



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: September 10, 2024
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 45 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Contact Info: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, (805) 568-3400
Tanja Heitman, Assistant CEO, (805) 568-3412

DocuSigned by:
Mona Miyasato
41846F5C725B460...

SUBJECT: Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Report on Deaths in Custody in Santa Barbara County Jails

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes
Other Concurrence:
As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Consider and adopt the responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors’ response to the 2023-24 Grand Jury report entitled “Deaths in Custody in Santa Barbara County Jails: Our County Jails Meet Many Needs;”
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment A, and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court; and
- c) Determine pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that do not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

On June 26, 2024, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury issued a report entitled “Deaths in Custody in Santa Barbara County Jails: Our County Jails Meet Many Needs.” Today, the Board will consider the proposed responses to the report, adopt their preferred responses, and authorize the Board Chair to sign

the response letter. The Board is required to respond in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days of the report issuance.

Background:

In the report entitled “Deaths in Custody in Santa Barbara County Jails,” the Grand Jury stated that the six deaths in custody between December 28, 2022 and December 31, 2023 occurred in part due to insufficient observation, occasional lack of effective and timely communications between jail Custody Deputies and healthcare staff, and inadequate resources. The report indicated that two of the deaths were overdoses, two were suicides, and two had multiple causes.

The Board of Supervisors is named a responder to Findings 5, 6, 12 and 14, and Recommendations 5, 6c, 12 and 14. Refer to Attachment A for the Board's responses, Attachment B for the Sheriff's Office responses, and Attachment C for the Grand Jury's report.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Staff anticipates no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the Board's action on this matter.

Special Instructions:

1. As per Recommended Action b), please forward the original signed letters and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court, no later than September 23, 2024.
2. Please send a copy of the signed letters and a copy of the minute order to Shanna Dawson, Fiscal & Policy Analyst.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Response to Deaths in Custody in Santa Barbara County Jails

Attachment B: Sheriff's Office Response to Deaths in Custody in Santa Barbara County Jails

Attachment C: 2023-24 Grand Jury Report on Deaths in Custody in Santa Barbara County Jails

Authored by:

Nicole Parmelee, Principal Analyst