

Response to R-02: This recommendation has already been implemented. Chief Ken Corney is the Police Chief representative for the Ventura County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). As a result of Chief Corney's appointment to CCP, VPD has benefited from the collaboration between local law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, Probation, Behavioral Health and Community-Based organizations and has resulted in maximizing safety for collaborative partners and local community.

**R-03:** The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and Cities expand their staff training to include more department training that specifically addresses realignment challenges, e.g., more emphasis on how to cope with greater probability of physical and verbal attacks by inmates and increased workloads, perhaps offering more frequent refreshers of current relative training programs such as stress reduction, anger management, and Crisis Intervention Training.

Response to R-03: This recommendation has already been implemented. VPD has utilized the PROS Officer as a department trainer for AB109 topics. Over the last two years, department staff has received AB 109 training during patrol training days and weekly crime briefings. VPD continues to train officers in Crisis Intervention and Scenario-based Training.

**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.

Response to R-04: This recommendation has already been implemented on a limited scale. The detention facilities at VPD do not house arrestees. Therefore, the facility does not produce recyclable waste such as bottles, cans, cartons or food waste. VPD does provide paper recycling receptacles and recyclable paper shredders adjacent to the detention facilities.

**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.

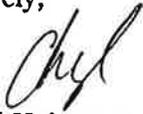
Response to R-05: This recommendation has already been implemented. VPD utilizes computers in the detention facility to access Ventura County Integrated Justice System to pre-book arrestees before being transferred to the main jail.

**R-06:** The Grand Jury recommends that the Police Department install an AED in the holding area within the detention facility at police headquarters

Response to R-01: This recommendation has already been implemented. An AED and signage was installed to comply with the Grand Jury recommendation.

On September 15, 2014 The Ventura City Council approved this Grand Jury report response and authorized the City Manager to make this reply. We appreciate the Grand Jury's efforts in looking into this important matter.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Heitmann  
Mayor