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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:

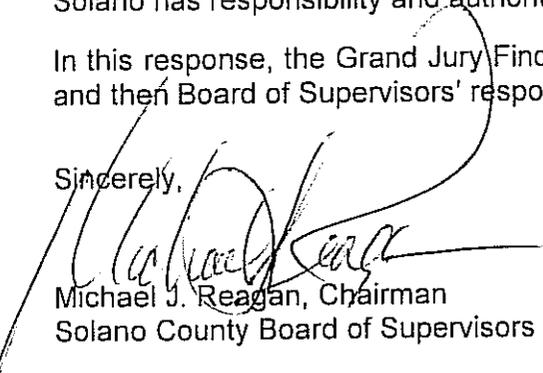
Under Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Board of Supervisors is responding to the findings and recommendations in the following 2006/2007 Grand Jury Reports as they pertain to matters under the control of the Board of Supervisors:

- 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 II

Solano Justice Building Court Holding Facility – Vallejo

Issued April 30, 2007

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

Finding 1 – Inmates are transported daily from the main jail downtown Fairfield and the Claybank facility to the holding cells in Vallejo. The numbers of inmates that have court appearances dictate the number of trips made daily.

Recommendation 1 – The Sheriff's Department coordinates activities with the courts to minimize transportation of inmates within the county.

Sheriff's Response to Finding and Recommendation 1 – The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury. The Sheriff's Office recognizes and concurs with the need to minimize the number of transports made daily to Vallejo for court proceedings. The Sheriff also recognizes that the ability to minimize the number of inmates transported daily to the Vallejo Superior Court is completely dependant on where the Superior Court decides to conduct in-custody hearings. In order to maximize efficiency and assure safety and security the Sheriff's Office will continue a dialog with the Presiding Judge and Court Executive Officer with the ultimate goal of reducing the number of inmates transported daily to Vallejo.

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 and would like to see expanded collaborative efforts with the Courts (i.e. video arraignments, calendaring of in custody matters in Fairfield) to minimize the cost and effort of transporting and holding of inmates throughout County facilities.

Finding 2 – Judges, officers of the court and court employees can access a courtroom from the holding cell area.

Recommendation 2 – Although adequate security appears to be in place, the Sheriff's Department should continue to be vigilant in monitoring safety and security concerns of the judges, court officers and court employees when escorting inmates from the cell(s) to the courtroom.

Sheriff's Response to Finding and Recommendation 2 – The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury. The Sheriff's Office recognizes and concurs with the need to provide safety and security for the judges, court officers and court employees. During the most recent remodel of the Vallejo Court Facility the Sheriff was consulted for security. Specific recommendations were made to establish a secure hallway for the transition of in-custody defendants. In the final analysis it was determined that construction of a separate secure passage for the transition of in-custody defendants was too costly and the recommendation was eliminated from the construction plan. The design of the existing court facility is the result of that decision. The Sheriff's Office has implemented procedures to provide safety during the movement of high risk, high security inmates. The Sheriff's Office utilizes existing resources including the deployment of the Custody Response Team to alleviate security concerns. Moreover, high risk security issues are identified, assessed, and mitigated by the Sheriff's Office Threat Assessment Team.

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.