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**Gary R. Stanton**  
Sheriff/ Coroner

June 7, 2007

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

Sheriff's Response to the 2006/2007 Solano County Grand Jury Report Dated April 30, 2007  
Entitled: **Solano Justice Building Court Holding Facility and Claybank Detention Facility.**

**Court Holding Facility**

**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.

**Response:** 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.

**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.

**Response:** The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury. The Sheriff's Office recognizes and concurs with the need 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 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.

### **Claybank Detention Facility**

**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.

**Response:** 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.

**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.

**Response:** 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.

**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.

**Response:** 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.

**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.

**Response:** 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.

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 holding facilities is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Stanton", written in a cursive style.

Gary R. Stanton  
Sheriff-Coroner