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August 6, 2019

**BILL BROWN**  
Sheriff - Coroner  
**SOL LINVER**  
Undersheriff

The Honorable Michael J. Carrozzo  
Superior Court of Santa Barbara County  
Santa Barbara County Courthouse  
1100 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

RE: Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report Entitled  
"Contraband in the Main Jail"

Dear Presiding Judge Carrozzo:

Enclosed please find the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response to the 2018-2019 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report entitled "Contraband in the Main Jail".

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

**BILL BROWN**  
Sheriff - Coroner

Enclosure

Santa Barbara County Office of the Sheriff  
Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury 2018-2019 Report  
**Contraband in the Main Jail**

**Finding 1:** *"Pat-down searches of arrestees have proven to be inadequate to intercept all of the contraband introduced into the Jail."*

The Sheriff agrees with the finding.

**Recommendation 1:** *"That the Sheriff require all custody officers be trained specifically to pat-down arrestees more effectively at intake."*

This recommendation will be implemented. The Sheriff's Training Bureau has been instructed to develop and implement a lesson plan covering pat-searches at the next Quarterly Training for the Custody Operations Branch. The training will be delivered to all Branch members between 07/01/2019 and 09/30/2019. It should be noted, however, that not all contraband smuggled into the Jail is discoverable via pat-search.

**Finding 2:** *"Currently there are no full-body x-ray scanners in use at the Main Jail to detect contraband secreted on the person of arrestees, inmates or visitors, and only one is planned to be purchased for use at the Northern Branch Jail to be opened later this year."*

The Sheriff agrees with the finding. One full-body x-ray scanner is currently funded for installation at the Northern Branch Jail. Sheriff's Office members have been actively pursuing funding an additional unit for the Main Jail, but, due to budget restraints, the funding for this item has not been available.

**Recommendation 3:** *"That the Sheriff purchase one or more full body x-ray scanners to be used at the Main Jail, and one more full body x-ray scanner to be used at the Northern Branch Jail, in order to scan all arrestees and visitors."*

This recommendation will not be implemented. The full body x-ray scanners that are mentioned by the Grand Jury are not intended to screen every inmate and visitor that enters the facility. There are legal issues that preclude such a blanket policy. Furthermore, the fiscal impact of purchasing additional full body x-ray scanners would be prohibitive. Each unit costs between \$150K and \$300K depending on which manufacturer is selected. There are additional costs for installation, retrofitting existing space, training, and on-going maintenance and inspection costs. Thus, the recommendation is not warranted *and* is not reasonable, at this time.

Nevertheless, the Sheriff is committed to reducing the amount of contraband in the Main Jail and will continue to explore funding opportunities that would allow for the purchase of a full body x-ray scanner at the Main Jail.

**Finding 3:** *"There is only one drug-sniffing dog and he is used only periodically at the Main Jail to detect contraband."*

The Sheriff agrees with the finding.

**Recommendation 3:** *"That the Sheriff purchase one more specially trained drug sniffing dog for posting at the Main jail and one to be assigned to the Northern Branch Jail to assist in locating contraband at intake or elsewhere within these facilities."*

This recommendation will not be implemented. The Sheriff does not agree that the Main Jail requires an additional correctional K9. On average, the initial cost of purchasing, training, and on-boarding a correctional K9 such as Krypto costs approximately \$25K. This does not include the travel, accommodations, and salary of the handler for the six to eight weeks of out of town training. There are also vehicle purchasing and retrofitting, kennel and dog run installation at the handler's residence, veterinary costs, food, and other essentials that are ongoing expenses must also be picked up by the agency. That puts the fiscal impact of each correctional K9 at approximately \$175K just in the first year.

In addition, K9 Units are somewhat limited in the scope of the duties they can perform when not actively searching for contraband. Unlike their patrol counterparts, correctional K9s do not assimilate well in most of the posts that are needed to operate a correctional facility. This, in essence, eliminates them from the pool of available staff and places them in a limited duty capacity. They must be assigned a post that can be relieved or shutdown when they are needed for searches. They also require frequent breaks in order to exercise and relieve the dog, and they require frequent formalized in-service training and other time off to accommodate the care and handling of the dog. The decision to assign additional correctional K9 Units must be weighed against these operational impacts. Thus, the recommendation for two additional correctional K9's is not warranted *and* is not reasonable.

Nevertheless, the Sheriff is committed to reducing the amount of contraband in both jail facilities and has already requested that the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Benevolent Posse purchase one additional correctional K9 and donate it to the Sheriff's office for assignment to the Northern Branch Jail.