

MAYOR MARY ANN COURVILLE  
VICE MAYOR GIL VEGA  
COUNCILMEMBER LOREN FERRERO



COUNCILMEMBER JILL ORR  
COUNCILMEMBER DAN SUPRIANO  
CITY TREASURER DAVID DINGMAN

September 25, 2003

**R E C E I V E D**  
SEP 25 2003

The Honorable Scott L. Kays, Presiding Judge  
Solano County Superior Court  
c/o Superior Court Executive Officers/Clerk of the Court  
Hall of Justice  
600 Union Ave  
Fairfield, Ca 94533

**SUPERIOR COURT, DEPT. 16  
SCOTT KAYS**

**Re: Responses of the Dixon City Council to the 2002-2003 Solano County Grand Jury Final Report**

Dear Judge Kays,

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Dixon and with its prior approval, I hereby submit to you the responses of the City Council to the findings and recommendations contained in the above noted final report of the 2002-2003 Solano County Grand Jury as set forth below:

**Investigation: Detention/Holding Facilities**

“In accordance with California State Penal Code 919(b) the Grand Jury is required to inspect all county detention facilities.”

**Finding 1:**

“The Sally Port, an enclosed secure parking area used for transferring a prisoner from a vehicle to the detention facility, is not in use. Items were stored in the area.”

**Response to Finding 1:**

The City agrees with finding 1.

**Recommendation 1:**

“The Sally Port area should be cleared of stored material and used as intended.”

**City of Dixon**

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**Response to Recommendation 1:**

The City agrees with this recommendation. The recommendation has been implemented and was reinforced through a memorandum to all employees to keep the sally port cleared of all stored materials.

**Finding 2:**

“There is no restraining bar to handcuff prisoners during the booking process.”

**Response to Finding 2:**

The City agrees with finding 2.

**Recommendation 2:**

“Install a safety bar to restrain prisoners during the booking process.”

**Response to Recommendation 2:**

The City disagrees with this recommendation. The City of Dixon Police Department maintains a temporary holding facility for prisoners. The California Code of Regulations, Title 15 & 24, defines a temporary holding facility as a facility constructed after January 1, 1978, and used for the confinement of persons for 24 hours or less pending release, transfer to another facility, or appearance in court. The Code does not require a safety bar to restrain prisoners. The California State Board of Corrections inspects our facility yearly and has stated that the City of Dixon Police Department Facility is the model for temporary holding facilities. Currently the Dixon Police Department holding facility is equipped with three holding cells to temporarily detain subjects during the booking process. In addition, the facility has a bench with restraints to control movement of subjects while detained in the booking area. Current policy and procedure during the arrest and booking of a potentially violent subject who needs additional restraint, is to transport the subject to the Solano County jail immediately and bypass the Dixon Police Department Holding Facility.

**Investigation: Solano County Law Enforcement Compensation and Staffing Levels**

“The Solano County Sheriff’s Office expressed concern that disparity of pay levels and benefits compared to area police departments was causing high attrition rates and difficulty in recruiting law enforcement personnel.”

The City acknowledges reference to the investigation and notes that no findings or recommendations were made in reference to the City of Dixon and its police department. Hence, no further response from the City appears to be required.

**Investigation:           Public Safety Radio Interoperability**

“The Solano County Grand Jury identified a serious problem that currently exists within Solano County concerning the public safety radio and communication systems. These systems operate independently with no coordination and little interoperability among police, fire, and medical agencies.”

**Finding 1:**

“The radio communication system presently used throughout Solano County prevents effective emergency communication between local emergency providers.”

**Response to Finding 1:**

The City agrees with finding 1.

**Recommendation 1A:**

“A coordinated radio communication system be implemented within Solano County to allow interoperability between public safety agencies.”

**Recommendation 1B:**

“A permanent Joint Power Authority be formed to oversee, coordinate, and implement the emergency communication needs of Solano County. The Joint Powers Authority should consist of representatives from:”

- Solano County
- Solano Emergency Medical Services Cooperative
- The Cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, and Vallejo
- All Fire Districts within Solano County
- Solano Community College Police Department
- Solano County Office of Emergency Services

**Response to Recommendation 1A/B:**

The City agrees with these recommendations. The City of Dixon has been actively involved in the working group that was formed in 2001 to address the incompatibility of the various radio systems within Solano County. The Police and Fire Chief routinely attend the Steering Committee meetings and have had input in the development of a draft Memorandum of Understanding for the formation of the Solano County Communication Activity which, if approved by these agencies, could lead to a Joint Powers Authority in the future. The Steering Committee anticipates the completion of the MOU in the next six to eight months. A projected date for the JPA is sometime prior to 2008.

**Finding 2:**

“Consolidation of dispatch centers would be more efficient and provide a significant overall cost savings.”

**Response to Finding 2:**

The City partially agrees with the finding. The City agrees that consolidation may be more efficient and cost effective for reference; the City of Dixon has consolidated its dispatch by contracting with the Solano County Sheriffs Department. However the significance of cost and efficiency savings countywide would have to be determined as the Steering Committee and agencies develop and evaluate possible implementation plans.

**Recommendation 2:**

“A plan be formulated to implement two regional dispatch services in Solano County. This would provide a back-up in case one center becomes temporality inoperable.”

**Response to Recommendation 2:**

The City agrees with this recommendation that two dispatch centers provide redundancy. The recommendation will be considered and discussed as the Steering Committee continues working on the draft Solano Emergency Communication Activity M.O.U. and anticipates the completion of the MOU within the next six to eight months.

Very truly yours,



Mary Ann Courville  
Mayor

Cc: City Council  
Solano County Administrator  
Clerk of the Board, Solano County  
File