



**NAPA COUNTY OFFICE OF SHERIFF-CORONER**

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Douglas E. Koford  
Sheriff - Coroner

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The Honorable Francisca P. Tisher  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Napa  
825 Brown Street  
Napa, CA 94559

**FILED**

AUG 30 2007

Clerk of the Napa Superior Court  
By: C. Br.  
Deputy

Dear Judge Tisher:

In conformance with Penal Code Section 933.05, and amendments to Penal Code Section 933, I am responding to the 2006-2007 Napa County Grand Jury Final Report.

Response was requested from the Napa County Sheriff's Office to Findings and Recommendations #1, #2, and #3, of the section covering the "Napa County Jail", in the 2006-2007 Napa County Grand Jury Report.

**Finding #1**

The Napa County Jail is adequately run and serving the county in its designated role.

**Response #1**

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation #1**

Continue the day-to-day operation of the Napa County Jail, recognizing Recommendations 2 and 3.

Received

AUG 21 2007

Napa Superior Court

### **Response #1**

The recommendation has been implemented and the Napa County Jail currently serves the county in its designated role.

### **Finding #2**

A portion of the inmate WTF is being used to supplement staffing which will not impart long term benefits to the inmates.

### **Response #2**

While we acknowledge this finding as a valid observation, it should have been directed to the Auditor-Controller's office along with the Department of Corrections, not the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office does not possess any knowledgeable information in the efficiency, benefit, or management of the Inmate Fund account.

### **Recommendation #2**

This Grand Jury recommends a positive approach by using the IWTF to develop coping strategies for released inmates. The NCDC is encouraged to continue to use the IWTF on inmate welfare, with emphasis on rehabilitation, training programs, and community support to break the cycle of re-entry into the justice system. Additionally, cross referencing is recommended with existing agencies, (e.g. the Hope Center, Napa College, and the Napa Valley Unified School District Adult School) to provide meaningful training and support for the re-entry of these people into society.

### **Response #2**

While we acknowledge this recommendation, it should have been directed to the Auditor-Controller's office along with the Department of Corrections, not the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office does not possess any knowledgeable information in the efficiency, benefit, or management of the Inmate Fund account.

### **Finding #3**

Napa County is one of only three counties in the state, (Madera and Santa Clara are the other two), whose jail is operated by a Department of Corrections instead of a sheriff. Currently the NCDC remains independent from the Sheriff with a director appointed by the Board of Supervisors upon recommendation of the County Executive Officer. Because Napa County's structure for jail management

is unusual, this Grand Jury chose to examine whether this system is still tenable. Moreover, the Director of Corrections position is currently vacant, which provides an opportunity for review.

Over the past thirty-two years Napa's model for jail management has been called a unique and successful experiment. The following potential advantages to reuniting corrections with the Sheriff's Department have been identified:

- 1) Greater accountability. The elected Sheriff is more directly accountable.
- 2) Improved response to County emergencies. Currently the correctional officers under an independent NCDC can only operate during an emergency as county disaster employees; non-police activities. As employees under the Sheriff, the correctional officers could be provided additional training, allowing them to carry weapons and conduct activities in support of law enforcement.
- 3) Efficiency. Placing the corrections department with the Sheriff's Department is potentially more efficient. Organizational and cost efficiencies may be realized by consolidating administrative duties.
- 4) Career Options. By consolidation of the Departments the county has the opportunity to consider whether the career paths should be kept the same, or modified for crossover potential. The model used throughout most of the State is a dual career path, one for sworn Deputies and one for Correctional Officers. Typically, Correctional Officers are more interested in providing services for inmates consistent with the goals and objectives of a correctional program. Providing a dual career path enables the county to staff the jail without incurring the extended training, salary expense, enhanced retirement and worker's compensation benefits of sworn law enforcement deputies.
- 5) Increased collaboration.
- 6) Enhanced support and advocacy is possible at the state level. As the Sheriff participates with the State Sheriff's Association additional issues relevant to corrections can be discussed.
- 7) Statutory Preference. The California Legislature has determined that the Sheriff's Departments shall (throughout the state) provide county jail management. In 1993 the people of California enacted SB911, an amendment to section 26605 of the Government Code which now provides: *"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except in counties in which the Sheriff, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1993 is not in charge of and the sole and exclusive authority to keep the county jail and the prisoners in it...."* As previously stated, Napa County is one of the exceptions.

### **Response#3**

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation 3**

The Grand Jury recommends that Napa County conduct a comprehensive cost benefit analysis to determine the economic, as well as societal, feasibility of having the Sheriff assume management of the Jail.

**Response#3**

The Sheriff's Office concurs with Recommendation 3. We believe that it would be beneficial to the County to comprehensively analyze the feasibility of the Sheriff's Office in the management of the Napa County Detention Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas E. Koford". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Douglas E. Koford  
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Napa County Board of Supervisors  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Napa County Clerk's Office