



City of Hemet

FILE

From the Office of the City Manager
Wally Hill

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September 4, 2014

Honorable Mark A. Cope
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Riverside
4050 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Riverside County Grand Jury
Post Office Box 829
Riverside, CA 92502

Riverside County Clerk-Recorder
2720 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507

RE: City of Hemet Response to 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report: Impact of AB109 upon Riverside County Municipal Police Agencies

The City of Hemet appreciates the Grand Jury's concern, inquiry and report on the impact of AB109 upon Riverside County Municipal Police Agencies. The City has reviewed each of the findings and recommendations as presented in the report and offers the following response as required by California Penal Code Section 933 et seq.

FINDING 1: POST-RELEASE ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE TEAM (PACT) PROGRAM

City of Hemet position concerning the finding: Respondent disagrees partially with the finding.

"Initially when the PACT program began, only cities with their own municipal police departments could participate in PACT activities. With the additional funding from BSCC for the PACT program, the participation of cities who contract for their police services became eligible to participate in the PACT program (Grand Jury Report)."

When the PACT program was initially proposed to the CCPEC for funding consideration, all law enforcement agencies in the County, including the Sheriff's Department and respective contract cities, were invited to participate. Each agency elected to participate or not based on their individual needs, staffing and financial situation. Initially, the Sheriff's Department elected not to participate.

Recommendation as to Finding #1: The Community Corrections Partnership Executive Committee (CCPEC) should invite the City of Perris and Lake Elsinore to join the Post-Release Accountability and Compliance Team (PACT) program.

City of Hemet response concerning the recommendation: (Implemented) Recently, the Sheriff's Department has joined the East and West PACT teams and funding remains available for the Sheriff's Department. On August 21, 2014, at the regular meeting of the Association of Riverside County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff (ARCCOPS), the issue was again discussed and the Sheriff's Department was invited to join the Central PACT team. The cities of Perris and Lake Elsinore are contracted with the Sheriff's Department and fall within the area of Central PACT.

FINDING 2: DATA SHARING AND SUPERVISED OFFENDER TRACKING

City of Hemet position concerning the finding: Respondent disagrees partially with the finding.

"Investigation revealed as of the date of this report, there is no countywide updated and centralized data base for tracking PRCS, MS, and re-arrested probationers (Grand Jury Report)."

While the challenge of sharing information was initially a hurdle for the for the Probation Department to implement due to varying legal opinions, the Probation Department as well as the California Department of Justice have responded to local law enforcement's need for information and have continued to actively seek remedies to ensure that law enforcement officers on the street access to the most updated and reliable information available.

Recommendation as to Finding #2: Both the Sheriff's Department and the Probation Department shall communicate information on released prisoners placed on Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) or Mandatory Supervision (MS) from county jails to all law enforcement agencies at the time of the prisoners' release including local police agencies and adjoining counties. An updated summary of prisoner release information shall continue to be communicated to law enforcement agencies weekly and monthly. Probation shall finalize its interface system with the state-wide program for tracking released prisoners on PRCS and MS.

City of Hemet response concerning the recommendation: The City will continue to work with the Sheriff, Probation, and the Department of Justice to ensure that data and information needed by officers is available and accessible.

FINDING 3: PROBATION OFFICERS AT JAILS

“Due to overcrowding in the county jails, prisoners are released from jails at varying times of the day. The deputy sheriffs at the jails are responsible for reviewing the terms and conditions of release which were laid down at the time of a prisoner's sentencing. This meeting to review the terms of release with the prisoner is done at the jail. No discussion of a "case plan" while on probation is done at this time. A case plan may include follow-up meetings, evaluations needed for re-integration, residency reports and other requirements dictated by the Probation officer. The prisoner is released based on the last known address in the prisoner's file. The information for prisoners released on PRCS is communicated to Probation after the prisoner is released. ...

“There is a disconnect between the time the prisoner is released from jail and when the prisoner makes contact with Probation, sometimes more than two days. Investigation revealed that many times the prisoner's residence and contact information changed after time was served in jail. Once Probation has the released prisoner's (now probationer's) information, it is up to the probationer to contact Probation. If the probationer has not reported into Probation, then a warrant is issued for the probationer for non-compliance of his probation for failing to report in. The warrants for non-compliant probationers are sent from Probation to the respective PACT units for follow-up, adding workload to the team (Grand Jury Report).”

City of Hemet position concerning the finding: Respondent has determined that this finding and recommendation fall entirely within the control and jurisdiction of the county of Riverside and therefore is not in able to state a position.

Recommendation as to Finding #3: An officer of the Probation Department shall meet with prisoners prior to release and confirm the case plan, residential address and review terms of release at the time of sentencing, and confirm first appointment with Probation officers.

City of Hemet response concerning the recommendation: Respondent has determined that this finding and recommendation fall entirely within the control and jurisdiction of the county of Riverside and therefore is not in able to state a position.

FINDING 4: PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION (PSEC)

City of Hemet position concerning the finding: Respondent agrees with the finding.

Recommendation as to Finding #4: Municipal police agencies in Riverside County without direct Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) capability shall develop and implement a consistent communication system to ensure reliable and seamless coverage between the cities, the Sheriff's Department, and the safety agencies of other counties.

City of Hemet response concerning the recommendation: The City supports a consistent communication system to ensure reliable and seamless coverage and is actively working with these allied agencies to achieve this goal. The city has funded and is currently transitioning its entire fleet of radios to a platform compatible with PSEC and all other public safety agencies in the county.

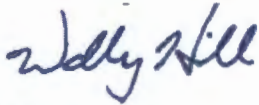
FINDING 5: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

City of Hemet position concerning the finding: Respondent has determined that this finding and recommendation fall entirely within the control and jurisdiction of the county of Riverside and therefore is not in able to state a position.

Recommendation as to Finding #5: The Probation Department shall oversee the development of half-way houses to provide services to the released supervised inmates to assist them with re-entry into communities.

City of Hemet response concerning the recommendation: Respondent has determined that this finding and recommendation fall entirely within the control and jurisdiction of the county of Riverside and therefore is not in able to state a position.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wally Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Wally Hill
City Manager