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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 28, 2005

The Honorable Clifford R. Anderson, III
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
P.O. Box 21107
Santa Barbara, California 93121-1107

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Charles Foley, Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Board of Supervisors' Response to the 2004-05 Grand Jury Report on: "A Sobering Thought"

Dear Judge Anderson:

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2005, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following responses as their responses to the 2004-05 Grand Jury's report "A Sobering Thought". The Board of Supervisors thanks the Grand Jury for its efforts on this important matter.

FINDING 1: *The Sobering Center has four major benefits:*

- *Saves Booking Fees and other jail-related costs*
- *Reduces overcrowding in the County jail*
- *Improves public safety by promptly returning police officers to patrol duties*
- *Provides a humane alternative for those temporarily under the influence of alcohol.*

Response: Although a sobering center may save booking fees for some jurisdictions, the Board agrees with the Sheriff Department's response; that is, it disagrees with the finding, with respect to the communities for which the Sheriff provides law enforcement services.

There is no cost savings for the County in the reduction of booking fees, as the Sheriff's Department does not pay booking fees for those arrested by Sheriff's deputies in unincorporated areas of the County or for those arrested in cities where the Sheriff provides services by contract.

The Board agrees that the jail is overcrowded; however, inmates that would normally qualify for a sobering center would not add to the overcrowding conditions, as these inmates remain in a holding cell until sober and thereafter are released on a "promise to appear" or without charges, per 849(b) of the Penal Code.

RECOMMENDATION 1: *Other Santa Barbara County communities should establish similar sobering centers.*

Response: The Board agrees with the Sheriff Department's response; that is, the recommendation will not be implemented within the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County, or within the cities wherein there exists a contract for law enforcement services with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department.

The question on whether other jurisdictions should establish sobering centers is a matter for consideration by those jurisdictions.

Sincerely,



Susan Rose
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Charles Foley, Grand Jury Foreperson 2004-05
Jim Anderson, Sheriff