



San Diego County Probation Department

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Tamika Nelson, Chief Probation Officer

September 13, 2023

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

POLICY RECOMMENDATION: USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO MONITOR HEALTH AND SAFETY OF INMATES

Dear Chair Delaney,

The Probation Department supports the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board's (CLERB) independent review of our policies and the recommendation for improvement.

On April 19, 2022, CLERB recommended the Probation Department:

- 1) Research, and publicly report the results of its research efforts, i.e., associated costs, technology considered, reasons for not implementing, if applicable, etc., the use of technological devices to identify and subsequently aid inmates who may be in medical distress.
- 2) Incorporate into policy the use of technological devices to identify and subsequently aid inmates who may be in medical distress.

The department has initiated research into this type of technology; however, it has not yet found a vendor that provides a product to meet the needs of our custodial population. Although not specifically medically related, the department is moving forward with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tool that will assist with monitoring youth throughout our facilities including while they are in their rooms.

The safety and well-being of those in our custody are of the utmost importance and we realize the value in such a biomonitoring program. More information is needed to make an informed, fiscally responsible decision that is in the best interest of the youth under our supervision and the community we serve. As such, our intent is to continue the search and allocate additional resources including the development of a subject matter expert to provide regular updates and recommendations to department Executive Staff. CLERB will be made aware of any significant strides in the procuring and implementation of this technology.

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We appreciate the time and effort of the CLERB and appreciate the dedicated service to the residents of San Diego County and for this policy recommendation. It is our goal to provide the highest level of service to the residents of San Diego County. Should you have any questions, please contact Division Chief Irene Lilly at irene.lilly@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tamika Nelson', with a stylized, flowing script.

TAMIKA NELSON
Chief Probation Officer