



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

J. PAUL PARKER
SHERIFF - CORONER

August 14, 2008

ENDORSED FILED

SEP 29 2008

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER
CLERK OF THE COURT
BY LAURA SANTANA Deputy

Re: Response to 2007-2008 Grand Jury Report.

As per 933(c) PC, the following is the Sheriff's Department response to the aforementioned report.

Overview:

On June 23, 2008, this department received a portion of the Sutter County Grand Jury report as it relates to this department and/or Law Enforcement in general. The Grand Jury findings as they relate to Sheriff's Patrol and Jail Operations are included in the report.

Gang Enforcement in our Community (Page 126 of the report)

Grand Jury Discussion and Findings - Some of the main points raised in the report were:

- Criminal street gangs are a major and increasing threat to the community with the associated shootings and stabbings increasing also.
- Juvenile participation in criminal street gangs is a major factor.
- There are 1500 to 2000 criminal street gang members or associates in this area.
- Some of the gang members are transplants from other areas.
- Prosecution of crimes related to street gangs are difficult due to the "code of silence" that gang members adhere to.
- Dedicated assets to combat criminal street gangs in Sutter County are lacking.
- The Yuba Sutter Anti Gang Enforcement team (YSAGE) is proactive and effective in combating street gangs however a more dedicated full time unit similar to Net-5 and tasked specifically to gang activities would be advantageous.

Response – The Sheriff's Department concurs with the findings of the Grand Jury.

Grand Jury Recommendations – The recommendations specific to the Sheriff's Department was that those with oversight on YSAGE convene a forum to discuss the advantages and feasibility of creating a gang enforcement unit.

The recommendation is being implemented. The Sheriff's Department is appreciative that the Grand Jury expended the time and effort to educate themselves on the issue of criminal street gangs in our area. I can report to the Grand Jury the following:

1. Front line law enforcement members of YSAGE (Sutter and Yuba Sheriff - Yuba City and Marysville Police) and other members of YSAGE (Sutter County District Attorney, Yuba County District Attorney and Sutter Probation) have had initial discussions on this issue as it relates to both feasibility and advantages/disadvantages based on the Net-5 model. The major hurdle in this concept is to get all the agencies in agreement as to their level of commitment, funding, supervision and housing. Many of the fourteen agencies involved in YSAGE have limited or no available resources to commit to an undertaking such as this. For example, the City of Marysville has recently withdrawn from participation in Net-5 due to financial difficulties. Net-5 is one of 41 other task forces in California led by and partially funded by the California Department of Justice (DOJ). Unfortunately, the charters of those task forces are specific to narcotics. However, on August 6, 2008 I, along with a handful of other law enforcement leaders met with the California Attorney General regarding violent crime and gangs in California and what could be done to combat this. One of our requests to the Attorney General was to explore the idea of expanding the charter of the narcotic task forces to include gang enforcement in their duties.
2. The Sheriff's Department will dedicate more personnel to the gang problem. It has been my intent that upon completion of our enhanced recruitment program to fill open road deputy positions, that we would start a Special Investigation Unit (SIU) that would concentrate on gang activity from existing personnel. We have seen great results in recruitment and expect to start-up the SIU by November 2008.
3. Additionally, we are taking steps to re-orient our patrol forces to specifically attack gang related crime. We have taken the first step in this direction by conducting mandatory gang training for all members of our department. One hundred percent of our department has now received this training which was completed in August 2008. This training was for all department members, from clerical staff to administration.
4. At the request of Sutter County CAO Larry Combs, District Attorney Carl Adams, Chief Probation Officer Chris Odom and myself have met and are costing out an operational/cost plan as it relates to increased enforcement and prosecution against gang activity.

5. As far as front line law enforcement, I have held several meetings with Sheriff Durfor of Yuba County and YCPD Assistant Chief Jeff Webster. We will have further discussions as to combating the gang violence problem on a cooperative Bi-county wide basis.

Sutter County Jail
(Page 126 of the report)

The Grand Jury found that:

- There was no central A/C system in the jail and that the chillers (water coolers) are inadequate. All areas, including staff areas has antiquated cooling systems.
- They concurred with the previous grand jury that space requirements in visiting, maximum security, female housing, isolation and holding cells are deficient.
- The control room was hazardous and the main control panel needed replacement.
- A construction feasibility study for jail construction was underway.

Response – The Sheriff’s Department concurs with the findings of the Grand Jury.

Grand Jury Recommendations – The recommendation concerning the jail were:

1. Priority should be given to replacing the air cooling system.
2. The control panel should be removed and replaced and the control room should be re-designed as soon as possible due to the listed hazards.
3. That 24/7 nursing be available.
4. Attention be given to the appointment of additional correctional officers.
5. It was recommended that follow-up be made on the assessment of space requirements for the jail.

As per 933.05 (a) (1) of the penal code, the Sheriff’s Department can report to the Grand Jury the following:

1. **Recommendation is being implemented.** \$150,000 allotted for the design phase of replacing the jail chiller with an HVAC system has been budgeted and approved by the Board of Supervisors for this year.
2. **Recommendation is being implemented.** \$135,000 allotted to remodel the control room and control panel has been budgeted and approved by the Board of Supervisors for this year. Additionally, the County is further investing \$183,000 to refurbish the main jail and minimum facility restrooms and shower areas which were in need of repair.
3. **The recommendation will not be implemented** for the following reason: The Sutter County Health Department has jurisdiction over the medical staff in the jail. However, the Health Department is aware that 24/7 nursing is the optimum level of care that would be advantageous to the jail and they have been increasing the level of available nursing hours over the past couple of years. The current supervisor of nurses in the jail has also been attempting to orient schedules to increase the hours per day that nurses are available and on-duty. Currently, nursing runs to 2200 hours (10 PM) and sometimes later.

4. **The recommendation has been implemented** as we are continually evaluating and giving attention to staffing needs. The further appointment of Correctional Officers is generally dependent on the number jail beds, span of control, and special programs ran in the jail. Over the past couple of years, there have been a large number of unfilled Correctional Officer positions that has exasperated the work load for the officers. I can pleasantly report that as of this date, all open positions have been filled, many with lateral transfers of veteran and experienced officers from other departments. At this point staffing is deemed sufficient.

5. **The recommendation has been implemented** and the study has been completed as recommended. Sutter County Jail has a design cap of 352 beds. At times, jail population has reached 330, but usually for only short periods of time. At this time, the jail population is at 254 and has been reaching peaks of 270. A space needs study by the firm of Lionakis Beaumont Design Group (LBDG) was recently completed. (Study Attached). In summary, the study found:
 - a. Given an analysis of trends from 2000 to 2006, the near term needs of the jail (year 2011) will require a peak population of 399 beds (47 additional beds). If all beds gained were of a hardened maximum facility type housing, this could cost up to \$6,854,087 for all associated costs and require a staffing plan increase of five positions. This scenario of projections for needed bed space was based on the years of 2000 through 2006. These projects can and will change as can be seen by the slowing of growth from 2006 to 2008. Projections can also change greatly with the number of new bookings per year, alternate sentencing systems, etc. Funding opportunities are limited in the area of local jail construction to general funds at this point. In 2006, the State of California did have some partial jail construction funds available via Assembly Bill 900. Application for funds were made by this agency and rejected. Only 10 agencies in the State were awarded funding and none to date have seen any of the funding as the funding bonds have yet to have been sold.
 - b. According to the LBDG study, long term growth trends as previously stated, would call for a jail with a rated capacity of up to 896 beds. To construct a brand new jail and support facility could cost as high as \$95,000,000 dollars. This could be mitigated by building the new jail in phases with having a capacity of 512 beds at the end of phase one, 704 beds at the end of phase two, 800 beds at the end of phase three and 896 beds at the end of phase four.

Of course, both A and B above are based on worst case scenarios of growth and inmate population and it also presumes the abandonment of the current jail (352 beds) and construction of a totally new facility. In all probability, the increase in designed capacity will be accomplished by adding on to the existing jail in implemental phases and not abandoning the current facility. This has been done in

the past by adding a 60 bed medium security dorm in 1986, a 158 bed minimum facility in 1994 and a 44 bed maximum security pod in 1998. As demand for minimum security bed space is lower than other bed spaces, we are currently studying the possibility of hardening the 158 bed minimum security facility into a split use medium security facility. As usual, this department will continue to seize on all funding opportunities regarding jail construction that present themselves.

Sheriff's Performance
(Page 145 of the report)

On April 4, 2008, Sheriff Jim Denney retired after 36 years of law enforcement service. This included 32 ½ years of loyal and dedicated service to the Sutter County Sheriff's Department, (several years as a deputy sheriff, Detective Sergeant, Narcotics officer, K-9 handler, 8 years as Undersheriff and 10 years as Sheriff-Coroner. I was appointed the Sheriff of Sutter County by the Board of Supervisors to serve the remainder of Sheriff Denney's term which will end in January 2011. My previous assignment and experience are summarized in the Grand Jury report.

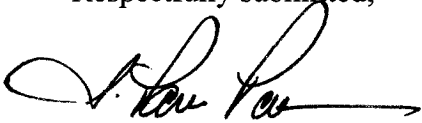
Grand Jury Discussion and Findings:

I humbly concur and thank the Grand Jury for their finding.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

The recommendations will be implemented and I look forward to meeting with and giving a progress report to next years Grand Jury as to job performance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Paul Parker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. PAUL PARKER
SHERIFF-CORONER