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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 18, 2017

Honorable Patricia Kelly
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Reference: Response to FY 2016-17 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury report titled, “Santa Barbara Main Jail – An Outdated and Inefficient Facility”, (Published May 18, 2017 Grand Jury Website).

Judge Kelly:

Please find attached the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board) response to the above referenced Civil Grand Jury Report. As directed by the Grand Jury, all responses are provided in accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code.

The Board appreciates the work conducted by the Sheriff and the General Services Department and their assistance in responding to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joan Hartmann Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

CC: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Anthony Brown, Esq., Foreperson, 2016-17 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury 2016-2017 Report
Santa Barbara Main Jail – An Outdated and Inefficient Facility

Finding 1

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and the Santa Barbara County General Services Department have not developed a prioritized list for repair projects at the Main Jail.

The Board disagrees partially with the finding. Two completed studies (Jorgensen and Marx-Okuba) have identified and prioritized repair and maintenance projects. In addition to those studies, Vanir Construction Management conducted an Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") assessment of the Main Jail, identifying and prioritizing such issues as facility accessibility and other ADA issues. Vanir's review remains ongoing and, as such, its report is not fully complete as of the date of this response.

Recommendation 1b

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors direct the Santa Barbara County General Services Department to provide cost estimates for these repair projects.

The recommendation will be implemented. Preliminary estimates have already been obtained via the Jorgensen, Marx-Okuba, and Vanir studies that require further staff effort to clarify project description and costs. A final implementation plan with full estimates will be completed by June 30, 2018.

Finding 2

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and the Santa Barbara County General Services Department have not developed a prioritized list for replacement projects at the Main Jail.

The Board disagrees partially with the finding. Two completed studies (Jorgensen and Marx-Okuba) have identified and prioritized repair and maintenance projects. In addition to those studies, Vanir Construction Management conducted an Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") assessment of the Main Jail, identifying and prioritizing such issues as facility accessibility and other ADA issues. Vanir's review remains ongoing and, as such, its report is not fully complete as of the date of this response.

Recommendation 2b

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors direct the Santa Barbara County General Services Department to provide cost estimates for these replacement projects.

The recommendation will be implemented. Preliminary estimates have already been obtained via the Jorgensen, Mark-Okuba, and Vanir studies that require further staff effort to clarify project description and cost. A final implementation plan with full estimates will be completed by June 30, 2018.

Finding 3

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and the Santa Barbara County General Services Department have not developed a prioritized list for repurposing projects at the Main Jail.

The Board agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 3b

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors direct the Santa Barbara County General Services Department to provide cost estimates for these repurposing projects.

The recommendation will be implemented. The Sheriff, working with expert consultants, will need to identify programs to be adjusted and space repurposed. Major construction may have to be deferred until the Northern Branch Jail is opened and can hold Mail Jail inmates during the construction. Funding for the construction costs of repurposing space has not been identified.

Finding 4

Funding availability for Main Jail repair, replacement and repurposing will be problematic based on current budget forecasts.

The Board agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 4

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors identify alternative funding resources for Main Jail repair, replacement and repurposing such as using a portion of the Strategic Reserve, new tax initiatives, General Obligation Bonds or creation of a specific reserve account or any combination of these.

This recommendation will be implemented. Once an implementation plan with full estimates is known, the County will identify possible funding sources for high priority needs in the context of other capital and operating priorities. These may or may not include the funding sources listed by the Grand Jury, some of which require voter approval. The identification of funding sources for priority capital and maintenance projects, identified in the County's annual Capital Improvement Plan, is incorporated in the budget development process each year. These sources could include shifting of planned funding for maintenance projects, use of one time funds from unanticipated revenues/grants, uses of reserves, or the issuance of debt. In light of the County's current fiscal constraints, the ability to address the identified capital investment needed to repair, replace, or repurpose the SB Mail Jail must be balanced with the need to maintain critical public services.