



# San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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*Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff*

February 22, 2023

Eileen Delaney, Board Chairperson  
Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board  
555 West Beech Street, Suite 505  
San Diego, CA 92101-3819

**CLERB CASE NUMBER: #21-069**

Dear Chairperson Delaney,

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

In late December of 2022, CLERB recommended the following policy change related to San Diego County Sheriff's Department Policy and Procedure *I.64 Safety Checks: Housing and Holding Areas of Incarcerated Persons*:

1. It is recommended that SDSA take all necessary measures to change its current practice to conform with the statute and its policy by mandating that every incarcerated person be directly observed by sworn staff at random intervals not to exceed 60 minutes (30 minutes for Medical Observation Beds and in Psychiatric Stabilization Units and 15 minutes for safety cells). As opposed to simply ensuring the safety checks start within the mandated time period.

The Sheriff's Department recognizes the need to vary the time safety checks are conducted within housing units and other holding cells. Currently, I.64 states, "*the intervals of the safety checks, within the 60- or 30-minute time period, shall vary and must be logged in the Jail Information Management System (JIMS).*" The inclusion of "vary" in our written policy essentially means a deputy will initiate a safety check earlier than the hour mark of the last security check. For example, if the previous security check commenced at 0900, the following check could be initiated at 0945 hours. The subsequent security check could be initiated at 0948 hours. This mandated variance in start times allows staff to observe all incarcerated persons within the appropriate time as mandated by their housing classification. Additionally, varying the start location of each security check is

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highly encouraged to ensure each member of the population is observed in the given time period. A reminder about rotating start locations will be sent to staff in the near future.

Supervisors also ensure safety checks are completed within policy. Per I.64, "*Sergeants will review the JIMS Area Activity Logs and ensure safety checks were logged and conducted at varying intervals within the required periods. Each supervisor's review of safety checks will extend back to the previous supervisor's log review entry.*"

In addition to supervisor reviews, the Facility Commander selects a sworn supervisor to review all security checks every month. This supervisor will review the safety checks of one complete shift from each team. This review schedule will be detailed on a "green sheet" for each facility. Video footage shall be utilized for this review.

In closing, we appreciate the time and effort of the Citizen's Law Enforcement Review Board. Thank you for your service to the Citizens of San Diego County and the policy recommendations in furtherance of our mission to provide the highest quality public safety services to everyone in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

KELLY A. MARTINEZ, SHERIFF



Edward A. Greenawald, Lieutenant  
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