

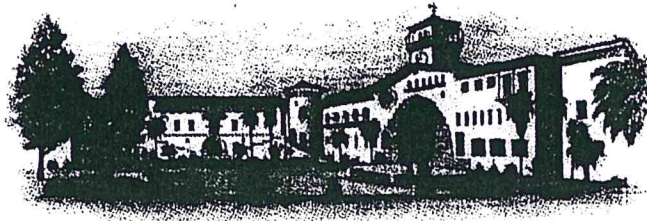
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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SEP 11 2013

BY: _____

September 4, 2013

Honorable Arthur A. Garcia
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
312-C East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Reference: Response to Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury report titled, *Law Enforcement and Detention Facilities Report* (Published June 21, 2013 on the Grand Jury Web Site)

Judge Garcia:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board) is providing response to the above- referenced Civil Grand Jury Report. The Board of Supervisors appreciates the Grand Jury's inspection and report on the County's law enforcement and detention facilities. The Board has provided significant resources to build and operate a new North County Jail while maintaining the use of many other law enforcement facilities across the county.

Over the years, the Grand Jury has provided consistent reporting on the conditions of these vital public safety facilities. They have helped to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the law enforcement and detention facilities. This report is very timely. The Board is currently examining all its infrastructure, deferred maintenance priorities and when necessary replacement. It is important to note that court facilities are the responsibility of the State of California. In fact, Santa Barbara County continues to pay the state over \$6.3 million annually for court facility maintenance following the realignment of the courts to the state in 1997. The Board has advocated with state officials for the construction of a new court building around the existing Figueroa Street Building in downtown Santa Barbara. While progress has been made on securing the funding for this project, there has not been final approval to fund this project which would include solutions to inadequate detainee, deputy and public safety environment.

As directed by the Grand Jury, all responses are provided in accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code.

Finding 2a:

That the holding cells in the basement of the Santa Barbara Court Holding Facility, Figueroa Street, do not have enough cells to house the detainees whose cases are before the courts that day.

The Board agrees with the finding.

Finding 2b:

That the detainees are handcuffed to railings in the corridors due to the lack of holding cell space.

The Board agrees with the finding.

Finding 2c:

That this overcrowding creates a dangerous environment for both deputies and detainees.

The Board agrees with the finding.

Finding 2d:

That shackled detainees have to be escorted across Figueroa Street to courtrooms by deputies in full view of the passing public. Such a procession is a potential security and safety hazard.

The Board agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 2:

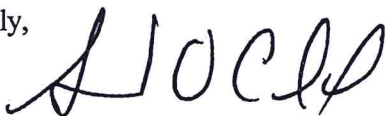
That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff support all efforts to address these potential hazardous situations.

This recommendation has been implemented.

The County of Santa Barbara does not own the Figueroa Street Court property; it belongs to the State of California. Currently, the State has a project plan to replace the Figueroa Street Santa Barbara Court Building including the Holding Facility. Santa Barbara County, including the Sheriff's Office, has worked diligently with the State of California in the design phase of this project to ensure the new facility mitigates any potential hazards.

Unfortunately, due to the economic downturn this project has been temporarily placed on hold. The State of California Judicial Council considered authorizing construction financing for the downtown Courthouse replacement project on January 18, 2013. On January 8, 2013, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Chair to sign a letter on behalf of the Board to the Chief Justice and members of the Judicial Council requesting approval and funding of the project. In March 2013, the Judicial Council voted to delay the Santa Barbara project and ten others across the state. Staff will track all future State funding decision points (likely in FY 2014-15 California Budget) and take advantage of any and all project funding advocacy opportunities for this critical project.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

CC: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Ted Sten, Foreman, 2013-14 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury