

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 12/26/01
Department Name: Sheriff
Department No.: 32
Agenda Date: 1/15/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sheriff Jim Thomas

STAFF CONTACT: Commander Jim Peterson
x4326

SUBJECT: Update to Grand Jury Report: Video Arraignment

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors: Review, accept, and forward this update concerning video arraignment to the County Grand Jury.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 3. A Strong, Professionally Managed County Organization.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The 2000-01 Grand Jury Report on "Detention Facilities and Sheriff's Department Issues" recommended that an alternate system of video arraignment, based on models adopted in other counties, between the Main Jail and the judges should be considered to reduce the volume of inmates transported to the downtown Santa Barbara facility (Recommendation 31). The Sheriff's Department responded to this recommendation with a capsule summary of prior attempts to present this program to the Superior Court and Public Defender's Office. At the time, representatives of these entities expressed little interest in the program. The response to the Grand Jury indicated that the Sheriff's Department would update the Grand Jury as to the progress of establishing this program.

The command staff of custody operations has changed over the past three months. With this change of command structure, the Sheriff's Department has reformed a work group who will be reviewing the past proposal, augmenting data, making modifications, and presenting this program again to those entities who will be directly effected if this program is established. With these entities' concurrence, the Sheriff's Department will come back to the Board to present the program for consideration.

Mandates and Service Levels:

This update to the Grand Jury is not mandated, nor are there mandates for video arraignment, but the service levels to the involved entities would be increased through the effective use of resources.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This update will not have any fiscal or facility impact although the implementation of a video arraignment program will have substantial fiscal and facility considerations.

Special Instructions:

Please forward this Board Letter to the County Grand Jury. Please send the Board's minute order to Commander Jim Peterson, Custody Operations, Sheriff's Department.

Concurrence:

N/A