



JIM ERICKSON
City Manager

June 20, 2007

The Honorable David E. Power
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Judge Power:

I have reviewed the Solano County Grand Jury's report issued May 15, 2007 entitled "Benicia Police Department and Holding Facility". I am responding pursuant to, and in the manner described in, California Penal Code Section 933.05.

Finding 1: There is no dedicated juvenile holding cell.

I agree with the Grand Jury report that the Benicia Police Department does not have a dedicated juvenile holding cell. The police department has what the California Department of Corrections describes as a "lock-up". The holding cells were built prior to 1978 and are not a detention facility or jail. Our prisoner holding area, along with our two holding cells, have been inspected and approved by the State of California Board of Corrections, Solano County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and the Solano County Health and Social Services Department. None of the agencies recommended we create a dedicated juvenile holding cell.

Recommendation 1: The Benicia Police Department should convert an office or room to separate juveniles from adults.

We are unable to implement this recommendation due to the lack of space in our facility and budget constraints. At this time, a cell specifically set apart for juvenile prisoners is not feasible. However, juveniles are not placed in a holding cell unless they are at least 14 years of age and, in the opinion of the arresting officer, they are a serious security risk of harm to self or others. More importantly, juveniles in custody are not allowed to have contact with adult prisoners.

Again, California Board of Corrections, Solano County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and Solano County Health and Social Services have inspected and approved the use of Benicia's existing holding cells for juveniles. Although we do have areas where juvenile prisoners are kept while in non-secure detention, we will not be able to provide a separate secure cell solely for juveniles.

Finding 2: At the time of our visit the facility appeared cluttered with boxes sitting in the hallways and walkways.

I also agree with the Grand Jury report that, at the time of their visit, the facility was cluttered with boxes in the hallways and walkways. We had been in the process of remodeling the holding cell area, communications center, and several office spaces within the facility. Furniture and files were moved out of the department so that construction work could be completed. As a 24-hour a day operation, we still had to have access to certain files, which we had stored in the hallways.

Recommendation 2: Organize all areas to eliminate clutter.

This recommendation has been implemented. Construction work has been completed and stored file boxes have been removed from the hallways.

If there are any further questions regarding this issue, please have your staff contact Captain Steve Mortensen at (707) 746-4262 or via e-mail at smortensen@ci.benicia.ca.us.

Very truly yours,



Jim Erickson
City Manager

cc: City Attorney
Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

NORTH COAST REGION I
Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit
Delta Conservation Camp
6246 Lambie Road
Suisun City, CA 94585
(707) 428-4461



June 18, 2007

David E. Power
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Re: Response to 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report Entitled:
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Delta Fire Camp

On behalf of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and pursuant to Penal Code §933.05, the following response is offered to the above referenced Solano County Grand Jury Report.

CAL FIRE appreciates that the focus of the report addressed the traffic issues impacting day to day camp operations and safety. As noted in the report, the primary access from camp onto the state highway system is via State Highway 12 at Lambie Road. This highway is an older two lane road which carries a heavy daily load of high speed traffic. Entering onto this highway from Lambie Road presents several safety issues which are of concern.

When turning east onto Highway 12, the crew busses must immediately climb an uphill grade. While these crew busses are officially called Emergency Crew Transports, they are in fact 17 passenger busses. After crossing the downhill westbound lane, they have relatively little shoulder space to merge into the uphill eastbound lane and reach highway speeds. Similarly, approaching Lambie Road on eastbound Highway 12, there is limited visibility prior to crossing the westbound lane and entering Lambie Road.

CAL FIRE fully supports the recommendation of the Solano County Grand Jury to encourage responsible agencies to make safety a high priority when planning the future of this portion of State Highway 12.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Sendek".

Daniel R. Sendek
Division Chief, Delta Conservation Camp

cc. Solano County Grand Jury Office
Ernie Loveless, CAL FIRE, Sonoma Lake Napa Unit