



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

- GEOFF DEAN
Sheriff
- GARY PENTIS
Undersheriff
- STEVE DE CESARI
Assistant Sheriff
- GUY STEWART
Assistant Sheriff

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

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Grand Jury Report, Detention Facilities

Report Date: 6-28-16

Response by: GEOFF DEAN Title: SHERIFF

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: FI-1,6,7
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: FI-5,8

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered NONE have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R-1,2 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered NONE require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and 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 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 6/29/16 Signed: Geoff Dean

Number of pages attached: 3

SLD/06-2016

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June 28, 2016

The Honorable Judge Donald D. Coleman
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Grand Jury Report, Detention Facilities Inspections (May 24, 2016)

Dear Judge Coleman:

This letter is in response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations pertaining to the annual inspection of all places of incarceration in the County, as it relates to the Sheriff's Office Pre-Trial Detention Facility (PTDF), (referred to as "Main Jail" in the Grand Jury Report), Todd Road Jail, and East Valley Jail.

FINDINGS

Finding: FI-01 – *The Grand Jury rated all holding cells or equivalent physical facilities in the County as satisfactory or better for the areas reviewed, except for the lack of raised seating in the Oxnard police station holding cells, lack of tamper proof lavatory fixtures at the Moorpark police station area serving detainees, and an inoperative water tap in one holding cell in the Port Hueneme police station. (FA-01, FA-23, FA-25, FA-31)*

Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with the findings as they relate to the PTDF, Todd Road Jail, and East Valley Jail.

Finding: FI-05 – *The Grand Jury found that the efforts of the County law enforcement community have been complicated by the combined effects of Realignment (AB 109) and Prop 47. The effects range from continued pressure on jail population to changes in some offender's behavior by limiting offenses below the Prop 47 felony threshold. These, in turn, may be driving up crime rates in certain categories. (FA-02, FA-03, FA-05, FA-07, FA-09, FA-11)*

Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees partially with the findings as they relate to the effects of Realignment and Proposition 47 on local law enforcement's efforts in Ventura County. The jail population has seen a steady increase ever since Realignment occurred in October 2011. More importantly, the paradigm shift of having inmates serving multiple-year felony

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convictions has caused us to add programming and staffing to adapt to the increased basic care and security needs of the inmate population. We will continue to evaluate and develop additional programs within the jail system as these changes continue to develop. Regarding the issue of increases in crime rates within our communities, aside from anecdotal information, it has been difficult to analyze hard data accumulated within the relatively short period of time since Prop 47 came into existence. In order to more thoroughly understand the effects of Prop 47 on our local crime rates, the law enforcement community, through the efforts of the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) has been developing a program that will more objectively analyze crime rate data. We hope to have this completed within the next year.

Finding: *FI-06 – The Grand Jury found that the law enforcement community has an increased awareness of the magnitude of mental health issues to be addressed. While the addition of the medical/mental health facility at Todd Road will be a valuable asset, the facility cannot, by itself, be the complete solution for the issues posed by the Severe Persistent Mental Illness cases in the jails, let alone the other mental health support challenges. The problem clearly requires continued attention to characterize and identify solutions. (FA-04, FA-08, FA-14, FA-15, FA-35, FA-38, FA-39, FA-40)*

Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with the Grand Jury findings and continues to collaborate with other agencies and community organizations to address the needs specific to those persons with mental health issues.

Finding: *FI-07 – The Grand Jury found that, while 12 Step programs are offered in the Ventura County Jail system, given the percentage of inmates identified as having substance abuse issues, the opportunity for participation by inmates in these 12 Step meetings needs to increase. (FA-07, FA-08, FA-13, FA-14, FA-15)*

Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with the findings, and is working to expand 12 Step meetings at the PTFD; as well as extend these opportunities for inmates with high risk classifications.

Finding: *FI-8 – The Grand Jury found that five facilities were noted to have staffing adequacy issues. (FA-04, Att-01)*

Response: The Sheriff's Office partially agrees with the findings. While staffing jails, which never close, is a challenge. Sheriff's staff has identified minimum staffing levels which are tied to the ability to provide a safe, secure and well managed jail environment. Recruitment of quality individuals to work in our jails is an ongoing effort that is critical in maintaining adequate staffing levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: *R-01 – The Grand Jury recommends that the Ventura County Sheriff, working with County Behavioral Health Division, provide the Board of Supervisors with an*

annual data based assessment of mental health issues in the law enforcement environment. Based on this assessment, the Grand Jury recommends that these agencies expand existing programs (such as the 12 Step programs) and propose additional programs to both mitigate those issues and to help transition inmates with mental health issues back to "mainstream society." (FI-06, FI-07)

Response: The Sheriff partially agrees with this finding. The Sheriff agrees to keep the Board of Supervisors apprised of issues related to the mentally ill in custody as part of his continuing efforts to provide the best services available to this portion of the inmate population.

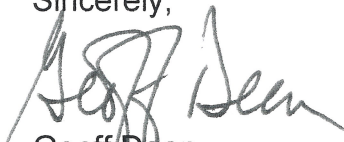
The Sheriff's Office has a history of collaboration with the County Behavioral Health Agency and agrees with the Grand Jury recommendation to inform the Board of Supervisors regarding mental health issues in the law enforcement environment. The Sheriff's Office will continue to develop and expand, where appropriate, programs to assist inmates with mental health issues in order to better assist them in transitioning back into their communities.

Recommendation: R-02 – *The Grand Jury recommends that the Ventura County Sheriff provide an annual update to the Board of Supervisors on the observable and measurable effects of Prop 47 with recommendations regarding Prop 47 changes that would improve the balance between public safety and the use of resources. (FI-05)*

Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with the Grand Jury recommendation and is working with the CCP to develop a program that will more objectively analyze crime rate data in order to appropriately direct resources and report the impacts of Prop 47 to all stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Captain Rob Davidson at 648-9275 or rob.davidson@ventura.org.

Sincerely,



Geoff Dean
Sheriff

GD:rd

Cc: Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury
Under Sheriff Gary Pentis
Assistant Sheriff Guy Stewart
Frank Chow, CEO Analyst