



County of Contra Costa
Office of the Sheriff
Warren E. Rupf
Sheriff

March 30, 2009

Ramona Garrett
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, California 94533

Dear Judge Garrett:

The Office of the Sheriff, Contra Costa County, has been dispatching for the Rio Vista Police Department since 1992. At that time, we were approached by Police Chief Larry Profit, with his impression that they were receiving poor service from Solano County and that they could no longer afford that service. Prior to entering into a contractual agreement with the City of Rio Vista, then Sheriff Richard Rainey spoke to Solano County Sheriff Albert Cardoza and our staff had a number of discussions with Captain Larry Welch. They both endorsed our plan to provide dispatch services to Rio Vista.

On March 25, 2009, this Office received a "courtesy copy" of a 2008-2009 Solano County Grand Jury Report regarding the Rio Vista Police Department. Although I do not believe the Solano County Grand Jury has any jurisdiction or authority over the actions of my Office, I do believe that it is necessary to respond to one of the findings in that report.

Finding #5 of the report states that "Currently, the City of Rio Vista routinely requests assistance from Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office." I believe this finding is misleading. My staff advises me that Rio Vista police officers will often request that my officers look for suspects who are believed to have fled into Contra Costa County on Highway 160. In that regard we have stopped and arrested several suspects wanted for crimes committed in Rio Vista. This practice constitutes good police work, not a circumvention of the Mutual Aide Protocol that is referenced in this finding. While this Office has provided emergency assistance to Rio Vista, Iselton and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, we do not routinely respond to the City of Rio Vista.

We have valued our relationship with the City of Rio Vista. Our contractual agreement to dispatch for them has been a fine example of good use of government resources and should not be disparaged by this Grand Jury report.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Undersheriff Scott Daly at (925)335-1514.

Sincerely,

WARREN E. RUPF, Sheriff

*Cc: Bunyan W. Johnson, Jr., Foreman 2008-2009 Solano County Grand Jury
Sheriff Gary Stanton, Solano County
Hector DeLaRosa, Rio Vista City Manager
Chief William Bowen, Rio Vista Police Department*

WER/SD/dm