



**SOLANO COUNTY GRAND JURY**  
2013-2014

**SOLANO COUNTY JUSTICE DETENTION  
FACILITY AND HOLDING CELLS**

# **Solano County Justice Detention Facility and Holding Cells 2013-2014 Solano County Grand Jury**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

California Penal Code §919 subsection (b) provides, *The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.* Pursuant to the statute, the 2013-2014 Grand Jury inspected the Solano County Justice Detention Facility and Holding Cells.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

- Interviewed Sheriff's Office Staff
- Met with a representative of the California Forensic Medical Group
- Toured and inspected the Justice Detention Facility and Holding Cells
- Reviewed:
  - The most recent Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Report
  - Statistical information from the U.S. Department of Justice - FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division
  - California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Division 3, Rules and Regulations of Adult Institutions, Programs and Parole
  - All correspondence responses
  - Prior Grand Jury reports
  - State of California Public Safety Realignment Act (AB109)

## **III. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The Solano County Justice Detention Facility and Holding Cells, commonly known as the "Main Jail" is located at 530 Union Avenue, Fairfield, California. The detention facility opened in June 1989, with a bed capacity rated at 537 beds. Modifications made in 1999, increased the rated capacity to 740 beds.

On November 21, 2013, during the Grand Jury inspection, bed availability was listed at 702. There are two beds in each cell. Inmates needs and safety issues determine whether a cell will hold one or two inmates, thus causing the variation in the number of beds available.

Corrections Standard Authority (CSA), formerly known as the BSCC, is required by law to inspect and report on the management, operation, and physical plant conditions of all California county and city adult jails, as well as county juvenile halls and camps (Penal Code §6031 et. seq, and Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 209). The CSA has certified the Solano County Justice Detention Facility as Type II, defined as a local facility used for the detention of persons pending arraignment, pending extradition, during trial, and upon a sentence of commitment.

Members of the Sheriff's office informed the Grand Jury that inmate violence on staff has sharply increased by 284% since the AB109 implementation. These assaults are due to changes in the sentencing guidelines of inmates into the County Jails in lieu of State Prison. The Sheriff's Office informed the Grand Jury that inmates have become more brazen, more willing to ignore a deputy's orders and instigate a confrontation likely to result in violence.

In 2012, a total of 15,000 persons were booked into the facility. The table below indicates the distribution by city of bookings in Solano County for the period September thru November 2013.

**BOOKING TOTALS BY CITIES FOR A 3 MONTH PERIOD  
SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2013**

<u>CITY</u>	<u>BOOKING TOTALS</u>
Benicia	76
Dixon	56
Fairfield	833
Rio Vista	34
Suisun	161
Vacaville	459
Vallejo	<u>614</u>
Total	2,233

The total bookings were 14,600 individuals for the year 2013.

The Grand Jury visited the Medical Facility within the jail and found no appearance of impropriety.

**III. SUMMARY**

The 2013-2014 Grand Jury's investigation and inspection on November 21, 2013 found the facility to be clean, debris free, well maintained and well organized. It met or exceeded the requirements to operate a detention facility and holding cells as per CSA ARTICLE 2. INSPECTION AND APPLICATION OF STANDARDS 1010, TITLE 15. The Sheriff and members of his staff were accommodating and willing to provide information and allowed access to all areas of the facility requested by the Grand Jury.

**V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Finding 1** – The Sheriff's Office staff performed their daily operation and maintenance procedures at the Solano County Justice Detention Facility and Holding Cells efficiently, securely and safely.

**Recommendation 1** – The Sheriff's Office staff continue their operation and maintenance procedures at the Solano County Justice Detention Facility and Holding Cells at the professional level observed during the Grand Jury inspection.

**COMMENTS**

The Sheriff's Office Staff should be complimented for exhibiting and providing a high level of proficiency on the security, safety, and service to the citizens of Solano County.

**REQUIRED RESPONSES**

Solano County Sheriff's Office

**COURTESY COPIES**

Clerk of the Solano County Board of Supervisors