



**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: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: March 8, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director(s):
Contact Info: Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer

DocuSigned by:

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SUBJECT: Response to 2021 Grand Jury Report: Suicide in Santa Barbara County Main Jail A Challenge For Law Enforcement And Health Professionals

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: 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 2021 Grand Jury report entitled “Suicide In Santa Barbara County Main Jail: A Challenge For Law Enforcement And Health Professionals”; Attachment B;
- 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 CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are is government administrative activities that do not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

On December 20, 2021, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report titled “Suicide In Santa Barbara County Main Jail: A Challenge For Law Enforcement And Health Professionals.” Today, the Board will consider the County’s proposed response to the report, adopt their preferred response 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 by March 21, 2022.

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Background:

The 2021-22 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury report investigated the death in custody of Inmate A, an inmate who hanged himself in his cell in early 2021, just 18 hours after he was arrested at his residence on a warrant issued by Ventura County for a misdemeanor offense. Inmate A was the fourth inmate to commit suicide at the Main Jail in less than three years. In its investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the suicide of Inmate A, the Jury determined that the Main Jail intake process requires improvement with respect to recognizing potentially suicidal arrestees, effectively communicating their mental health status to other staff members throughout the process and providing timely mental health services during the nighttime hours.

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 Recommendation b), please forward the original signed letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court.
2. Please send a copy of the signed letter and a copy of the minute order to Reese Ellestad, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, CEO office.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Response

Attachment B: FY2020-21 Grand Jury Report

Authored by:

Reese Ellestad, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, County Executive Office