



CITY OF  
**LOMPOC**

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Arthur Garcia  
Santa Maria Juvenile Court  
4263 California Boulevard  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Sandi Miller, Foreman  
Santa Barbara County Grand Jury  
1100 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Response to "Detention Facilities Report"

Dear Judge Garcia and Ms. Miller,

Enclosed please find the City of Lompoc response to the "Detention Facilities Report," which had been received by my office on January 12, 2015. Specifically, the City of Lompoc had been asked to provide responses to Findings 3 and 4 and Recommendations 3 and 4, and the City's responses are provided therein.

Thank you for your interest in helping the City improve its jail processes, and best regards in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Patrick Wiemiller  
City Administrator

City of Lompoc  
Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury  
Detention Facilities Report

Grand Jury Report Received: January 12, 2015  
City Response Issued: March 16, 2015

In the fall of 2014, members of the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury (Jury) inspected the Lompoc Police Department Jail (Jail) identified in their report, a Type 1 maximum 96 hour holding facility. City staff on site at the time of the visit were interviewed and the facility was inspected by members of the Jury. The Jury stated they reviewed previous detention facility reports prior to inspections in order to confirm that issues raised by previous Juries were addressed.

After the visit, the Jury compiled their yearly "Detention Facilities Report," with the results of their observations titled "Findings and Recommendations." The Jury identified two items in the Jail they believed worthy of mention in their report along with their recommendations. These two items are identified as "Findings" and "Recommendations" 3 and 4, and the report requested that the City of Lompoc respond to those findings and recommendations. The City of Lompoc responses are included herewith.

**Finding 3**

Inmates of the City of Lompoc Jail are left unattended when the jailor escorts other inmates across the parking lot to the court holding facility.

**City Response to Finding 3**

The City agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation 3**

That a sheriff's custody officer from the court holding facility escort the inmates from the City of Lompoc Jail to the court holding facility.

**City Response to Recommendation 3**

The City of Lompoc offers a different solution that it has implemented.

The responsibility for care and transportation of any inmate in the custody of the Jail is that of the City, not the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department takes over responsibility for the inmate once the inmate and jailer enter the Court holding facility, a Custody Deputy completes a search of the inmate, takes the inmate's property, and acknowledges to the jailer that they take over responsibility for the inmate. The Sheriff's Department as well as the City have only limited resources and at this time the Sheriff's Department does not have the staff to support completing escorts of inmates that are the responsibility of the City.

The current standard operating procedure for the escort of inmates to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department Lompoc Court holding facilities are that inmates are left unattended for short periods of time in our jail. To minimize the inability for an employee to be in the jail to hear any sound that may warrant investigation we will implement the following change. During this period the jailer is away, the jailer will inform the dispatch center or Watch Commander that they are leaving the jail for an escort. The dispatcher will turn on the intercoms (listening capability) located in the jail and will have the ability to listen for any sound that may warrant investigation. If something is heard, the dispatcher, Watch Commander, or other employee will enter the jail to investigate. The dispatcher also has the ability to view the hallways in the jail but not inside individual cells, on a large TV screen located between the dispatch consoles. At no time will a jailer be away from the jail any longer than is necessary. The jailer will return to the jail as rapidly as possible to stay within our policy requiring checks every 60 minutes, or 30 minutes for intoxicated inmates, see Jail Manual Section "3-2201.2 Jail Security Checks" and "3-2201.3. Security and Uses of the Jail Facility" below.

The above scenario of having only one jailer working only occurs when the Lompoc Court is in session, and there is only one employee on duty, typically one day every two weeks. The second jailer/supervisor is off every other Monday, thus leaving only one jailer on duty for that Monday. The solution that will be implemented by the City of Lompoc is a practical and cost-effective solution.

#### **Finding 4**

Some City of Lompoc jailers carry jail facility keys in an unsecured manner on their person.

#### **City Response to Finding 4**

The City agrees with this finding, as it found a jailer using a non-conforming key holder.

#### **Recommendation 4**

That the City of Lompoc jailers carry the jail facility keys in a secure manner.

#### **City Response to Recommendation 4**

Implemented. All jailers are issued key holders with spring loaded metal clips that are looped at the top for their duty belt to go through. The spring loaded metal clip holds the jail key ring while the loop holds the jail key holder to the duty belt. This jail key holder is larger than normally used in the law enforcement community due to the size of the jail door keys which are approximately four times larger and heavier than an ordinary house key. After reviewing the Jury's report, our jail supervisor conducted an inspection of each jailer's duty belt. One jailer was not using the issued jail key holder and was using a handgun magazine dual pouch that was attached to the duty belt. This allowed the jailer to insert the jail keys from the top providing easier access to the keys and more comfort, but not within our established guidelines. This pouch did not allow the jail keys to be clipped to the jailer. This has been corrected.

The Lompoc City Jail is in compliance with the California Board of State and Community Corrections policies and California Code of Regulations Title 15 which govern the operation of jails in California. The above observations from the Jury were not violations of the Code, however, the City and its Police Department take the recommendations of the Jury seriously and modifications have been implemented.

### **Lompoc Police Department Jail Manual**

**3-2201.2. Jail Security Checks.** When prisoners are in confinement, the jailer or dispatcher shall make visual checks of the jail area, no less than once every hour, including housing and receiving areas, unless more frequent checks are necessary. Intoxicated prisoners should be visually checked at least once every half-hour. The female jailer (from here on referred to as Jailer), or a female Police employee should also make hourly checks of the jail whenever female inmates are present. The jailers should activate the electronic logging device located at the west end of each corridor and/or make an entry following each check in the Jail Log reflecting the time the check is made and any special circumstances or comments.

**3-2201.3. Security and Uses of the Jail Facility.**

C.2. Video Monitoring. Personnel assigned to the Dispatch Center conduct video surveillance of the jail housing units, receiving area and drive up. Personnel working in the Dispatch Center should observe the jail video surveillance equipment regularly in order to monitor the jail for the appearance of any unusual circumstances.

(a) Personnel monitoring the video surveillance equipment should summon assistance in any instances that appear to be unusual and indicate a possible dangerous situation for inmates or jail staff.

3. Uses and Security of Jail Keys. Responsibility for the proper safeguarding and use of jail keys is that of the Jailer.

(a) The Jailer should maintain custody of the jail keys and keep them in his/her personal possession while working inside the jail.

(b) A set of jail access keys, to be available for ready access in the event of an emergency, should be maintained in the Dispatch Center or in the possession of a second Jailer on duty. It is the responsibility of the Jailer, Jail Supervisor and Watch Commander to ensure that these keys are not used for any other purpose. A third set is maintained in the key cupboard located in the Watch Commanders office.