



SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner

530 Union Avenue, Ste. 100, Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 784-7000

July 19, 2022

Honorable Wendy G. Getty
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Re: Sheriff-Coroner's Response to 2021-2022 Effective Emergency Response Needs City and County Support

Judge Getty:

Under Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, I am responding to the following recommendations contained in the 2020-22021 Grand Jury Report that pertain to matters under my control as the Solano County Sheriff-Coroner:

Finding 2 – *The lack of a consolidated digital communication system in Solano County hampers effective firefighting efforts.*

Response to Finding 2 – I agree with this finding.

Recommendation 2 – *The Board of Supervisors broaden efforts to fund and promote the establishment of a modern digital county-wide emergency communications system.*

Response to Recommendation 2 – The recommendation has been partially implemented by the Sheriff's Office. In March of 2021, the Solano County Board of Supervisors supplemented the Sheriff's Office budget by \$960,000 and then in June of 2022 with an additional \$1,279,000 to purchase handheld and vehicle multiband radios. We purchased the multiband radios and have installed them in our patrol vehicles. The handheld radios have also been purchased and have been assigned to the appropriate first responders in our agency. With these new radios the Sheriff's Office is now 90% capable of radio interoperability.

Finding 3 – *Although law enforcement and fire departments throughout the county have been working to establish a JPA to develop a consolidated communications system, there is little support from the county to finalize the efforts.*

Response to Finding 3 – I partially agree with this finding.

Recommendation 3– Expedite JPA agreement within the county and develop a plan to move forward.

Response to Recommendation 1–This recommendation is not in my purview. The Sheriff's Office is a customer of County Communications which falls under the Department of Information Technology who in turn reports to the County Administrator's Office. The Sheriff's Office would not be a signatory in any JPA developed.

Dedicated to Community Service

Finding 6– *Only two agencies involved in the LNU fire produced after-action reports.*

Response to Finding 6– I agree with this finding.

Recommendation 6– *Solano County and cities within the county require all responding emergency agencies using public funding to produce after-action reports.*

Response to Recommendation 6–I agree with this recommendation.

I would like to thank the Solano County Grand Jury for their time invested in this matter and for their report of findings and recommendations. As always, the recommendations and comments of the Solano County Grand Jury are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas A. Ferrara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "A".

Thomas A. Ferrara
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Solano County Grand Jury
County Administrator's Office