

# **VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT AND HOLDING FACILITY**

## **2006-2007 Solano County Grand Jury**

### **Reason for Inspection**

California Penal Code §919 subsection (b) provides: "The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." Pursuant to the statute, the 2006-2007 Grand Jury inspected the Vallejo Police Department and Holding Facility.

### **Grand Jury Actions**

- Toured the Police Department and holding facility with duty officers
- Discussed the department holding process
- Inspected the holding cells

### **Background / Summary**

The Vallejo Police Department (Department) processes and Live Scan fingerprints arrestees at this facility. It is equipped to conduct breathalyzer tests. The arrestees are transported to the County Jail or Juvenile Hall in Fairfield as applicable. Arrestees are not held overnight at this facility. Individuals cannot be released on bail from this facility. However, if an arrestee has an outstanding warrant under \$5,000, they can be cited and released with a promise to appear.

The Department has four holding cells for adults. Each adult cell can hold a maximum of two prisoners. There are three cells for juveniles 14 and older. Each juvenile cell holds a maximum of one juvenile. Juveniles under age 14 are held in non-secured areas with an officer present. Half of all juveniles taken into custody are released to their parents. A Sally Port is used for arrestee transfer.

The holding cells contain security cameras and can be monitored in the lieutenant's office and in the Dispatch area. The cells contain toilets for use by the arrestees, although privacy is not available. Cautionary metal signs are posted on holding cell doors to identify combative and problem prisoners. Female and major crime arrestees are physically monitored by Department officers. Panic buttons are visible throughout the holding cell area.

At the time of our inspection, the holding cells were empty. The holding cell floors and surrounding holding area needed cleaning, painting, and repair of a hole in one wall.

Emergency evacuation signs were not visibly posted in the Department.

The Department staff count is 200 sworn and non-sworn employees. On the day of our visit, 24 sworn officers were on duty. The officers work twelve-and-one-half hour shifts.

We were informed by the duty officer that the Department has been understaffed for the past three years due to budget problems. The understaffing percentage stated at the time of our visit was 10 to 12 percent.

The duty officer stated that morale is good in the Department. Officers undergo ongoing sensitivity and harassment awareness training.

At the time of the Grand Jury visit, the Department's last fire and Correction Standards Authority inspections were conducted in 2006. An Environmental Health inspection was conducted in December 2005.

A police officer is assigned to each middle school and high school in Vallejo. The Department conducts D.A.R.E. type programs at the elementary schools.

The duty officer stated that there is a noticeable increase of serious juvenile crime in the city within the past two years.

## **Findings and Recommendations**

**Finding 1** - The Vallejo Police Department holding area needs repair and consistent maintenance.

**Recommendation 1** – Repairs should be made where needed to keep holding cells and surrounding areas clean and maintained.

**Finding 2** – Emergency evacuation signs were not visibly posted within the Vallejo Police Department.

**Recommendation 2** – Signs should be posted immediately.

**Finding 3** – Juvenile crime has increased in Vallejo.

**Recommendation 3** – Evaluate to improve the Preventive Crime Program at elementary schools and implement additional programs for middle schools.

## **Comments**

We commend the Vallejo Police Department for maintaining good morale during a long understaffing period and an increase in juvenile crime. The community and police should continue to collaborate in their efforts to minimize crime in Vallejo.

## **Affected Agencies**

- Vallejo Police Department
- Vallejo City Manager
- Vallejo City Council

## **Courtesy Copy**

Solano County Supervisors, Barbara Kondylis and John Silva