



PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

Auburn Police Department and Holding Facility

Annual Inspection



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Summary

The Placer County Grand Jury conducted its annual inspection and tour of the City of Auburn Police Department (APD) and holding facility on September 27, 2016. This facility is located at 1215 Lincoln Way, Auburn. The Grand Jury was generally satisfied with the conditions and operations that were observed, except for the recommendation noted.

Background

Section 919(b) of the California Penal Code mandates that “The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of public prisons within the county.”

Methodology

Public Safety Director John Ruffcorn and Lieutenant Victor Pecoraro led members of the Grand Jury through the facility as they conducted their mandated inspection.

Facts

- The APD includes a holding facility, dispatch, officer work stations, interviewing rooms, evidence storage and a sally port (a secure, controlled entryway to a holding facility).
- No detainees were present during the inspection. The premises are not used for housing. Booking and housing occur at the Placer County Main Jail, Auburn.
- When juveniles are detained as a result of minor infractions, parents or caretakers are contacted and the juvenile briefly remains at the facility pending release to the parent or caretaker. When juveniles are detained for more serious offenses, they are transported to the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility in Auburn.
- The holding area is monitored by either the presence of a police officer or via camera from another area of the building.
- The holding area has operating procedural manuals and drug-identifying posters available as quick reference guides for staff.
- On the day of the inspection, the Grand Jury observed a wall-mounted fire extinguisher within arm’s length of the bench where detainees are seated.
- The exterior of the building includes sidewalks and a public reception area.

- Auburn Police Department has purchased body cameras and updated riot equipment.

Findings

The Grand Jury found:

- F1. The combination of a police officer and/or a camera provides adequate monitoring of the holding area.
- F2. The fire extinguisher could be used as a weapon against a distracted officer in the event a detainee becomes violent.

Conclusion

The Grand Jury was generally satisfied with the operation of the Auburn Police Department facility, other than the possibility of officer safety related to the fire extinguisher.

Recommendations

The Grand Jury makes the following recommendation:

- R1.** The APD remove the fire extinguisher and relocate it a safe distance from any area occupied by a detainee.

Request For Responses:

Recommendations
Requiring Response

Response Due Date

Mr. John Ruffcorn
Public Safety Director, City of Auburn
1215 Lincoln Way
Auburn, CA 95603

R1

August 31, 2017

Copies Sent to:

Mr. Bob Richardson
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Mr. Matt Spokley
Auburn City Mayor
1225 Lincoln Way
Auburn CA 95603