

RIO VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chief of Police



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SUPERIOR COURT, DEPT. 16
SCOTT KAYS

September 10, 2003

The Honorable Scott L. Kays
Presiding Judge, Solano County Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, California 94533

Re: 2002-2003 Solano County Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Kays:

Pursuant to Section 933(b) of the California Penal Code the City of Rio Vista is hereby submitting comments to the 2002/2003 Solano County Grand Jury Report.

As the newly appointed Chief of Police, I am responding to the Grand Jury Report regarding the Solano County Detention Holding Facilities inspections and the Public Safety Radio Interoperability. In reference to the Solano County detention holding facilities, although there is a recommendation to install a restraining bar, this recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted and it is not reasonable based on the following conditions.

We do not have a detention, or holding facility at the police department. By law, we are not required to maintain one. Our Police Department is designed strictly for purposes of conducting the essential functions of day-to-day operations. This includes the prebooking of non-violent prisoners only. On the average, prebooking takes 20 to 30 minutes. The prebooking process consists of completing the arrest and detention sheet, taking a photograph of the arrestee and fingerprinting them. All of these steps are accomplished on the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, (AFIS), which is located in our prebooking room. During the prebooking process, the arrestee remains handcuffed up until the time fingerprints are needed. During fingerprinting the handcuffs are then removed and once fingerprinting is completed, the handcuffs are put back on. The arrestee is then transported to the Solano County Sheriff's detention facility and turned over to the jail staff.

If an officer in any way feels that the arrestee is violent, or that they will become violent, they are directed to take them straight to the jail for processing and not to our office. Additionally, if an officer makes an arrest on a non-violent offender and there are no other officers available at the office to assist, the officers will bypass the prebooking process and go directly to the jail without prebooking.

For us to place a restraining bar in the police facility, we would need to be in compliance with Title 15 & 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Under these strict guidelines and regulations, specific criteria must be met regarding building construction and design. In addition, extra staffing would be needed to watch and maintain the safety of the restrained person. Not only would this be expensive to maintain, it would not be an efficient way to conduct business, since the end result is to immediately transport the arrestee after pre booking, to the detention facility in Fairfield.

Regarding the Public Safety Radio Interoperability report. There is a note-worthy error in the final draft of the written report. The report states, "The Rio Vista Police Department contracts with Contra Costa County for law enforcement communications services which also eliminates their ability to communicate directly with other law enforcement agencies". It should be noted that the Rio Vista Police Department does have radio capability to communicate with several law enforcement, fire agencies and local ambulance agencies within Solano County, Contra Costa County and our neighboring agency Isleton Police Department, located in Sacramento County.

Each of our two-way radios is equipped with sixteen channels. They are programmed for us to speak directly to several agencies in our area. In addition, our dispatch Center in Martinez provides us with the capability to patch our two-way radios into all law enforcement, fire and other emergency services radio frequencies within our sphere of influence in just a few minutes notice during any emergency situation. The equipment that Contra Costa County provides our agency is something that the Solano County Sheriff's Office and the Solano Emergency Communications Activity group (SECA), which consists of Solano County Law Enforcement Municipalities, Fire Departments and other Emergency Services agencies in Solano County, hope to purchase in the near future.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the members of the Solano County Grand Jury. Their tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of Solano County are very much appreciated. I look forward to working with the 2003/2004 Grand Jury.

Sincerely,



Clifford D. Barnett
Chief of Police

Cc: City Council
City Manager
File