

October 3, 2001

Honorable Rodney S. Melville
Presiding Judge, Santa Barbara Superior Court
312-C East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Subject: Response to 2000-2001 Grand Jury Report on Detention
Facilities and Sheriff's Department Issues

Dear Judge Melville:

At the Santa Barbara City Council meeting of August 21, 2001, Council voted to receive the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury 2000-2001 Report on Detention Facilities and Sheriff's Department Issues, pursuant to Penal Code §933.

The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations regarding Detention Facilities and Sheriff's Department issues, as they pertain to the Santa Barbara City Police Station (Findings 27a through 27d and Recommendation 27), and the City's response to such Findings and Recommendations, are as follows:

Re: City of Santa Barbara Police Station

FINDING 27a: The Santa Barbara Police Department is well run and well respected.

The City agrees with Finding 27a.

FINDING 27b: The Police Department is currently undergoing some staffing changes due to a new police chief.

The City agrees with Finding 27b.

FINDING 27c: New policies will direct the Department to a collaborative Community Advisory Committee approach with a dedicated command structure, intended to be more personal and people-oriented.

The City agrees with Finding 27c.

FINDING 27d: The Police Station is overcrowded.

The City agrees with Finding 27d.

RECOMMENDATION 27: Continue expanding to nearby structures,
as necessary, until the public endorses a new station.

The City agrees with Recommendation 27.

Recommendation 27 has been implemented. The City has leased an office building on property that connects to the rear of the Police Building; Police personnel now occupy approximately 5,700 square of that building. This temporarily alleviates the over crowding in the main building. The Department will continue to study the potential for construction of a new Police Building.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Grand Jury for their conscientious effort and very thoughtful analysis regarding the City's Police Department and the Police station.

Sincerely,

Peter K. Wilson
Acting City Administrator

PKW/rh

Enclosure: 3.5" disk

cc: William L. Cathey, Grand Jury Foreperson
Harriet Miller, Mayor
Joan Kent, Assistant City Administrator
Camerino Sanchez, Police Chief