



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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William D. Gore, Sheriff

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JUL 17 2017
SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

July 11, 2017

Honorable Jeffrey B. Barton
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County Courthouse
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Barton:

Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report: "Detention Facilities-San Diego County" Dated June 1, 2017.

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933(c), the following is my response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations 17-50 through 17-52.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Grand Jury Finding 01:

Broken windows should be repaired as soon as possible to ensure safety and security of staff and inmates

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION 17-50:

The 2016/2017 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Review the Policies and Procedures manual to evaluate and reassess whether repairs and maintenance could be completed in a timelier manner.

Response:

This recommendation has been implemented. The Maintenance Procedures section of the Detention Services Bureau's Policies and Procedures manual has been reviewed. The procedures reflect current practice and provide for expeditious completion of maintenance and repairs in the jails. Since 2002, the Sheriff's Department has had a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of General Services (DGS) that gives the Sheriff the ability to direct the activities and priorities for DGS maintenance personnel in the jails. The Sheriff's Department places the highest priority on repairs that are necessary to maintain the safety and security of jail inmates and assigned staff. Due to the specialized nature of detentions systems and equipment, some repairs are delayed because custom products have long lead times and a full complement of replacement parts cannot be stocked, or because special vendors are needed to effect the repair.

As mentioned in the Grand Jury's Report, current policy gives Watch Commanders the discretion to issue an emergency call-out. If an emergency is declared, the response is conducted in alignment with the County's Administrative Code and Board Policies to ensure compliance with California Public Contract Code.

Grand Jury Finding 02:

Outdated technology systems increase safety and security risks for staff and inmates.

Response:

The Sheriff's Department disagrees partially with this finding. The housing of inmates in a jail setting carries with it inherent risks for staff and fellow inmates. Technology can, to some degree, reduce the risk of harm that is present when housing criminal inmates. Simply because technology becomes outdated doesn't, in and of itself, increase safety and security risks for staff and inmates.

RECOMMENDATION 17-51:

The 2016/2017 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Follow through with the County's CAO Recommended Operational Plan to replace outdated technology systems at the George Bailey Detention Facility.

Response:

This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Funding for the replacement of the George Bailey Detention Facility (GBDF) integrated electronic security system (IESS) was appropriated in the Sheriff's Major Maintenance Implementation Plan toward the latter part of Fiscal Year 15-16.

The scope of work includes replacement and integration of the CCTV camera and video recording systems and all of the security controls (e.g., door and gate controls, fence alarms, intercoms, deputy/staff distress systems, inmate housing unit lighting, plumbing flush control valves, etc.).

Implementation of the \$4.15 million project was delayed in FY 16-17 while the County and Sheriff went through an extensive competitive procurement process to identify the best technology to install at the three detention facilities that currently have outdated systems – GBDF, Vista Detention Facility and the Rock Mountain Detention Facility (RMDF) (the 1,000-bed facility adjacent to GBDF). The procurement process is anticipated to be complete by the beginning of August 2017. The first facility to receive a new IESS will be RMDF as it is presently vacant and funded for the upgrade. Once the IESS installation and other renovations are complete at RMDF, inmates from GBDF can be relocated as required so that the new system at GBDF can be installed as planned, but with fewer challenges and workarounds required. The design process for GBDF will begin during CY 2018 with project completed in mid to late CY 2019.

Grand Jury Finding 03:

Nonfunctional sally ports and elevators increase safety and security risks for both staff and inmates.

Response:

The Sheriff's Department disagrees partially with this finding; the housing of inmates in a jail setting carries with it inherent risks for staff and fellow inmates. A temporarily nonfunctional sally port door and or elevator, in and of themselves, do not necessarily increase safety and security risks beyond what would otherwise be present in the housing of criminal inmates.

RECOMMENDATION 17-52:

The 2016/2017 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Expedite necessary repairs at the Vista Detention Facility

Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. The Grand Jury's findings note two repairs needed at the Vista Detention Facility (VDF), a broken sally port door and a nonfunctional staff elevator.

Broken gates and doors within detention facilities are typically repaired as soon as parts can be obtained to perform the repair. This was the case with the sally port door which was repaired and is currently fully operational. Minor door repairs are performed by maintenance staff assigned to the facility, while major repairs may require contracting with an outside vendor.

In November of 2016, the County executed a contract with the detention equipment manufacturer that provides and services most of the doors and detention hardware in San Diego County's detention system. It is anticipated that this contract will allow for future door and gate repairs to be expedited if the parts are not already available on-site.

The staff elevator that was not functioning during the Grand Jury's visit to VDF took longer than anticipated (several weeks) to repair due to a failed hydraulic valve. The County has an elevator maintenance contract in place to address maintenance and repairs on these critical conveyance systems. The failed valve and associated hydraulic system on the subject elevator were obsolete. The maintenance contractor had to special order a replacement pump and performed modifications to the piping system so that it could be installed. The elevator has been repaired however, we continue to experience malfunctions. We have identified funding and intend to replace the elevator during the FY 17-18.

If further clarification or additional discussion is needed, please feel free to contact Captain James Madsen of the Detention Support Division at (858) 974-2105.

Sincerely,



William D. Gore, Sheriff

WDG:jm

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Helen Robbins-Meyer, CAO
David Hall, Director, Clerk of the Board
Alan I. Baskin, Foreman, San Diego County Grand Jury