



"Citrus Capital of the World"

# City of Santa Paula

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July 16, 2018

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DEC 13 2018

Honorable Patricia M. Murphy  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

Ventura County  
Grand Jury

Re: City of Santa Paula's Response to the Grand Jury's Report entitled "Annual Detention Report"

Dear Judge Murphy:

On May 16, 2018, the Ventura County Grand Jury issued its report entitled "Annual Detention Report" to address the conditions and management of the detention facilities in Ventura County. Specific to Santa Paula, the Grand Jury found that the Santa Paula Police Department building failed to meet minimum maintenance standards and its holding cell had a camera blind spot that posed a safety risk. The Grand Jury also found that the Department is significantly understaffed, the Department's policy and procedure manual lacked PREA standards, and the holding facility did not have current fire-life safety certifications available for inspection. At the conclusion of the Report, the Grand Jury requested a response from the City to Conclusions C-15 through C-18 and Recommendations R-03 and R-07. We provide the following responses to these Conclusions and Recommendations in accordance with Penal Code §933.05.

### Conclusions:

**C-15** *The Grand Jury concluded that SPPD failed to meet minimum maintenance standards as required by BSCC Title 15, Section 1280. In addition, the camera blind spot in the holding cell poses a safety risk to inmates and potential liability to SPPD staff and the city.*

The City agrees with Conclusion C-06. SPPD staff has arranged to have the jail maintained as required by BSCC Title 15, Section 1280, which requires the development of written policies and procedures for the maintenance of an acceptable level of cleanliness, repair and safety throughout the facility. The City has developed a regular schedule of housekeeping tasks and implemented a jail cleanliness to identify and address daily maintenance needs. This log must be completed by the oncoming shift

Watch Commander who is responsible for inspecting the jail conditions prior to beginning his shift to identify and correct deficiencies.

Relative to the holding cell camera, the City's IT Department is working to adjust the viewing angle of all the cameras in each cell to remove any blind spots and otherwise comply with all safety requirements.

**C-16** *The Grand Jury concluded PHPD and SPPD are significantly understaffed. This potentially compromises staff and public safety.*

The City agrees with Conclusion C-16. Please note, however, that Department has hired two additional officers and are currently in the recruitment process for six additional officers. Additionally, the Department has implemented a "3-Beat" system increase the number of officers on duty during each shift and has created two special enforcement details to increase shift deployment.

**C-17** *The Grand Jury concluded the absence of PREA standards in the 10 city policy departments' policy and procedure manuals exposes the cities to potential liability.*

The City disagrees with C-17. The Department's policies and procedures manual includes Policy No. 903, which incorporates the PREA standards. In place since September, 2016, Policy No. 903 addresses the health and safety of individual taken into custody at the Santa Paula jail facility.

**C-18** *The Grand Jury concluded that it was unsatisfactory for safety and liability purposes that seven out of 10 holding facilities did not have current fire-life safety certifications available for inspection.*

The City agrees with Conclusion C-18. Since the date of this report, current and updated copies of all certifications, including the fire-life safety certification, are now available for review.

**Recommendation:**

**R-03** *The Grand Jury recommends that PHHD, SPPD, OPD, SVPD and VPD consider incorporating PREA standards into their policy and procedure manuals.*

Recommendation R-03 has been implemented. As noted above, the Department's policies and procedures manual includes Policy No. 903, which incorporates the PREA standards. Policy No. 903 has been in place since September, 2016.

**R-07** *The Grand Jury recommends that all adult jails and holding facilities incorporate biennial fire-life safety inspections into maintenance schedules.*

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Recommendation R-07 will be implemented. Current fire-life safety inspections reports are available for inspection. The City will incorporate future inspections into the maintenance schedule.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Report. Should you have any further questions or desire any further information, please contact me or City Manager Michael Rock at 805.933.4201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ginger Gherardi".

Ginger Gherardi, Mayor  
City of Santa Paula

cc: Santa Paula City Council  
Michael Rock, City Manager  
John C. Cotti, City Attorney  
Steven McLean, Chief of Police  
Andrew Ludlum, Ventura County Grand Jury Foreperson