

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY 2001-2002 GRAND JURY REPORT TITLED "ISLA VISTA – WHO'S IN CHARGE"

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding #6: The absence of sidewalks has allowed parking in the front yards of residential facilities to be a common occurrence.

Response to Finding:

We agree with this finding.

Recommendation #15: The Sheriff's Foot Patrol should request that the UCSB "Extended Jurisdiction" policy include second offense alcohol violations by both individual and student housing units.

Response to Recommendation:

The Sheriff's Department will not be implementing this recommendation at this time. The Sheriff's Department worked very closely with UCSB officials during the drafting and implementation of their Extended Jurisdiction and Parental Notification policies. We believe implementing this recommendation would cause conflict between these policies.

Under the new Parental Notification Program, parents of UCSB students will be notified when their son or daughter is arrested or issued a citation for an alcohol or drug offense in Isla Vista. The purpose is to involve the parents as partners in recognizing and mitigating potential substance abuse problems and dangerous behaviors, not to increase sanctions for these offenses. The potential of parental notification has been an effective deterrent to this behavior at other Universities.

The Extended Jurisdiction policy, however, is intended to utilize the University's internal Conduct system to ensure dangerous criminal behavior does not recur, and to remove a UCSB Student from the University if necessary. Records of Conduct system proceedings are by law confidential and UCSB officials are prohibited from notifying the student's parents of the activity. Thus, the benefit of parental involvement as both a deterrent and as partners in helping address substance abuse is lost when a case enters the Conduct system.

Action within the Conduct System has the potential to seriously affect a student's academic status, and the University generally reserves this course of action for

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more serious offenses. UCSB must strike a reasonable balance between the benefits of a University education, the legal rights of students to this education, and the controls and sanctions it imposes on students for their behavior.

The Sheriff's Department believes that the combination of the Extended Jurisdiction system for more serious crimes, coupled with the new Parental Notification Program for alcohol and drug violations in Isla Vista, will be effective in deterring dangerous and criminal behavior, and in reducing alcohol-related problems, crimes, and accidents. We believe implementing this Grand Jury recommendation at this time would reduce the effectiveness of these programs.