



City Manager's Office • 555 Santa Clara Street • Vallejo • CA • 94590

August 17, 2026

Honorable William J. Pendergast III
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano County Superior Court
600 Union Ave
Fairfield, CA 94533

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: cdclower@solano.county.ca.gov

Re: City of Vallejo and Police Department response to Grand Jury Report – Vallejo 911: Faster Responses, Uncertain Future

Dear Honorable William J. Pendergast III, Presiding Judge

Under Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, this letter contains the City of Vallejo's response to Findings 1-3 and Recommendations 1-3 contained on pages 8-9 of the Solano County Civil Grand Jury Report of June 15, 2026 regarding Vallejo 911: "*Faster Responses, Uncertain Future*".

Finding 1

The City of Vallejo's failure to develop a plan after the Sheriff contract's expiration of December 31, 2026, can jeopardize the citizens of Vallejo by extending response times. Even with the 7 potential new officers in various phases of training, it can take up to two years for those officers to be ready to fully do the job, with only 3 of those currently in field training."

Response to Finding 1- Disagree

The City of Vallejo disagrees with this finding. The police department continues to aggressively recruit, hire, and train new officers with a current officer total of 83. An additional 5 officers attend area police academies with expected graduation prior to the

expiration of the Sheriff's Office contract. Six sheriff deputies, one sergeant, and one lieutenant will be replaced by these subsequent hires. Additional pending hires, including lateral and entry level officers, will serve to bolster staffing and offset Solano County's departure. The long-term strategy is to maintain structural stability. The department has been formally authorized to continue its recruitment and testing efforts despite reaching the maximum FTE threshold (Maximum 99 FTE). This mechanism allows the department to continuously build and maintain a "hire-ready" eligibility list. Maintaining this active list ensures that the moment a vacancy occurs, whether through future budgetary additions to the total complement, unexpected staff departures, or an academy trainee exiting the program, a qualified candidate can immediately be extended a job offer and begin the training process without administrative delay.

Recommendation 1

The City of Vallejo develop a contingency plan no later than October 1, 2026, prior to the expiration of the Sheriff's contract and make it available to the public. After the contract expires, there should be no lesser level of service that the citizens of Vallejo currently receive. The City of Vallejo consider extending the contract with the Sheriff's department for an additional year.

Response to Recommendation 1- The Recommendation Has Been Partially Implemented

The City has been working on a comprehensive public safety contingency plan strategy plan over the last year. Elements of that Plan are discussed below.

While the Grand Jury recommends considering a one-year extension of the mutual aid contract with the Solano County Sheriff's Office, the City must clarify that a subsequent extension past December 31, 2026, is statutorily infeasible. The temporary emergency assignment of Sheriff's personnel was made legally possible through a specific California Senate Bill designed to provide immediate, short-term relief to Vallejo's emergency response system. This underlying state legislation officially expires at the end of December 2026. Without this enabling statutory authority, neither the City nor the Sheriff's Office possesses the legal mechanism to extend or renew this specific operational contract.

Comprehensive Public Safety Contingency Plan Elements

Personnel and Deployment Breakdown

Just prior to the commencement of the Solano County Sheriff's Office contract in January 2026, VPD maintained a staffing footprint of approximately 80 sworn officers. This included three officers on modified or disability status, leaving an active baseline of 40 officers assigned to the Patrol Division.

Year-to-date (YTD), our total complement has risen to 83 sworn officers. With three personnel remaining on modified or disability leave, our active patrol force stands at 40 officers, representing a net gain of three sworn officers over the last eight months.

Training Pipeline and Forward Projections

Our training pipeline is actively positioned to expand our front-line capacity through the end of the year:

- **Active Pipeline:** There are currently five trainees navigating the intensive Field Training Officer (FTO) phase.
- **Year-End Projection:** Assuming all five trainees successfully complete the program, they will achieve solo deployment status by the end of 2026, increasing our total sworn complement to 88 officers.

Contract Transition and Service Delivery Efficacy

The active, supplemental contract with the Solano County Sheriff's Office provides six deputies, one sergeant, and one lieutenant to staff 40 hours of coverage specifically during high-volume swing shifts.

By the conclusion of this contract on December 31, 2026, VPD's internal hiring and training pipeline is projected to yield a net increase of nine trained officers. This will position our department at a plus-one staffing advantage compared to our operational footprint prior to the launch of the regional partnership. This strategic staffing replenishment will enable the department to independently deliver a level of public safety service that closely mirrors the combined capacity we utilized at the start of the Sheriff's contract in January 2026.

To further ensure there is no degradation in the level of service our residents receive following the expiration of the Sheriff's contract, the Vallejo Police Department is constructing an aggressive, multi-layered transition strategy centered on six operational pillars:

- **(1) Enhanced Continuous Recruitment:** Rather than freezing hiring upon reaching our newly mandated personnel caps, the department has secured

unique administrative authorization to maintain a non-stop recruitment pipeline. This allows our background units to build a standing, "hire-ready" eligibility list so that any future sworn departures or expanded budgetary allocations can be filled instantly, bypassing the typical 18-month hiring lag.

- **(2) Data-Driven Hot Spot Saturation (Directed Patrols):** Utilizing crime analysts to map real-time micro-locations experiencing violent spikes allows your Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) and Traffic teams to conduct brief, highly visible saturation patrols in hot-spot areas.
- **(3) Deployment of Force-Multiplication Technology:** To offset our thin front-line staffing, the department is heavily investing in and expanding our technology infrastructure. This includes stabilizing our automated license plate reader (ALPR) networks, deploying mobile surveillance towers, integrating real-time audio detection technology, and actively evaluating a Drone as a First Responder (DFR) program to provide immediate aerial intelligence, maximize officer safety, and accelerate suspect apprehension.

The Vallejo Police Department leverages a multi-layered technology framework to offset severe personnel shortages, accelerate criminal investigations, and maximize officer and community safety.

- **FLOCK Safety Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)**

The current ALPR system managed through FLOCK Safety serves as an invaluable investigative asset, directly assisting our Detective Division in solving numerous homicides and complex violent felony offenses.

- **CY 2025 Performance Metrics:** FLOCK technology was actively utilized in **87%** of all homicide investigations, contributing to a departmental case clearance rate of **87%**.
 - **Note: For 2025, one case involved an unsheltered encampment, and another homicide was solved using another video surveillance system.**
- **CY 2026 Year-to-Date (YTD) Performance Metrics:** YTD, FLOCK data integration has played a critical role in **55%** of active homicide investigations, supporting our current YTD clearance rate of **67%**.

- **Note: For 2026, the four cases where Flock was not utilized were unsheltered victim cases where no suspect vehicle information was developed.**

- **LiveView Technologies (LVT) Mobile Surveillance Towers**

Mobile security towers offer robust crime deterrence, remote real-time viewing capabilities, and vital historical evidence for follow-up investigations. In August 2025, the City Council authorized the deployment of seven LVT mobile security units.

- **Operational Deployment Strategy:** These units are deployed across designated hot-spot areas throughout the city on a two-month rotation cycle. This tactical mobility ensures regional relief across different neighborhoods while allowing analysts to isolate and evaluate site-specific efficacy.
- **Community and Field Efficacy:** To date, these towers have been exceptionally well received by residents and local business owners, providing immediate, visible crime suppression within high-crime corridors. A comprehensive efficacy study is currently underway to compile quantitative data and deliver a formal renewal recommendation to the City Council well ahead of the contract's expiration in June 2027.
- **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Drone as a First Responder (DFR) Evolution**

The department currently utilizes its Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) framework on a strictly limited basis, primarily restricted to static tactical operations.

- **Current Drone Framework:** Once patrol or specialized units establish a secure containment perimeter around a high-risk scene, drones are deployed to capture critical overhead and interior visual feeds. This tactical intelligence is gathered *prior* to physical officer entry, effectively providing the department with localized air support capabilities at a fraction of the cost of a traditional helicopter platform.
- **The Proposed DFR Innovation Model:** Transitioning to an active Drone as a First Responder (DFR) program would revolutionize our emergency response times. Upon a 911 dispatch trigger, a localized drone can be launched immediately, leveraging an unobstructed line-of-sight path to arrive on-scene anywhere in the city within minutes, often well ahead of ground units navigating traffic.
- **Pre-Arrival Intelligence Routing:** While officers are still en route, the DFR relays live, high-definition visual intelligence to responding personnel, mapping suspect locations, identifying potential weapons, and tracking associated vehicles or secondary actors. This real-time telemetry allows field supervisors to constantly

evaluate the safest tactical options before arriving on-scene, substantially reducing the risk of injury to officers, suspects, and innocent bystanders.

- **(4) Recommendation for Continuing the Roving Security Guard Program**

To further fortify our immediate field presence and mitigate the impending expiration of the supplemental Sheriff's contract, the department recommends extending our roving security guard program with AX9 for an additional one-year term. This specialized program is strategically designed to deploy a highly visible, uniform security presence directly into our identified crime hot spots and commercial corridors, effectively augmenting our existing public safety footprint. By positioning AX9 personnel to handle stationary visibility and basic safety monitoring in these targeted areas, we create a vital operational buffer. This tactical integration successfully deters localized criminal activity and quality-of-life violations while ensuring our thin front-line patrol shifts remain fully available to respond rapidly to high-priority emergency calls for service.

- **(5) Collaborative Crime Reduction and Intervention Partnerships:**

Managing public safety requires a regional, multi-agency approach. The department is adopting a unified crime reduction model that actively incorporates city, county, and state law enforcement partners, along side local non-profits, to boost targeted enforcement operations. This framework will launch alongside our data-driven *Vallejo VISION* focused deterrence program and our upcoming operational partnership with the Center for Urban Excellence (CUE) to provide robust, direct intervention and prevention services to at-risk individuals.

- **(6) The Integrated Health and Response Team (IHART) Model:**

To safely alleviate pressure on standard patrol shifts, the City will maintain and optimize its robust alternative response model through IHART. By continuously routing non-violent, mental health, and quality-of-life calls for service directly to specialized clinicians and civilian field staff, we preserve our thin sworn officer capacity, ensuring our officers remain strictly available to respond rapidly to Priority 1 emergency violent crimes.

Finding 2- *Non-competitive compensation and severe understaffing negatively impact recruitment and retention of police officers in Vallejo.*

Response to Finding 2- Disagree partially

Recruitment and retention of police officers has continued to improve this year. The department has been able to stabilize the loss of officers and increase overall numbers of sworn personnel.

Recommendation 2- *The City of Vallejo consider a competitive compensation plan to recruit and retain adequate police staff as part of the next contract negotiations.*

Response to Recommendation 2: This recommendation (as stated) will not be implemented.

What is considered competitive compensation in any given context is a complex determination involving both salary, benefits, incentives and other considerations. The City is working to balance each of these and all of the interests to the best of its ability. The City continues to face significant fiscal constraints that affect its ability to address compensation and other workforce needs in the near term. While competitive compensation is an important factor in recruiting and retaining employees, particularly in hard-to-fill positions, any adjustments must be considered within the context of the City's broader financial condition, competing service demands, and long-term fiscal sustainability.

Finding 3- *The current VPD daily public log of incidents on their website lacks response times and priority levels, which decreases transparency, leading to lack of community confidence*

Response to Finding 3- Agree

The Vallejo Police Department concurs with Finding 3 and is actively executing an IT migration plan to integrate call priority levels and officer response times into our online daily public incident logs prior to October 1, 2026.

Recommendation 3 - *The City of Vallejo direct the VPD to add priority levels and response times to their daily incident logs no later than October 1, 2026.*

Response to Recommendation 3 – The Recommendation will be Implemented (is in process)

The department's Information Technology Division has formally conducted a technical scoping analysis of our existing Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) and records management database structures. Because the legacy public webpage was not originally engineered to export raw dispatch priority telemetry or timestamped response latency metrics, custom software programming and database configuration are required to establish this new reporting process.

The IT division has determined that the total cost to design, test, and deploy this automated data-bridge feature will be approximately \$5,000. Because this unbudgeted technical expense falls outside of our current capped operational line items, the

department will immediately present this scoped proposal to the City Manager and the City Finance Department to secure the necessary supplementary budgetary authorization.

It is intended that the supplementary budgeting and integration work will occur by October 1, 2026 in to enhance municipal data transparency and reinforce community confidence in our public reporting systems.

Please let us know if you have any questions or require further assistance.

Sincerely,

Harry Black

City Manager