

Solano County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury
Issued April 9, 2009

Part IV

Solano County Main Jail

Solano County Board of Supervisors responses to the Grand Jury Report:

Finding #1

The Solano County Correctional Response Team (CRT) are not currently certified as Peace Officers under the provisions of California Penal Code §832. This prevents the Sheriff from fully utilizing these officers in emergency situations outside the confines of the jail. The officers currently assigned to the CRT are well-trained and highly-motivated Custodial Officers who could be used successfully in support of law enforcement during an emergency.

Sheriff/Coroner response to Finding #1

The Sheriff/Coroner agrees with the finding.

Human Resources response to Finding #1

The Human Resources Department agrees with the finding.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #1

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Departmental responses to the Grand Jury's finding.

Recommendation #1

Members of the CRT should be elevated to Correctional Peace Officer status. Completing the transition of Custodial Officers or a portion of the Custodial Officers (Supervisors, Lieutenants, CRT) to CPO status would adequately resolve this issue and avoid the labor challenges the Department will experience if Deputy Sheriffs are assigned to supervise in the jails.

Sheriff/Coroner response to Recommendation #1

The Sheriff agrees with the Solano County Grand Jury. California Penal Code Section 831.5(d) requires that at any time 20 or more custodial officers are on duty, there shall be at least one peace officer, as described in section 830.1, on duty at the same time to supervise the performance of the custodial officers. The Sheriff's Office is not currently in compliance with this section. The Sheriff intends to resolve this issue as quickly as possible and has requested the assistance of County Counsel and the Department of Human Resources as a means of implementing staffing changes necessary to gain compliance with statute. Resolution will require negotiation with organized labor and negotiation is expected to commence within the next eight to twelve weeks.

Human Resources response to Recommendation #1

The recommendation requires further analysis. The issue of transitioning all or part of the Custodial Officers, the Custodial Sergeants and the Custodial Lieutenants, is not one in which the County can take unilateral action, but is subject to negotiation between the County and the two labor organizations which represent County Custodial Officers and

their Supervisors. This is a matter which should be addressed when the MOU's for the two labor organizations expire in October of 2009. This recommendation is currently under review by the Sheriff and the County as a subject for discussion during negotiations.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #1

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Human Resource Department's response to the Grand Jury's recommendation.