



COUNTY OF SOLANO

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Christopher Hansen
Chief Probation Officer

Donna L. Robinson
Chief Deputy Probation Officer

August 3, 2012

Honorable Paul L. Beeman
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

RE: Response to FY2011/2012 Grand Jury Report - Inspection of Solano County Probation Department Juvenile Detention Facility Complex

Dear Honorable Presiding Judge Beeman:

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05, the Solano County Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) responds to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2011/12 Grand Jury Report released on June 6, 2012 concerning the Probation Department.

Finding 1

Wards are transported from the Juvenile Detention Facility Complex to the Vallejo and Fairfield Courts utilizing a minimum of two JDF escorts. This process is time consuming, costly, and a safety concern to the community.

Response to Finding 1

The Probation Department agrees with the finding of the Grand Jury.

Recommendation 1

Solano County Probation Department should explore an alternative to transporting juveniles to court in Fairfield and Vallejo.

Response Recommendation 1

This recommendation will be implemented. Probation will work with the Courts in exploring alternatives to transporting juveniles to court in Fairfield and Vallejo. Unfortunately, the only remedy to this issue appears to be the construction of a courtroom at the JDF. Without funding from the state court or extensive County resources, which are not available at this time, this remedy appears unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Finding 2

Juvenile Detention Facility complex does not have perimeter fence-line security surveillance cameras.

[] MAIN OFFICE
475 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533
Tel: (707) 784-7600, Fax: (707) 784-7605

[] JUVENILE HALL
740 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533
Tel: (707) 784-6570, Fax: (707) 784-2428

Response to Finding 2

The Probation Department partially agrees with the finding of the Grand Jury. Some sections of the perimeter fence do not have cameras facing out toward the security fence. However, the closed circuit television system (CCTV) was designed to capture views of the exterior sides, doors, and grounds of the facility. This security system design continues to meet the existing security needs of the facility.

Recommendation 2

Solano County Probation Department should install security surveillance cameras to observe the perimeter fence line.

Response to Recommendation 2

This recommendation will not be implemented at this time. The Probation Department is currently evaluating its current security system, including the existing CCTV system, as part of the regular Capital Facilities Improvement Plan. The evaluation will include the need to upgrade the existing CCTV system, relocation of existing cameras, and the placement of additional cameras. The Grand Jury recommendation will be considered as part of the comprehensive evaluation of the security systems.

Finding 3

The produce grown in the Juvenile Detention Facility Complex garden is not used for the benefit of the wards.

Response to Finding 3

The Probation Department partially disagrees with the finding of the Grand Jury. The produce grown is part of a pilot project launched in 2010 to foster life skills and pride in workmanship among youth in New Foundations. The harvest from this small garden is shared with all minors at New Foundations. The excess harvest is donated to local food banks. As part of this project, staff and minors have prepared the produce grown in the garden in a variety of ways (the most popular being zucchini bread). Last year's harvest culminated in a barbeque hosted by the Master Gardeners featuring all of the produce grown in the New Foundations' garden. New Foundations' staff and minors feel they are reaping the benefits of the garden.

Recommendation 3

Solano County Probation Department will explore expanding the gardening program for the benefit of the Juvenile Detention Facility Complex and the wards.

Response Recommendation 3

This recommendation has already been implemented as described in the response to Finding 3.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Hansen

cc: Grand Jury
Birgitta E. Corsello, County Administrator