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July 24, 2007

The Honorable David E. Power, Presiding Judge
Superior Court, State of California, County of Solano
Hall of Justice
530 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Judge Power:

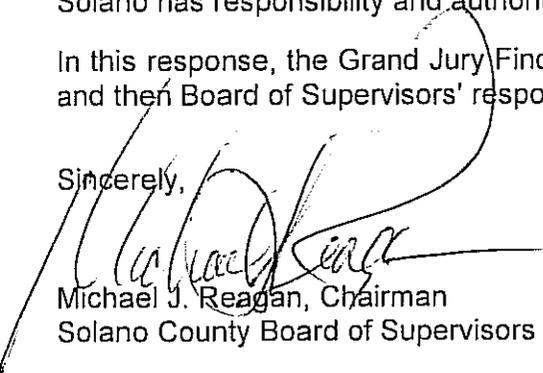
Under Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Board of Supervisors is responding to the findings and recommendations in the following 2006/2007 Grand Jury Reports as they pertain to matters under the control of the Board of Supervisors:

- Part I – Solano County Justice Center Detention Facility Inspection;
- Part II – Solano Justice Building Court Holding Facility – Vallejo;
- Part III – Claybank Detention Facility;
- Part IV – Solano County Veterans' Buildings;
- Part V – Solano County Health & Social Services Department In-Home Supportive Services;
- Part VI – Fouts Springs Youth Facilities;
- Part VII – Solano County Food Establishment Inspection;
- Part VIII – Permission to Carry a Concealed Weapon;
- Part IX – Juvenile Detention and New Foundations Facilities; and
- Part X – Solano County Animal Care Services.

The Board's responses are limited to those areas of the respective reports where the County of Solano has responsibility and authority.

In this response, the Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations are listed followed by departmental and then Board of Supervisors' responses.

Sincerely,


Michael J. Reagan, Chairman
Solano County Board of Supervisors

Enclosures

Cc: Grand Jury

Part III

Claybank Detention Facility

Issued April 30, 2007

Solano County Sheriff and Board of Supervisors responses to findings and recommendations:

Finding 1 – The designated dining area and dayrooms in the housing units appear to be under utilized.

Recommendation 1 – The Sheriff and staff should find ways to utilize these areas consistent with security concerns.

Sheriff's Response to Finding and Recommendation 1 – The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury. In the original design of the Claybank Facility the dining room and recreation areas (referred to as dayrooms in the Grand Jury report) were intended for use by minimum security inmates. The inmate population has changed and very few minimum security inmates are held in custody. Effective utilization of the dining room and the large recreation areas will require safety and security upgrades that may include security doors, locks, security cameras and additional staffing. Moreover, upgrades to these areas may not be tenable at this time because of the Claybank expansion project and the planned remodel of the existing facility. Upon completion of the expansion the inmate population housed at the Claybank Facility will be transferred to the new facility and the existing facility will be remodeled. Once this occurs, use of the currently under-utilized space will be reevaluated.

Board of Supervisors' Response to Finding and Recommendation 1 – The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's finding and recommendation. Underutilized areas at Claybank will be reprogrammed as part of the jail expansion project in conjunction with the County's commitment to enhance resources to reduce recidivism and promote safe communities through expanded projects aimed at crime prevention, intervention and reentry activities.

Finding 2 – The Electronic Monitoring Program appears to be cost effective. The program contributes to reducing overcrowding.

Recommendation 2 – Continue to expand and monitor the program for cost effectiveness consistent with safety and security concerns.

Sheriff's Response to Finding and Recommendation 2 – The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury and the recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff's Office assumed responsibility for management and operation of the Electronic Monitoring Program, from a private provider, in May 2004. Since that time, program compliance and participation has increased and policies and procedures including fiscal procedures have been and continue to be updated. In addition, we are starting a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) tracking program. Through Global Positioning we will have the capability to know where participants are at all times. The Sheriff will continue a dialogue with the Superior Court, encouraging Judges to permit additional defendants access to electronic monitoring.

Board of Supervisors' Response to Finding and Recommendation 2 – The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's finding and recommendation. Board of Supervisors supports the development of cooperative relationships between the Courts and Sheriff that maximize use of cost effective sentencing alternatives that reflect sufficient consequences for criminal activities.

Finding 3 – The Life Skills Program and the Kitten Raising Program appear to be beneficial to all participating inmates.

Recommendation 3 – These programs should be continued and enhanced when possible.

Sheriff's Response to Finding and Recommendation 3 – The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury and the recommendation has been implemented. In partnership with Youth and Family Services and the Solano County Animal Shelter inmate programming has benefited all involved. Inmates participating in programs at the Claybank Facility have more than doubled, new programs have been introduced and there are plans for improving and increasing inmate programs in the future. In addition to drug and alcohol treatment programs we have life skills, nurturing skills, anger management and work closely with Social Services to develop and maintain a good family relationship between incarcerated parents and their children. We have two (2) dayrooms of pre-sentenced inmates who are programming, with the focus being on drug and alcohol treatment and behavior modification. Future plans for programs may include, vocational training, operating a day reporting center and implementing a community re-entry program.

Board of Supervisors' Response to Finding and Recommendation 3 – The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's finding and recommendation.

Finding 4 – The Good Behavior Program was implemented and appeared to be successful.

Recommendation 4 – This program should be monitored closely for potential abuse to ensure that safety and security concerns are not compromised.

Sheriff's Response to Finding and Recommendation 4 – The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury and the recommendation has been implemented. Safety and security of the inmates, facility, staff and community is our first priority. When we started the pilot program with pre-sentenced inmates, we based it on incentives for positive behavior. Inmates are given expectations and we hold them accountable. We have had a few inmates who were unacceptable for this program and were a deterrent to our objective; these inmates are re-classified to a higher security upon identification.

Board of Supervisors' Response to Finding and Recommendation 4 – The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's finding and recommendation.

Additional Comments from Sheriff/Coroner:

In closing, I appreciate the effort put forth by those members of the Grand Jury conducting the annual inspection of my custody and court holding facilities. They were inquisitive, asked the important questions, addressed controversial issues and produced what I believe is a valuable and objective report. The positive recognition by the Grand Jury of our efforts to maintain safe and secure jail and court hold facilities is greatly appreciated.