



October 7, 2020

The Honorable Michael Carrozzo
Superior Court Presiding Judge
County of Santa Barbara
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Grand Jury Report "Detention Facilities in Santa Barbara County"

Dear Judge Carrozzo:

The 2019-20 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury released a report following their inspections of the detention facilities within Santa Barbara County. Under California Penal Code Section 919 (b), the Grand Jury is required to "inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." The Grand Jury visited all detention facilities in the County, consisting of the two principal County jails, the Lompoc City jail, the various police, sheriff and Superior Court holding facilities, the two juvenile detention facilities, the County Coroner's Bureau and the Sobering Center – a total of twenty facilities. The report indicated that the Grand Jury was generally satisfied with the current management and condition of the detention facilities and directed that responses be provided on their findings and recommendations.

The following response from the City of Lompoc Police Department are in accordance with California Penal Code 933.05.

Finding 1

The facility is understaffed particularly when there are numerous detainees and only a single officer on duty.

Response: Disagree partially

Ideally it would be beneficial to increase jail staffing. This recommendation has been made on prior occasions by both the Grand Jury and the BSCC. Additional staffing has been a challenge due to budget constraints. Historically the Lompoc Jail has run with four jailers and one jail supervisor. The jail supervisor position was designated to augment staffing during the time periods that court is in session to ease the extra workload it places on the jailer. Police dispatchers are also utilized to perform searches in order to house females, and to be on standby in case a jailer needs to enter the cell in an emergency. In the rare instances when both dispatchers on duty are males, female arrestees are not accepted. The Board of State and Community Corrections/Standard and Training for Corrections (BSCC/STC) agreed that this was more than acceptable. They will require

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that dispatchers receive 8 hours of STC training per training calendar year in the future. We also have the ability to train officers to work the jail with 56 hours of STC training. During night shifts the jail has run off the “rule of 6”, meaning if a jailer at night has 6 inmates to book, with watch commander approval, they can call a jailer to assist. The jail has also utilizes officers who are jail certified to assist in jail operations.

Recommendation 1

That the Lompoc City Council direct the Police Chief to ensure that at least two officers are on duty when multiple detainees are in custody.

Response: Will not be implemented

Without requisite staffing/funding the City Council is unable to make this direction to the Chief of Police. The Police Department is currently working to fill 6 sworn vacancies to achieve its authorized strength of 47 officers.

Sincerely,

Jenelle Osborne, Mayor
City of Lompoc

- c. Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Santa Barbara County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

- c. Honorable Lompoc Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members
Jim Throop, City Manager