



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Adam Christianson, Sheriff-Coroner

ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION

June 22, 2015

The Honorable Marie Sovey Silveira, Presiding Judge
Stanislaus County Superior Court
P.O. Box 3488
Modesto, CA 95353

RECEIVED

JUL 14 2015

Civil Grand Jury

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report 15-04GJ

Dear Judge Silveira:

The Sheriff's Department is in receipt of the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury's completed "Case # 15-04GJ Stanislaus County Jail Facilities Inspection" report, dated June 17, 2015.

The Civil Grand Jury included a narrative section in the report; wherein it describes in very brief, generic terms the detention facilities, including the downtown Men's Jail (CJ) and the Public Safety Center (PSC), which includes the PSC-Main Facility and the PSC-Units 1/2.

Pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05 (f), the following is our response as it pertains to the Sheriff's Department Detention Facilities:

Findings (Specific to Facilities)

Men's Jail:

F1. The downtown jail is obsolete.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

The Men's Jail is, in fact, an outdated facility that will close with the activation of the SB1022 REACT project at the current site of the PSC, which is projected for late 2018 or early 2019. At that time, the Men's Jail will continue to serve as a Court Holding Facility, due to its contiguous location to the existing Courthouse, until a new Courthouse is constructed in downtown Modesto.

F2. The downtown jail has an allotted number of safety cells used as temporary placement for inmates who are actively violent or in immediate danger to themselves or others.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.



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Re: Response to Civil Grand Jury Report 15-04GJ

F3. The downtown jail has video-monitoring systems in place.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

F4. Although each safety cell at the downtown jail has a functional video camera, they are observational only and not recorded onto any type of media.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

Public Safety Center:

F5. The PSC has an allotted number of safety cells used as temporary placement for inmates who are actively violent or in immediate danger to themselves or others.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

F6. The PSC has video-monitoring systems in place.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

F7. Although each safety cell at the PSC has a functional video camera, they are observational only and not recorded onto any type of media.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

Recommendations (Specific to Facilities)

Men's Jail:

R1. The County should close the downtown jail once the PSC Unit 2 and the New Modesto Courthouse become fully operational.

Response: The Respondent partially agrees with this recommendation.

The Men's Jail will close as a traditional detention facility upon completion of the SB1022-Re-entry and Alternatives to Custody Training (REACT) center, which includes 288 inmate beds and is projected for completion in late 2018 or early 2019. The PSC Unit 2 was activated and "fully operational" in 2013 as a replacement facility for beds lost to a fire at the now closed Honor Farm in June 2010. Once the SB1022 project is activated, the Men's Jail will revert to a Court Holding Facility, due to its contiguous location to the existing Courthouse. When the new Courthouse is completed, the Men's Jail may close at that time.

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R2. None

R3. None

R4. Convert all existing safety cell cameras to record 24/7 onto media storage in an effort to mitigate claims of negligence or abuse at these high-risk locations.

Response: The respondent partially agrees with this recommendation.

The installation of an updated camera system to provide media storage is a sound recommendation however; significant costs may be borne by the department for a facility that is intended for closure as a traditional detention facility in less than four years. The department will research such an upgrade, particularly for a similar recommendation made for the existing PSC.

Public Safety Center:

R5. None

R6. None

R7. Convert all existing safety cell cameras to record 24/7 onto media storage in an effort to mitigate claims of negligence or abuse at these high-risk locations.

Response: The Respondent partially agrees with this recommendation.

Such an upgrade may be cost-prohibitive. The department will research costs to upgrade the system and assess the feasibility of such an upgrade. It is noteworthy that the most significant liability occurs at the time of placement into a safety cell and substantially decreases after occupancy. Additionally, the technology being installed in the new AB900 II project will have record to digital media and archive capabilities.

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Re: Response to Civil Grand Jury Report 15-04GJ

Sincerely,



ADAM CHRISTIANSON
Sheriff-Coroner
Stanislaus County

cc: Supervisor Terry Withrow, Chairman
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Judy Navarro, Foreperson
2014-2015 Civil Grand Jury

Stan Risen, Chief Executive Officer
Stanislaus County

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The Civil Grand Jury included a narrative section in the report; wherein it describes in very brief, generic terms the "Regional 911 Center."

Pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05 (f), the following is our response as it pertains to the "Regional 911 Center":

Findings:

F12. Staff comments indicated CAD software is outdated.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

F13. Regional 911 implements continuous recruitment to fill vacated and budgeted positions.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

F14. Employees of the Regional 911 Center are highly trained and dedicated to providing public service to the community of Stanislaus County.

Response: The Respondent absolutely agrees with the finding!

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Recommendations:

R12. The Regional 911 Director should take steps to update the CAD system.

Response: The Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system was upgraded in 2007-2008. Since that time the original vendor no longer exists. The team at SR911, in collaboration with its partners, are focused on upgrades to the system including meetings with the current vendor to form an action plan.

R13. None

R14. None

Sincerely,



ADAM CHRISTIANSON
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