



## SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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*Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff*

*Rich Williams, Undersheriff*

August 5, 2025

MaryAnne Pintar, Board Chairperson  
Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board  
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 251  
San Diego, CA 92101

**RE: CLERB POLICY RECOMMENDATION: 22-113**

Dear Chairperson Pintar,

The San Diego County Sheriff's Office welcomes and supports the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board's (CLERB) independent review of complaints alleging improper actions by members of the Sheriff's Office. The San Diego County Sheriff's Office continuously strives to respond with professionalism and concern to the citizens we serve, and the CLERB process provides invaluable input to that end.

CLERB sent the following policy recommendation, reference CLERB Case #22-113:

- 1. It is recommended that the Sheriff's Department employ personnel with a special expertise and background in both image reading and medical to conduct and read body scans at SDSD facilities.**

Thank you for your recommendation regarding this issue. Below is the response to your respective policy recommendation:

Deputy Sheriffs from the Contraband and Narcotics Interdiction Team (CNIT) operate the body scanning machines that scan incarcerated persons who are brought into custody at San Diego County Sheriff's Office (SDSO) Detention Facilities. CNIT deputies undergo extensive training to operate the body scan machines and interpret the images produced by these machines in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and within the parameters of the devices' intended use. The training provided to CNIT deputies is administered by authorized instructors and subject matter experts designated by the manufacturers of the machines.

These body scan machines are designed to be used by personnel who do not require a "special expertise and background in both image reading and medical." The body scan machines utilized by CNIT deputies are non-diagnostic in nature and are designed to be used by law enforcement

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personnel who are trained according to the manufacturer's guidelines. The devices are intended to be used as security screening and investigative tools for which medical consent is not required.

Only CNIT deputies are authorized to operate the machines as part of their regular duties. CNIT deputies are part of a specialized team responsible for preventing contraband and narcotics from being introduced into the detention facility system. They receive extensive training on smuggling patterns and techniques and perform a large number of body scans and searches of detention facilities. This combination of training and experience make them uniquely qualified to interpret the body scan images generated by the machines for security screening purposes.

If CNIT deputies identify an anomaly on a body scan image that appears to be contraband, narcotics, or is otherwise unidentifiable, the CNIT deputies will direct the arresting officer to take the incarcerated person to a hospital for medical evaluation as the anomaly or foreign body might constitute a medical emergency. Hospital staff can then examine the incarcerated person utilizing X-ray or other diagnostic tests to identify the item and medically treat the individual to minimize the risk to their health. The incarcerated person will not be allowed to resume the detention facility booking process until the medical provider determines that the individual is fit for booking and medical clearance paperwork is obtained from the hospital.

If CNIT deputies do not believe an item observed on a body scan image is narcotics which would necessitate immediate medical intervention, they can discuss their observations with medical staff. If medical staff believes there is a medical necessity for the incarcerated person to undergo an x-ray, they will place a medical order for said imaging to be completed by the contracted x-ray technician. After an x-ray is completed, the radiologist and detention facility medical staff, will make a final decision to either send the incarcerated person to the hospital for further evaluation or to continue with the booking process.

Due to these protocols already in place to enhance the safety of incarcerated persons, we respectfully decline to implement the body scan machine process recommendation at this time.

In closing, we appreciate the time and effort of the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board. Thank you for your service to the citizens of San Diego County and for the policy recommendation. Our goal is to provide the highest quality public safety service to everyone in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

KELLY A. MARTINEZ, SHERIFF



Joseph Jarjura, Lieutenant  
Division of Inspectional Services

KAM:JJ