

May 15, 2008

Sheriff Bill Brown
Santa Barbara County Sheriff/Coroner
4434 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93160

Dear Sheriff Brown:

The following constitutes an Activity Report in accordance with the State of California Penal Code, section 925 and section 928. In response to neighborhood complaints, the 2007-2008 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury investigated the illegal camping and parking along Del Playa Drive in the community of Isla Vista.

According to residents of the community, the problem has existed in Isla Vista for years. As many as twelve vehicles at any one time, including buses, campers, oversized vans, and automobiles have been observed parked in front of Gaffney Park, some of them for several weeks. Transients occupy many of the vehicles. Neighboring residents and local officials expressed growing concerns about health and safety issues. Efforts by several county agencies to assist the transients in a compassionate way were largely unsuccessful.

Over the course of several weeks the Grand Jury conducted on-site inspections of the area and interviewed members of the Sheriff's Isla Vista Foot Patrol and the County Department of Public Works. Recently, because of a stronger commitment by the Sheriff's Department to enforce existing laws and communicate directly with occupants

of the vehicles, there has been a noticeable reduction in the illegal camping and parking problems. Continued collaboration among the Isla Vista Foot Patrol, the Public Works Department, and the community is necessary to ensure ongoing improvement of the parking situation on Del Playa Drive.

This report does not require a response.

Respectfully,

Ted Sten
Foreman

cc: Isla Vista Foot Patrol Station