



**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: May 31, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Contact Info: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Reese Ellestad, Fiscal and Policy Analyst

DocuSigned by:
Mona Miyasato
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SUBJECT: Further Analysis Related 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 approve the responses containing further analysis related to the 2021 Grand Jury report entitled “Suicide in Santa Barbara County Main Jail: A Challenge for Law Enforcement and Health Professionals”;
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign a letter and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court updating the Grand Jury on the further analysis; 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 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.” On March 8, 2022, the Board approved responses prepared by staff stating that Recommendations 3 and 4 required further analysis. Today, the Board will consider the County’s proposed further analysis and authorize the Board Chair to sign the response letter updating the Grand Jury on the further analysis.

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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 updating the Grand Jury on the further analysis 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 Letter and Response with Further Analysis

Attachment B: FY 2020-21 Grand Jury Report

Attachment C: Initial BOS Response to the FY2020-21 Grand Jury Report

Authored by:

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Lindsay Walter, Principal Management Analyst, County Executive Office