



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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Kelly A. Martinez
Undersheriff

Anthony C. Ray, Sheriff

May 12, 2022

Susan N. Youngflesh, Board Chairperson
Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board
555 West Beech Street, Suite 505
San Diego, CA 92101-3819

CLERB CASE NUMBER: 20-113

Dear Chairperson Youngflesh,

The Sheriff's Department welcomes and supports the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board's (CLERB) independent review of complaints alleging improper actions by members of this organization and in-custody deaths. We continuously strive to respond with professionalism and concern to the citizens we serve and the CLERB process provides invaluable input to that end.

On December 7, 2021, CLERB recommended the following policy change related to San Diego County Sheriff's Department Detention's Policy and Procedure.

1. It is recommended that the San Diego Sheriff's Department (SDSD) revise its Detention Policies and Procedures Section I. 64, entitled, "Safety Checks: Inmates, Housing, and Holding Areas," to mandate proof of life verification through visual checks every 60 minutes during the booking process.

After review of I.64 and discussion, we feel our policy already addresses this request as safety checks are conducted during the regular scope of duties in the booking areas while an incarcerated person is completing the booking process. Our policy states in part: Safety checks of incarcerated persons consist of looking at the incarcerated person for any obvious signs of medical distress, trauma or criminal activity. Safety checks shall be conducted at least once within every 60- minute time period.

Additionally, Section II, subsection D., also reads as follows: Safety checks shall be completed in all non-housing locations designed as cells/holding areas for incarcerated persons (e.g., receiving, medical, release, court holding), even when unoccupied (the release area at Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility is excluded from this safety check requirement). Sworn staff shall stop at or enter each cell/holding area to conduct the safety check. Regarding, a 'proof of life' every 60 minutes, often times individuals who come into custody have been awake for a prolonged period of

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time depending on the purpose of the contact and length of preliminary investigation and interview. Prior to going to a housing area, this area is where individuals wait for, in some cases, an extended amount of time. Individuals are occasionally in this process for a couple days and this area becomes a place to rest. If these individuals were awakened every hour it could cause disruption and conflict by waking individuals every hour.

2. It is recommended that San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ) only utilize cells with operable cameras unless all cells with operable cameras are in use.

SDCJ already utilize cells with operable cameras unless they are in use as a general practice. Cells become occupied rather quickly at SDCJ due to the nature of it being the busiest booking facility in the county.

In closing, we appreciate the time and effort of the Citizen's Law Enforcement Review Board. We would like to thank you for your service to the Citizens of San Diego County and the policy recommendations. It is our goal to provide the "Highest quality public safety services" to everyone in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY C. RAY, SHERIFF



Edward Greenawald, Lieutenant
Officer of the Sheriff
Division of Inspectional Services
ACR:EG/kb