



May 9, 2005

Honorable Judge Anderson  
Santa Barbara Superior Court  
1100 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101

RE: Grand Jury Response-A Sobering Thought

Dear Judge Anderson,

The Solvang City Council considered the Grand Jury Report and offers the following comments:

**FINDING 1:**

The Sobering Center has four major benefits:

- Saves Booking Fees and other jail-related costs
- Reduces overcrowding in the County Jail
- Improves public safety by promptly returning police officers to patrol duties
- Provides a humane alternative for those temporarily under the influence of alcohol

**RECOMMENDATION 1:**

Other Santa Barbara County communities should establish similar sobering centers

**RESPONSE 1:**

While the City of Solvang agrees that this type of program will potentially provide a more humane alternative, reduce overcrowding in the jail and at least in Santa Barbara reduce staff impacts and other costs, it does not appear to be warranted in the Santa Ynez Valley. As a contract city with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, Solvang does not pay booking fees as do cities such as Santa Barbara.

The City of Solvang had 19 arrests for public intoxication in the city limits for Calendar Year 2004. Even when coupled with the City of Buellton's 24 arrests, a collaborative

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effort would be prohibitively expensive. Using the cost figures generated in the Grand Jury Report, would yield an expense of approximately \$ 4,500 per arrest while the City currently pays nothing.

Sincerely,

Ed Skytt  
Mayor

cc: Grand Jury Foreperson  
Solvang City Councilmembers  
City of Buellton  
Sheriff Jim Andersen  
Police Chief Phil Willis