



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Adam Christianson, Sheriff-Coroner

ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION

June 16, 2016

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

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report 16-13-GJ

Dear Judge Silveira:

The Sheriff's Department is in receipt of the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury's completed "Case # 16-13-GJ Stanislaus County Jail Facilities Inspection" report, dated June 8, 2016.

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

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:

Public Safety Center (PSC)

Findings:

F1. Closed-circuit video cameras are used only on doors which access the facility and each housing unit, and in the safety and sobering cells, since camera views into cells or showers are not permitted.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

F2. Currently, Stanislaus County custodial deputies do not wear body cameras either in the facilities or on the street. Video recording devices are used if there is an incident or if there is a planned cell extraction.

Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

F3. Twelve-hour shifts are difficult to fill when deputies are unexpectedly absent.



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Civil Grand Jury

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Response: The Respondent agrees with the finding

Recommendations:

R1. The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department should consider purchase and installation of additional CCTV cameras in the general population units where permitted at the Public Safety Center.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis to evaluate the scope and cost associated with this recommendation. The department shall follow-up and further study this issue and a proposed timeline, if it is to be implemented later. It should be noted that the existing jail expansion projects for both AB 900-Phase II and SB 1022 include such cameras in their common areas.

R2. The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department should consider equipping custodial deputies in all detention facilities with personal body cameras that are activated when inmates are in pods outside of their cells.

Response: The respondent disagrees wholly with this finding. The department has not entertained the use of body cameras for any deputies assigned either to Patrol Operations or Adult Detention facilities. The need to activate such technology only during times inmates are outside of their cells, excluding showers, or in a manner to avoid audio recording of private conversations without probable cause that a crime is being committed is both tedious and cumbersome for the assigned staff. The recommendation under R1 for additional CCTV cameras effectively negates the need for personal body cameras for custodial deputies, in that video recording of common area activities is accomplished.

R3. The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department should reconsider the current staffing model of 12-hour shifts versus 8-hour shifts. In the alternative, consider creating part-time positions (reserve custodial deputies) to augment scheduling in the event of unanticipated absences and to serve as a resource for full-time candidates for hiring.

Response: The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. The current 12-hour shift model was agreed upon through formal labor negotiations as part of an approved MOU between the Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA) and the County. The 12-hour shift model has only been in effect since February 2015, which is a relatively brief period for analysis. Though there have been scheduling challenges associated with mandated overtime coverage, the County used language in the MOU to recently re-open discussions in an effort to address these challenges. All recruitment and hiring practices conducted by the department include the availability of positions for extra-help deputies; however, the candidate pool has, for the most part, not been interested in the extra-help positions. We

do have some filled positions working in Court Services and the facilities but the numbers are very small.

Commendation:

The SCCGJ would like to commend the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department on the SCCILS program offered at the PSC. The program has been well received by both staff and inmates and has contributed to a 33% reduction in the recidivism rate for those inmates that have completed the courses. This is an excellent program that has generated positive results.

Response: The department appreciates the recognition of our programs by the SCCGJ. Our dedicated program staff has worked diligently to develop a viable array of programs that are evidence-based and focused on reducing the rate of recidivism. These programs will expand substantially with the completion of our jail expansion projects under AB 900-Phase II and in particular with the SB 1022 Re-entry and alternatives to Custody Training (REACT) Center.

Downtown Men's Jail (CJ)

Findings:

F4. Gang members' logs of custodial deputies' names and daily routines could cause intimidation of custodial deputies and their families.

Response: The respondent disagrees wholly with the finding. The department is legally mandated to ensure all legal documents, including activity logs, are properly filled out with necessary related activities, times and the legible names of the staff entering information on these documents. The documents are subject to discovery in court and validates that mandated activities occur, as required in policy, procedure and law. The deputies are trained in the full performance of their duties, including potential inherent risks associated with their duties, and accept these positions accordingly. Employees are not intimidated by the gang members or any other inmates with whom they come into contact.

Recommendations:

R4. The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department should consider removing the names of custodial deputies from their uniforms.

Response: The respondent disagrees wholly with the finding. The names of deputies on their uniforms is a common practice by uniformed law enforcement agencies throughout the country and required by the department's uniform policy. We do not operate in a

covert environment and the names are important to ensure credibility in our interactions with the community, including criminals in our custody. There is boundless case law reinforcing the obligation to identify uniformed deputies to the public they serve.

Day Reporting Center (DRC)

Findings:

None

Recommendations:

None

Commendations:

The SCCGJ commends the Stanislaus County Probation Department for their professionalism and assistance during the SCCGJ inspection process at the DRC.

Response: The department sincerely appreciates the comments from the SCCGJ. As noted, the DRC is primarily managed by our partners at the Probation Department and more appropriate for comment by them.

Sincerely,



ADAM CHRISTIANSON
Sheriff-Coroner
Stanislaus County

cc: Supervisor Dick Monteith, Chairman
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Edward Halsey, Foreperson Pro Tempore
Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury 2015-2016

Stan Risen, Chief Executive Officer
Stanislaus County