



County of San Diego

JUL 24 2006



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July 18, 2006

RECEIVED

The Honorable Janis Sammartino
San Diego Superior Court, Presiding Dept.
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

JUL 28 2006
SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO FINAL 2005-2006 GRAND JURY REPORTS

Dear Judge Sammartino:

On July 18, 2006, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors approved responses to the four 2005-2006 San Diego County Grand Jury reports which contained findings and recommendations addressed to the County. The Board further directed that these responses be sent to your office, pursuant to the Penal Code.

The four reports for which responses are attached are titled:

- o "Conditions and Management of Detention Facilities in San Diego County,"
- o "Felony Warrants – The Unsolved Problem,"
- o "Office of the Public Administrator/Public Guardian" and
- o "A Visit to Polinsky Children's Center."

Since these are the only reports issued by the 2005-2006 Grand Jury that address recommendations to the Board of Supervisors or departments under its jurisdiction, the attached material represents the County's complete response for 2005-2006.

If you have any questions concerning the attachment or any related matter, please contact me at (619) 531-5250.

Sincerely,

WALTER F. EKARD
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

cc: Board of Supervisors



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GREG COX
First District

DIANNE JACOB
Second District

PAM SLATER-PRICE
Third District

RON ROBERTS
Fourth District

BILL HORN
Fifth District

DATE: July 18, 2006

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2005-2006 GRAND JURY REPORTS (District: All)

SUMMARY:

Overview

Between May 16 and June 1, 2006, the 2005-2006 San Diego County Grand Jury released four reports that examine the operation of various County programs and departments. According to the California Penal Code, the Board of Supervisors must respond to all Grand Jury report recommendations that are addressed to the County within 90 days of a report's release.

This a request for your Board to review draft responses prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer that respond to the findings and recommendations contained in these four reports and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to transmit your Board's responses to the Grand Jury, via the Superior Court Presiding Judge. The draft responses address the following four reports, the titles of which are:

- "Conditions and Management of Detention Facilities in San Diego County"
- "Felony Warrants – The Unsolved Problem"
- "Office of the Public Administrator/Public Guardian"
- "A Visit to Polinsky Children's Center"

Recommendation(s)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Approve the proposed responses and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to transmit the responses to the Grand Jury via the Superior Court Presiding Judge.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact with this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2005-2006 GRAND JURY REPORTS (District: All))

N/A

BACKGROUND:

Between May 16 and June 1, 2006, the 2005-2006 San Diego County Grand Jury released four reports that examine the operation of County programs and departments, the titles of which are:

- “Conditions and Management of Detention Facilities in San Diego County”
- “Felony Warrants – The Unsolved Problem”
- “Office of the Public Administrator/Public Guardian”
- “A Visit to Polinsky Children’s Center”

The California Penal Code requires the Board to respond to all findings and recommendations addressed to the County within 90 days of a report’s release. Proposed responses to the County-related findings and recommendations in these four reports are attached.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan:

The Grand Jury reports listed above address issues associated with the County’s Strategic Initiative to Promote Safe and Livable Communities. The County’s written response to these reports and recommendations also supports the Required Discipline of Accountability/ Transparency, fulfilling our commitment to conduct County business as openly as possible.

Respectfully,



WALTER F. EKARD
Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2005-2006 GRAND JURY REPORTS (District: All))

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Other Concurrence(s): Health and Human Services Agency
Public Safety Group

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Chief Administrative Office

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: Janice Graham

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2005-2006 GRAND JURY REPORTS (District: All))

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET
(continued)

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

Board Policy A-43, Response to Grand Jury Interim Reports

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

CONTRACT NUMBER(S):

N/A

**County of San Diego's Response to Grand Jury Report
"Felony Warrants- The Unsolved Problem"
Released June 1, 2006**

FINDINGS:

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

Response: Agree

Finding: The Grand Jury finds that [the E-Warrant] 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.

Response: Disagree in Part. The above finding appears to suggest that the installation of a computer program necessarily leads directly to increased apprehension of certain individuals. In reality, there are many reasons why individuals are not apprehended. For example, law enforcement across the country is currently struggling with a shortage of sworn officers, and San Diego County is no different. Utilizing new software will not help increase the number of deputies serving warrants.

Finding: More informative outreach must be considered by the San Diego Law Enforcement community, such as publication of photos of wanted criminal 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.

Response: Disagree in Part. Informing the public of persons with outstanding felony warrants may or may not be a good idea. We must carefully consider the method of such publication and its impact prior to any community outreach. The County of San Diego cannot respond to the effect of a program conducted in another County and State.

Finding: 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 [them] 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.

Response: Agree, to the best of our knowledge.

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS: The Grand Jury recommends to all Mayors and Law Enforcement Agencies in San Diego City and County, and the San Diego County 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 Marshall.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented, as noted by the Grand Jury

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

Response: The recommendation has been implemented, as noted by the Grand Jury

Recommendation 06-72: Create a data base to search all applications presented for any government assistance, benefit or privilege. This would include, but not be limited to, all applications for driver's licenses, veteran's benefits, worker's compensation, unemployment benefits, professional licenses, all vehicle registrations, and other applicable sources.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Implementing this recommendation requires (1) the coordination of all levels of government; (2) possibly new policy development regarding the use of personal and confidential information; and (3) funding. The County is not in a position to implement this recommendation at this time.

Recommendation 06-73: Fund San Diego law enforcement agencies programs of "Wanted" billboards.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Developing, modifying, and maintaining billboards of this type are cost-prohibitive.

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 been implemented. Currently, patrol vehicles are equipped with a Mobile Data Computer (MDC). The information accessible through the MDC is essentially the same as what is accessible through E-Warrant. For example, officers can inquire into outstanding warrants utilizing their MDCs.

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS: The Grand Jury recommends that all Mayors, City Councils and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

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, Veterans pensions and other state and federal agencies.

Response: **The recommendation requires further analysis.** The County must weigh the recommendation against its current public safety priorities. It is estimated that this analysis will take no more than six months.

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

Response: **The recommendation has been implemented,** as noted by the Grand Jury.