

2006-2007 GRAND JURY REPORT

Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Corrections Division

Background

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has the responsibility to maintain the County's detention (jail) facilities.

The Mission Statement of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Corrections Division states in part, "...to serve and protect the citizens of Riverside County and the State of California, by detaining the people under its supervision in a safe and secure environment, while providing for their humane care, custody and control."

There are five jail facilities within the county:

- Southwest Detention Center, Murrieta
- Blythe Jail Facility
- Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility, Banning
- Indio Jail Facility
- Robert Presley Detention Center, Riverside

The 2006-07 budget for the Riverside County Sheriff's Department Corrections Division is \$116,445,032, which includes a total of 1,222 authorized/funded positions.

All Riverside County jails contain surveillance cameras. Some are Digital Video Recorder (DVR) recording cameras and some permit the activation of a recording function when an incident makes that necessary. DVR/Video evidence protects inmates and deputies by providing a real-time recording of any incidents. Other cameras provide an image, but do not record.

Findings

Due to overcrowding and a shortage of deputies, it is important to use whatever technology is available to maintain appropriate supervision.

Inmate complaints of inappropriate treatment by correctional staff, as well as the identification of areas not covered by surveillance cameras, have demonstrated the need for additional cameras, especially DVR cameras.

The following outlines specific locations at each county correctional facility where the addition of cameras are needed to protect deputies and inmates, as well as protecting Riverside County from liability and lawsuits.

1. Southwest Detention Center:

The transportation area and C, D, E, and F Pods, do not have cameras.

2. Blythe Jail Facility:

This facility has an area known as Holding Tank A. This area is currently housing 54 inmates and approximately 2/3 of the area is not observable from the entrance.

3. Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility, Banning:

The laundry, kitchen and perimeter fences do not have coverage with cameras.

4. Indio Jail Facility:

There are areas in the jail that have cameras but are not covered by DVR. These include: the kitchen, several cell block locations and some corridors.

5. Robert Presley Detention Center, Riverside:

The kitchen, dayroom, and transportation areas do not have sufficient camera coverage.

Recommendations

Riverside County Board of Supervisors Riverside County Sheriff's Department

1. Southwest Detention Center, Murrieta:

Install additional cameras for transportation and C, D, E, and F Pods. Estimated costs: C Pod \$34,000, D, E, and F, Pods of \$35,000 each.

2. Blythe Jail Facility:

Install three cameras that cover the areas in Tank A. Estimated Cost: \$105,000.

3. Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility, Banning:

Install cameras in the laundry room to provide coverage of the inmates and deputies.

Cameras should be installed during expansion of the kitchen. During design of the new 600-bed facility, plans should include wiring and installation of DVR system. Estimated costs \$105,000.

4. Indio Jail Facility:

Install DVR capability in the following locations:

- Kitchen – Camera 049
- North Jail – Cameras 35 and 052
- Tanks 6/7 – Camera 61
- Corridor South Jail – Camera 046
- Visiting to intake – Camera 038

Estimated cost \$70,000.

5. Robert Presley Detention Center, Riverside:

Install DVR cameras in the following areas:

- Kitchen
- Dayrooms
- Transportation areas

Estimated cost \$306,000.

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