

RECEIVED

AUG 25 2006

REC-110
2006
SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

July 20, 2006

JERRY SANDERS
MAYOR

Honorable Janis Sammartino
Presiding Judge
San Diego County Superior Court
Main Courthouse, Third Floor
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Sammartino:

Subject: 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report entitled "Felony Warrants –The Unsolved Problem"

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05(a), (b), and (c), the City of San Diego provides the following responses to the findings and recommendations in the above-entitled Grand Jury Report:

The following joint response is submitted on behalf of both the Office of the Mayor and the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) as the SDPD provides all felony warrant information to the Mayor's Office.

Finding 1: Currently, little or no progress is being made in the rate of apprehension of defendants with outstanding felony warrants in San Diego County.

Partially Disagree. Of the 18,254 active felony warrants cited in the Grand Jury Report for 2005, members of the San Diego Regional Fugitive Task Force served approximately 5,246. Patrol officers and detectives of the San Diego Police Department made an additional 3,039 felony warrant arrests during the same time period, bringing the total to 8,285. It should be noted that of the 18,254 outstanding warrants, 5,417 were San Diego Police Department warrants, of which more than half were apprehended.

Prior to January of 2000, the proactive service of arrest warrants was the responsibility of the Marshal's Office. When the Marshal's Office was absorbed into the San Diego County Sheriff's Department in 2002, the Sheriff's Court Services Bureau assumed this role, but focused primarily on civil warrants. Felony warrants are predominantly served by allied law enforcement agencies as they contact individuals in the field and by the concerted efforts of the San Diego Regional Fugitive Task Force.

Finding 2: The Grand Jury finds that this computer program, (offered free to San Diego law enforcement agencies), if used by City and County law enforcement agencies, would definitely increase apprehension of persons with multiple felony warrants. However, some municipalities still do not choose to take advantage of this program.

Partially Disagree. The San Diego Police Department is presently taking advantage of the EWarrants application, which is part of a comprehensive information system for Law Enforcement, collectively called SDLAW. EWarrants is the equivalent of a Windows interface that accesses the same data as the current system, but arranges it in a user-friendly (Windows-like) interface. The major difference between the current County warrant system and EWarrants is that, in addition to name queries, EWarrants can search active felony warrants by address, license plate number, social security number, and other personal identifiers.

EWarrants desktop software has been deployed throughout the San Diego Police Department. To make this software available to patrol officers in the field, a \$5,000.00 hardware upgrade is necessary. Once the hardware upgrade is completed, the timetable for SDLAW's full integration into the patrol force, including testing, training and deployment is a matter of a few months.

EWarrant's affect on the rate of felony warrant apprehensions would be dependent upon the unit using it. It should be noted that applications such as EWarrants are a tool. An officer or detective would still have to come into contact with a subject in the course of their duties. Dedicated task forces, such as San Diego Regional Fugitive Task Force would realize the greatest benefit from EWarrants as it expands their ability to search for felony warrant subjects.

Finding 3: More informative outreach must be considered by the San Diego Law Enforcement community, such as publication of photos of wanted criminals in neighborhood newspapers, or following the State of Missouri's successful program of roadside billboards showing large photos of wanted felons with multiple outstanding felony warrants. The community response to this effort was outstanding.

Partially Disagree. Outreach efforts to increase the public's awareness of wanted subjects has been an ongoing effort by this Department through newspaper articles, the news media, and the Internet. The San Diego Police Department posts its most wanted individuals on their public website.

The State of Missouri's use of billboards was restricted to murder suspects, which resulted in ten arrests. Since the reduction of the huge volume of outstanding warrants is the desired result, the impact of the use of billboards would have minimal impact on the overall numbers. Billboards are still a viable option for specific, dangerous suspects who

warrant the expenditure that posting billboards cost (between \$1,000 and \$10,000 per month depending upon location).

Finding 4: The Grand Jury found that every law enforcement agency in San Diego County has been contacted by the United States Marshal's office and invited to join their San Diego Regional Task Force. Currently, only the San Diego Sheriff's office has responded positively with the assignment of several deputies to assist with the felony warrant apprehension and other activities.

Partially Disagree. The San Diego Police Department joined the San Diego Regional Fugitive Task Force in August of 2003, committing one Detective Sergeant and two Detectives. The fifty-member Regional Fugitive Task Force is strongly committed to reducing the number of felony warrants in the County of San Diego and made approximately 5,246 felony warrant arrests in 2005. In addition to their efforts, patrol officers and detectives of this Department made approximately 3,039 felony warrant arrests during the same time period.

A severe staffing shortage forced the return of the detective personnel assigned to the San Diego Regional Fugitive Task Force on June 2, 2006, in order to staff critical investigative units within the Department. As soon as staffing levels are more favorable, we will strongly consider rejoining the Task Force.

The Grand Jury Recommends to all Mayor's and Law Enforcement Agencies in San Diego City and County, and the San Diego Board of Supervisors:

Recommendation 06-70: Consider the significant benefits of joining the San Diego Regional Task Force. This includes outstanding felony warrant apprehension already established under the auspices of the San Diego office of the United States Marshal.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, when staffing levels are more favorable.

Recommendation 06-71: That one officer, from each law enforcement agency, be assigned full time to this task force.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, when staffing levels are more favorable. The San Diego Police Department previously had one detective sergeant and two detectives assigned to the San Diego Regional Task Force.

Recommendation 06-72: Create a database to search all applications for any governmental assistance, benefit or privilege. This would include, but not be limited to, all applicants for driver's license, veteran's benefits, worker's compensation,

unemployment benefits, professional licenses, all vehicle registrations, and other applicable applications.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation from the Grand Jury as to the desired result from accessing these databases. Currently, felony warrants exist in a nationwide system that is immediately accessible to law enforcement throughout the country. Some benefit may be derived from having access to these independent federal and state systems. An access and feasibility assessment will be completed by December 1, 2006.

Recommendation 06-73: Fund SD law enforcement programs of “Wanted” Billboards.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future if the case is significant and warrants it. Billboards are still a viable option for specific, dangerous suspects who warrant the expenditure that posting billboards cost (between \$1,000 and \$10,000 per month depending upon location).

Recommendation 06-74: Install the E-Warrant computer program in Patrol Vehicles of all community Law Enforcement Agencies in San Diego County and San Diego City.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. To make EWarrants available to patrol officer’s vehicles in the field, a \$5,000.00 hardware upgrade is necessary. Once the hardware upgrade is completed, the timetable for SDLAW’s full integration into the patrol force, including testing, training and deployment is a matter of a few months.

Recommendation 06-75: Sponsor legislation that will provide law enforcement agencies with additional tools to apprehend felons through integration of information from DMV, Social Security, Veteran’s pensions and other state and federal agencies.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation from the Grand Jury as to the desired result from creating legislation that would integrate information from these systems. Law enforcement officials can currently search existing law enforcement databases by social security number, DMV information and other personal identifiers such as physical description, residence and associates, to name a few. An access and feasibility assessment will be completed by December 1, 2006.

Recommendation 06-76: Give apprehension of outstanding felony warrant offenders a greater priority than currently appears to be the norm.


Response: The recommendation will not be implemented due to critical staffing issues that exist within the San Diego Police Department. Currently, our primary focus is fully staffing the patrol division. A patrol officer’s primary duty is public safety. In many cases their time is driven by radio calls for service, crimes in progress, arrests, and

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Honorable Janis Sammartino
July 20, 2006

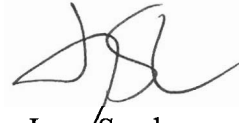
response to emergency incidents. The activities of officers in the field are prioritized to deliver the maximum level of service to the community. Felony warrant service is one of many functions that continue to be performed by this department.

Thank you for your interest in the City of San Diego's Felony Warrant Service. Please contact Acting Executive Lieutenant Shaun Donelson at (619) 531-2750, if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police



Jerry Sanders
Mayor

cc: San Diego County Grand Jury
Chief Operating Officer
City Council
Department Director
City Clerk
Citizens Assistance Manager

RECEIVED

AUG 25 2006

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT
SCOTT H. PETERS**

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

August 24, 2006

Honorable Janis Sammartino
Presiding Judge
San Diego County Superior Court
Main Courthouse, Third Floor
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Sammartino,

On August 7, 2006, the City Council voted to endorse Mayor Sanders' July 20, 2006 response to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report entitled "Felony Warrants – The Unsolved Problem." With respect to Report recommendation 06-76, the City Council has agreed to supplement the Mayor's response with the following additional statements:

- Understanding the correlation between limited Police Department staffing and the number of outstanding warrants, the City Council is committed to exploring cost-effective options for reducing the number of outstanding warrants.
- The City Council intends to make outstanding felony warrants and participation in the San Diego Regional Task Force a priority in the upcoming budget process for fiscal year 2008.
- The City Council has referred the matter of outstanding felony warrants to their Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhood Services for further discussion.

Please accept this letter in addition to Mayor Sanders' letter as part of the City of San Diego's responses pursuant to California Penal Code section 933.05. If you have additional questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters

SHP:jsk

Honorable Janis Sammartino
August 24, 2006
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cc: San Diego County Grand Jury
City Council Members
Mayor Jerry Sanders
Michael Aguirre, City Attorney
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Ronne Froman, Chief Operating Officer
William Lansdowne, Chief of Police
Donna Cottingham, Citizens Assistance Manager
Liz Maland, City Clerk

(R-2007-89)

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8/07/06

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AUG 25 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 301819

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE AUG 10 2006

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AFFIRMING AND JOINING IN THE MAYOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE WILLIAM M. LANSDOWNE'S RESPONSE TO THE 2005-2006 GRAND JURY REPORT FELONY WARRANTS – THE UNSOLVED PROBLEM.

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2006, the San Diego County Grand jury issued a report entitled, "Felony Warrants – The Unsolved Problem" [Report]; and

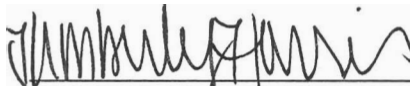
WHEREAS, the Report made several Findings and Recommendations for changes to the Felony Warrant Service; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's office and the Chief of Police reviewed each and every recommendation and finding and has prepared a Response dated July 20, 2006, for the City Council's review; and

~~WHEREAS, the Response has been forwarded to the City Council for review and~~
consideration; NOW THEREFORE,

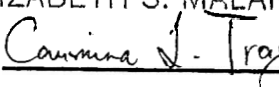
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego that it accepts the response of the Mayor and Chief of Police.

APPROVED: MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE, City Attorney

By 
Kimberly K. Harris
Deputy City Attorney

KH:ai
07/24/06

I, Elizabeth S. Maland, Clerk of the City of San Diego, California, hereby certify that this is a true copy of papers on file and of record in the office of the Clerk of said city.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND, City Clerk
By , Deputy
Dated 8-25-06

Or.Dept:Mayor
R-2007-89

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of AUG 07 2006.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND
City Clerk

By Maureen E. Ketchum
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 8-10-06
(date)

Vetoed: _____
(date)

JSL
JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

JERRY SANDERS, Mayor