

**SOLANO COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

2025 – 2026

**VALLEJO 911: FASTER RESPONSES,
UNCERTAIN FUTURE**

JUNE 15, 2026

Vallejo 911: Faster Responses, Uncertain Future

2025-26 Solano County Civil Grand Jury

I. SUMMARY

This report is a follow-up investigation into Vallejo Police Department (VPD) emergency response times, outlined in a prior Solano County Civil Grand Jury (Jury) investigation published June 23, 2023. VPD response times averaged over 80 minutes, and this report examines what has changed and what remains unresolved. A contract with the Solano County Sheriff's Office providing patrol officers in Vallejo has resulted in reduced response times; however, that contract expires December 31, 2026, and leaves concerns about response times in the future.



Figure 1: Picture shows a street view of the Vallejo Police Department located at 111 Amador St, Vallejo, CA

II. INTRODUCTION

The Vallejo Police Department (VPD) is the primary law enforcement agency serving the City of Vallejo, a community of approximately 120,000 residents in Solano County. Founded in 1900, the department has long been responsible for patrol, investigations, and emergency response. Over time, it has had to adjust to changes in the city's population, crime patterns, and expectations around policing.

Vallejo's 2008 bankruptcy had a lasting impact on all departments, including Public Safety. Budget cuts during that period led to a significant reduction in the number of sworn officers, and the department has never recovered to its previous staffing levels. In the years since, Vallejo has struggled to recruit and retain officers, in part because nearby public safety agencies offer higher pay and more competitive benefits.

At the same time, the department has faced ongoing concerns about officer conduct, use of force, and internal culture. Vallejo has had a relatively high number of officer-involved shootings for a city of its size, which has drawn significant public attention leading to protests, lawsuits, and outside investigations. These issues have raised concerns about accountability and transparency contributing to a decline in public trust and morale in the VPD.

The Jury investigated emergency response times and published the Solano County Emergency Dispatch Report on June 23, 2023. During the 2023 investigation, the Jury learned that Vallejo

Police Emergency response times averaged over 80 minutes:

<https://solano.courts.ca.gov/system/files/final-230623-so-co-emergency-dispatch-report.pdf> .

Taken together, the department's staffing challenges and the concerns about culture and oversight provide important context for understanding its current condition regarding response times. They also highlight the difficulty Vallejo faces in rebuilding both its police force and its relationship with the community.

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

During the 2025-26 follow-up investigation, the Jury learned VPD staffing shortages have continued to affect response times and increased workloads for the officers who remain. To help fill the gap, Vallejo entered a temporary contract with the Solano County Sheriff's Office to provide additional law enforcement services through December 31, 2026, funded by Vallejo's Measure P passed in 2022.

The Jury conducted research into prior and current response times. The following chart shows the Average Response Times (ART) for all priority level calls from 2022 through March 31, 2026:

2022	2023	2024	2025	1/21/26 to 3/31/26
84 minutes, 26 seconds	162 minutes, 20 seconds	221 minutes, 45 seconds	127 minutes, 7 seconds	65 minutes, 42 seconds

VPD reported that since the start of the Sheriff’s Department contract (January 21, 2026) response times have decreased. Community response has been positive.

The Jury requested information about response times by priority level. Priority levels are defined as follows:

Priority 1 – Serious crisis or life-threatening situation requiring immediate urgent action

Priority 2 – High priority, acute situations that are not life-threatening

Priority 3 – Non-emergency, less time sensitive

VPD provided the following comparison of ART by priority:

COMPARISON OF ANNUAL AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES (ART) BY PRIORITY

APR 2024-MAR 2025	**ART in minutes	# of incidents	Percentage of ART (=/-) from Previous 12 mos
Priority 1	13.19	119	NA
Priority 2	307.07	1690	NA
Priority 3	477.12	2431	NA
APR 2025-MAR 2026	**ART in minutes	# of incidents	Percentage of ART (=/-) from Previous 12 mos
Priority 1	9.07	110	31% improvement
Priority 2	144.57	1745	53% improvement
Priority 3	263.40	2412	45% improvement

Figure 2: Comparison of Annual Average Response Times (ART) by Priority Table

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES BY MONTH

	Apr 25 ART	# of incidents	May 25 ART	# of incidents	Jun 25 ART	# of incidents	Jul 25 ART	# of incidents	Aug 25 ART	# of incidents	Sept 25 ART	# of incidents
Priority 1	12.14	99	7.10	116	8.00	95	10.21	107	8.30	108	17.15	103
Priority 2	176.40	1586	173.45	1802	174.03	1686	165.52	1859	131.20	1827	176.50	1709
Priority 3	265.52	2291	307.35	2540	264.44	2450	288.06	2524	258.20	2409	332.22	2323
	Oct 25 ART	# of incidents	Nov 25 ART	# of incidents	Dec 25 ART	# of incidents	Jan 26 ART**	# of incidents	Feb 26 ART**	# of incidents	Mar 26 ART**	# of incidents
Priority 1	5.39	121	9.02	115	6.33	129	6.14	120	7.66	107	4.31	107
Priority 2	164.33	1783	140.23	1781	171.39	1758	106.00	1746	77.04	1622	65.55	1790
Priority 3	331.20	2542	307.16	2302	325.31	2181	198.52	2318	143.16	2356	127.24	2695

Figure 3: Average Response Times by Month Chart

Please notice that the ART in March 2026 significantly dropped to 4 minutes and 31 seconds with additional support from the Solano County Sheriff’s Office. From interviews with VPD, Sheriff, and City of Vallejo, the Jury learned there are currently no contingency plans to continue the Sheriff’s contract past December 31, 2026.

Additionally, VPD and City of Vallejo staff stated that delayed response times are a result of lack of police officers. There are 40 patrol officers currently with 6 per shift, sometimes 4. The goal is 10 per shift. There previously had been 129 positions allocated, and there are now 114 positions allocated with 82 currently filled. Onboarding of new patrol officers is typically 18-24 months. As of March 31, 2026, there were:

3 cadets in the academy.

3 officers in training with a field training officer.

1 person that has been hired that is currently awaiting the next academy to begin.


28 applicants that are currently still in the application process.

Almost 20% of students don't complete the Peace Office Standards & Training Academy per a 2021 study.

The compensation for VPD is lower than comparable Bay Area cities. According to a February 2026 compensation study conducted by Usher Forward Human Resources, VPD officers were 13.79% below the median base salary and 17.77% below total compensation.

On January 1, 2025, the City of Vallejo entered into an agreement with All-Star Talent, Inc for recruiting efforts, which ends on June 30, 2028.

The VPD provides a daily incident log to increase transparency for all calls received in the past 30 days to the public on their website. The daily incident log provides incident number, date, location, description, beat, and disposition.



Vallejo Police Department Public Log
from 05/18/2026 to 05/18/2026

Incident #	Date	Location	Description	Beat	Disposition
2605180001	05/18/2026 00:02	100 BLK LOUISIANA ST	911 HANGUP	6	UNABLE TO LOCATE
2605180002	05/18/2026 00:03	100 BLK LOUISIANA ST	911 HANGUP	6	UNABLE TO LOCATE
2605180003	05/18/2026 00:03	100 BLK LOUISIANA ST	BRANDISHING A WEAPON. JUST OCCURRED	6	REPORT

Figure 4: Image of Vallejo Police Department Public Log

IV. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

RECOMMENDATION 1 – The City of Vallejo develop a contingency plan no later than October 1, 2026, prior to the expiration of the Sheriff’s Department 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

V. METHODOLOGY

Toured Facilities

Vallejo Police Department

111 Amador Street

Vallejo, CA 94590

Resources

1. County of Solano – Executed Contract with Vallejo Police Department
2. City of Vallejo – Final Total Compensation Study Report (2/1/2026)
3. City of Vallejo – Executed Contract with All-Star Talent
4. City of Vallejo – FY 24-25 Adopted Budget

Websites

1. <https://www.policinginstitute.org/infocus/leading-from-within-building-a-culture-to-strengthen-recruitment-and->

[retention/#:~:text=For%20instance%2C%20studies%20consistently%20show, stated%20 values%20and%20actual%20practices.](#)

2. <https://rtipress.scholasticahq.com/article/132453-addressing-police-turnover-challenges-strategies-and-future-research-directions>
3. https://post.ca.gov/Portals/0/post_docs/publications/2021_AB332_Research_Report.pdf
4. https://www.vallejopd.net/public_information/crime_data/daily_incident_log
5. <https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/solano-sheriff-says-vallejo-supplemental-patrols-a-success/>
6. <https://www.vallejosun.com/committee-recommends-use-of-sales-tax-to-fund-sheriffs-supplement-of-vallejo-police/>
7. <https://solano.courts.ca.gov/system/files/final-230623-so-co-emergency-dispatch-report.pdf>

Interviews

Staff at:

- City of Vallejo
- Solano County Sheriff's Office
- Vallejo Police Department

VI. REQUIRED RESPONSES

City of Vallejo Council

INVITED RESPONSES

City of Vallejo Police Department

Solano County Sheriff's Office

COURTESY COPIES

Solano County Board of Supervisors