



Cathedral City

Office of the City Manager

September 3, 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: 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report: Impact of AB109 upon Riverside County Municipal Police Agencies

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Cathedral City extends our appreciation to the Grand Jury for their investigation relating to the impact of AB109 upon Riverside County Municipal Police Agencies. We would like to thank those members who participated in discussions with Cathedral City staff regarding such an important issue.

The City has reviewed each of the findings and recommendations as presented in the report, and Cathedral City Police Department staff has consulted with Riverside County municipal and county law enforcement partners in the development of Cathedral City's responses.

Cathedral City offers the following positions as they specifically relate to each of the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations:

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

City of Cathedral City position concerning the finding: Respondent agrees in part with the finding.

PACT units have allowed Probation more time and resources to focus on case management and compliance checks on individuals on probation and parole (Grand Jury Report).

The PACT program has proven to be a very successful partnership between local law enforcement and the Probation Department in addressing the impacts of realignment.

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 were invited to participate. Each agency elected to participate or not based on the needs and financial position of their agency at that time.

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 Cathedral City position concerning the recommendation: Every law enforcement agency has been asked to participate in the PACT program and elected to participate or not participate based on the needs or financial position of their agency.

FINDING 2: DATA SHARING AND SUPERVISED OFFENDER TRACKING

City of Cathedral City position concerning the finding: Respondent agrees in part 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 Cathedral City position 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 Cathedral City position concerning the finding: Respondent agrees in part with the finding.

While there continues to be a challenge with the release of offenders—these offenders are released from both State and County facilities making the tracking and sharing of information as to where the offender will reside difficult. Because offenders are allowed to claim “transient” status, tracking has become even more difficult for both Probation and local law enforcement to track residency.

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 Cathedral City position concerning the recommendation: The City supports the Probation Department's efforts to fund the Transition and Reentry Unit (TRU).

FINDING 4: PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION (PSEC)

The Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) system, recently launched by the Sheriff, has expanded prior coverage and built radio links to other agencies that support the public and safety agencies. This system is not used by all cities in Riverside County...In some areas; the improved communication system of PSEC enabled faster apprehension and arrest of these offenders. Many local law enforcement agencies within the County are still using radios with different frequencies and different bands than their neighboring communities. The resultant lack of contact with neighboring law enforcement agencies and counties has resulted in numerous unsuccessful operations (Grand Jury Report).

City of Cathedral City position concerning the finding: Respondent agrees in part with the finding.

While communication amongst first responders has always been a concern of all public safety entities, it is not specific to AB109 or its impact on the County.

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 Cathedral City position 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.

FINDING 5: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

In the past two years, approximately 4,500 prisoners have been released from the County jails on some type of supervised release. Investigation revealed that when an inmate had problems with housing, physical or mental issues, it resulted in difficulty in re-entering a community. There is a lack of transitional housing and services for assisting these types of released prisoners who are in need of daily assistance transitioning back into the community.

The California Department of Parole has a system of half-way houses for released paroled offenders who had nowhere to go or needed time to adjust to being in a community after release. The County has nothing comparable; especially for the MS probationers...No emergency housing is available in the desert communities. Emergency housing is available for up to 30 days, but due to a lack of long term transitional housing, the emergency stays have been extended multiple times for several offenders.

City of Cathedral City position concerning the finding: Respondent agrees in part with the finding.

The City of Cathedral City agrees that transitional housing is necessary and is aware that the Probation Department and the Department of Mental Health oversee transitional housing needs within the county.

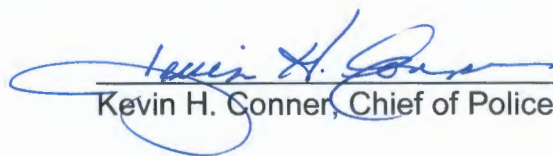
Recommendation as to Finding #5: The Probation Department shall oversee the development of half-way houses to provide services to the released supervised inmates to assist them with re-entry into communities.

City of Cathedral City position concerning the recommendation: No Position

Respectfully,



Charles McClendon, City Manager



Kevin H. Conner, Chief of Police