



Office of the Sheriff

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

BILL BROWN

Sheriff - Coroner

HEADQUARTERS

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July 21, 2014

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Carpinteria

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Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 684-4561

Isla Vista

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Lompoc

3500 Harris Grade Road
Lompoc, CA 93436
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70 Newsome Street
New Cuyama, CA 93254
Phone (661) 766-2310

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812-A W. Foster Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
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1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463
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Sheriff - Coroner Office

66 S. San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4145

Main Jail

4436 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4260

COURT SERVICES CIVIL OFFICES

Santa Barbara

1105 Santa Barbara Street
P.O. Box 690
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Santa Maria

312 E. Cook Street, "O"
P.O. Box 5049
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Phone (805) 346-7430

Mr. Ted Sten, Foreman
2013-2014 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Grand Jury Chambers
Santa Barbara County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

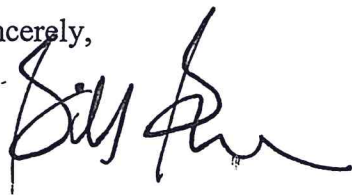
RE: Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report entitled "*Santa Barbara County Take-Home Vehicle Use – Clarify and Comply*"

Dear Mr. Sten:

Enclosed please find the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office response to the 2013-2014 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report entitled "*Santa Barbara County Take-Home Vehicle Use – Clarify and Comply.*"

Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 681-4290.

Sincerely,



BILL BROWN
Sheriff – Coroner

Enclosure

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RESPONSE TO THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
GRAND JURY 2013-2014 REPORT
"SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TAKE-HOME VEHICLE USE –
CLARIFY AND COMPLY"

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 3: *The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office does not comply with the county policy requiring the annual reporting of take-home vehicle information.*

Response to Finding 3: The Sheriff's Office partially disagrees with this finding.

The responsibility of the sheriff is to insure the safety of both the public and his deputies. On occasion that responsibility requires that the Sheriff's Office modify or deviate from practices that may be in common use elsewhere, if adherence to those practices could jeopardize the safety of law enforcement officers and the public. For example, the State recognizes that there is a compelling need to maintain confidentiality on the home addresses of peace officers. An exception to State law permits law enforcement officers to list their work rather than their home addresses on their driver's licenses and vehicle registrations.

In this case it is our position that the Sheriff's Office is in substantial compliance with County policy regarding take-home vehicles. To fully comply by completing forms on each vehicle would create a potential danger to the public's safety by disclosing the name of the driver, make, model, license number and storage address of take-home vehicles assigned to deputy sheriffs, some of whom work in an undercover capacity.

Recommendation 3: *That the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office comply with the county policy requiring the annual reporting of take-home vehicles by providing the prescribed Information Form for each vehicle.*

Response to Recommendation 3: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted and it is unreasonable.

As stated in our response to Finding 3 above, it is the Sheriff's Office position that we are in substantial compliance with the County policy on Take-Home Vehicles. The requirement to complete a form for each vehicle, including the specific make, model, license number and address of storage, is unreasonable for a law enforcement agency. Disclosing such information would create a potential danger to both deputies and the public by releasing confidential information that could jeopardize the safety of law enforcement officers and the efficiency of their operations.

However, the Sheriff's Office has met with the CEO's Office and the Director of General Services on this topic. The current County policy is being revised to address the ambiguity in the

policy as mentioned in the Grand Jury Report. A new policy should be developed that would include a form to be completed by the Sheriff's Office. This would contain basic information on each take-home vehicle, but would maintain the confidentiality needed to protect the identity and residence of deputy sheriffs, and descriptive information on the vehicles they are assigned. Once the new policy is developed and the new forms are completed, the Sheriff's Office will review them and consider changes to our current practice.