

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

944



FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SUBMITTAL DATE: April 18, 2000

SUBJECT: Response to Grand Jury Report: Sheriff's Department
(Indio Station)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve, with or without modifications, the attached response to the Grand Jury's recommendations regarding the Sheriff's Department; and
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to immediately forward the Board's finalized response to the Grand Jury, to the Presiding Judge, and to the County Clerk-Recorder (for mandatory filing with the State).

BACKGROUND: On February 22, the Grand Jury issued a report regarding the Sheriff's Department (Indio Station). As provided by statute, the Sheriff has responded to this report; the attached draft has been prepared to meet the Board's requirement to respond to the Grand Jury.

Section 933 of the Penal Code requires that the Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the Board, and that a response be provided to the Presiding Judge of Superior Court within 90 days after the report was issued.

Attachment

THOMAS M. DeSANTIS
Deputy County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA:

CURRENT YEAR COST \$

ANNUAL COST \$

NET COUNTY COST \$

IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: FOR FY:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

County Executive Officer Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Supervisor Tavaglione and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Buster, Tavaglione, Venable, Wilson and Mullen

Noes: None

Absent: None

Date: April 18, 2000

xc: Sheriff, Grand Jury, E.O., Presiding Judge, Co.Clk-Recorder(2)

Gerald A. Maloney

Clerk of the Board

By:

Deputy AGENDA NO.

3.5

Department Recommendation: Policy Policy
Per Executive Office: Consent Consent

SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - Sheriff's Department/Indio Station

RECOMMENDATION:

1. *That the Board of Supervisors allocate funds to add deputies and command staff, to adequately serve the mid-county {Indio} area.*

RESPONSE: CONCUR (consistent with current practice).

Funds are allocated to the Sheriff's Department to support a ratio of 1 sworn officer for each 1,000 persons living in the unincorporated area, which the Board of Supervisors has adopted as the County standard. The number of positions is adjusted in each annual budget to accommodate any changes in population over the past year. Allocation of staff to individual stations is an operational decision clearly within the purview of the Sheriff.

RECOMMENDATION:

2. *That the Board of Supervisors allocate funds to expand the existing physical structure to accommodate future growth.*

RESPONSE: DO NOT CONCUR.

While vacant land is available on the east and north sides of the building, the design of the current structure does not lend itself well to a simple expansion. An allocation of funds is premature until a needs assessment is performed and design issues are resolved. Rather than being solely a County general fund obligation, financing an expansion of this 11-year old facility would likely involve participation by a number of agencies which would share in its use.

RECOMMENDATION:

3. ***Additional security is needed to protect the evidence stored outside the building. All weapons must be removed from the cargo containers and safely stored inside the facility. The planned storage facility for the morgue should be expanded to at least 10,000 square feet to accommodate future growth. Construction of this facility should be expedited.***

RESPONSE: DO NOT CONCUR.

The Sheriff reports that the security issue has been resolved by moving weapons to the Indio Station property section. Storage capacity for morgue operations at the new facility is within specifications developed by the Sheriff. Construction is being expedited and is expected to be complete in April of 2001.

RECOMMENDATION:

4. ***The new morgue, which is still in the planning stages, will be adjoining this station. Therefore, the plans should include combining the parking areas of both facilities to provide adequate parking.***

RESPONSE: CONCUR.

The Request for Qualifications for construction of the Desert Forensic Center asks that designs for the new building provide circulation between parking areas at the existing station and the new forensic facility. An existing retention basin on the Sheriff's property may make it difficult to join the two areas, however.

RECOMMENDATION:

5. ***Install video cameras, and time lapse video recorders to cover the parking lot. Install razor wire along the tops of the fencing and gates.***

RESPONSE: DO NOT CONCUR.

Generally, zoning ordinances discourage the use of razor wire at community facilities such as Sheriff's stations, as it has an unwelcoming appearance. While concurring, the Sheriff's response to this recommendation points out that "there have been no reported incidents of criminal activity in the secured portion of the station." Documentation to support the installation of video cameras in an area which already offers an around-the-clock police presence has not been provided.