



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Ventura County
Grand Jury

- **GEOFF DEAN**
Sheriff
- **GARY PENTIS**
Undersheriff
- **BILL AYUB**
Assistant Sheriff
- **ERIC DOWD**
Assistant Sheriff

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

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Judge Patricia Murphy
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Grand Jury Report, Detention Facilities Inspections (May 16, 2018)

Dear Judge Murphy:

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), Todd Road Jail, and East Valley Jail.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusion: C-11 – *The Grand Jury concluded that the PTDF is not providing free access to toilet facilities in the exercise yard, as required by BSCC Title 24, Section 1231.3. (FA-33)*

Response: We believe we are in compliance with Title 24, Section 1231.3. Title 24 governs building design and section 1231.3.1 states toilets must be accessible to inmates in exercise areas. The PTDF does have toilets in the exercise area for inmates to use. Access to these toilets does require jail staff to open doors for the inmates. There is always a jail staff member available to open these doors when inmates are in the exercise area. Controlling the number and type of inmates allowed in the restroom at any given time is a vital component of jail security.

Conclusion: C-12 – *the Grand Jury concluded that the PTDF is lacking a formal PREA manual and does not fully integrate PREA standards into its policies and procedures. (FA-10, FA-36)*

Response: The Sheriff's Office is not required to fully integrate the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA), however, the Sheriff takes a zero-tolerance stance on sexual assaults and sexual harassment in our detention facilities. If an inmate were to report an incident, an investigation would be immediately initiated and thoroughly investigated.

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Conclusion: C-13 – *The Grand Jury concluded that while the TRJ's \$61-million expansion will help with overcrowding, it will serve only a small fraction of the estimated mentally ill inmates when it is completed in 2020. (FA-31, FA-32, FA-37, FA-38)*

Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with the Grand Jury's conclusion. The mentally ill population in the jail system varies greatly as to their needs for special handling and treatment. Although a large percentage of the jail population is thought to be suffering from some form of mental illness, the expansion will house those most significantly impacted by medical or mental health conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: R-02 – *The Grand Jury recommends VCSO and VCPA consider seeking accreditation to become fully compliant with PREA standards in order to avoid potential liability and to qualify for federal and state grant monies. (C-02, C-12)*

Response: There is currently no requirement for the Sheriff's Office to become fully compliant with PREA. The Sheriff's Office will continue to evaluate PREA's viability for our jails, however, we are not seeking PREA accreditation at this time.

Recommendation: R-05 – *The Grand Jury recommends that the VCSO comply with BSCC Title 24, Section 1231.3 regarding free access to toilet facilities in the exercise yard.*

Response: We believe we are in compliance with Title 24, Section 1231.3. The Sheriff's jail facilities were inspected by the BSCC on May 16, 2018 and no deficiencies were noted by the inspector. See Conclusion -11 for further details.

Recommendation: R-07 – *The Grand Jury recommends that all adult jails and holding facilities incorporate biennial fire-life safety inspections into maintenance schedules. (C-18)*

Response: The Ventura County Sheriff's Office (VCSO) is the contract law enforcement agency for the City of Ojai, City of Camarillo, City of Thousand Oaks, City of Moorpark and City of Fillmore. All of the Sheriff's contract cities have agreed to incorporate biennial fire-life safety inspections in to their maintenance schedules.

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Detention Facilities Inspections
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Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Captain Cory Rubright at 648-9275 or cory.rubright@ventura.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoff Dear".

Geoff Dear
Sheriff

GD:cr

Cc: ✓ Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury
Under Sheriff Gary Pentis
Assistant Sheriff Eric Dowd
Frank Chow, CEO Analyst