

VACAVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND HOLDING FACILITY
2009-2010 Solano County Grand Jury

REASON FOR INSPECTION

California Penal Code Section §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 2009-2010 Grand Jury inspected the Vacaville Police Department, and Holding Facility.

GRAND JURY ACTIONS

- Toured the police department and holding facility with duty officer
- Discussed the department holding process
- Inspected the holding cells

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY

The Vacaville Police Department (VVPD) facility is currently four years old. The 2006-2007 Grand Jury found the VVPD to be a state-of-the-art facility. The 2009-2010 Grand Jury found the VVPD has continued to maintain this standard. Much forethought was given to its construction and design to meet current and future needs.

Card locks are used throughout the building to provide the highest level of security to employees and the visiting public. The facility was built with shock supports to withstand earthquakes. Also included is a sprinkler system and, where necessary, a Halon system to protect sensitive electronic equipment from fire. Cameras are used to monitor areas where detainees are temporarily placed. Officers are kept current on Police Officers Standards and Training (POST).

The facility has eight holding cells for adults, one for juveniles. Detainees are brought through a Sally Port to a secured area. Each adult holding cell can accommodate a maximum of four individuals. The Department does not house individuals overnight. All persons in custody are transported to the county jail for further processing and detention. Inspections are annually conducted by the following: Corrections Standards Authority, the Environmental Health Department and Medical/Mental Health.

COMMENTS

The spokesperson for the Police Department stated that it is capable of delivering service in times of natural disasters not only to citizens of Vacaville, but also, if necessary, to the majority of Solano County residents. The Department is capable of turning current usable space into county-wide emergency services, providing direct communication to other agencies including: fire, public works and the local school district. Their communications equipment and towers are owned, operated and maintained by the City of Vacaville. An on-site sworn officer, who also serves as an Information Technologist, manages their communications operations to best serve the needs of the Department.

Currently, the VVPD has 116 officers budgeted, 105 filled and 100 working positions. There are 58 non-sworn personnel, 19 Dispatch positions budgeted, 16 are filled, 3 are frozen. At the time of this inspection, no patrol positions had been eliminated.

The VVPD has established a large and extensive citizen volunteer program to support the sworn and non-sworn staff. The volunteers must pass a background investigation prior to appointment. After appointment they go through a citizens' training academy before being deployed into the community. The volunteer program is serving the needs of the Department and is providing efficiency and economic savings to the City.

The Grand Jury was informed that the Department actively pursues State and Federal grants. One such grant enabled their Traffic Division to obtain hand-held scanner/digital ticket writing devices. These devices scan driver licenses, provide drop-down lists for citation entries and link to printers. This allows officers to produce tickets more quickly, exposing officers to less roadway hazards and freeing them to respond to more serious incidents. Another has allowed the Department to upgrade its radio communication system to expand its coverage from the City of Dixon to Red Top Road. This expansion also was welcomed by the City of Fairfield and City of Suisun City, who recently have upgraded their communication system to link with the City of Vacaville.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1 – The City of Vacaville has developed community volunteer programs which have allowed their Police Department to provide efficient and productive ways to meet the demands of community service.

Recommendation 1 – The City of Vacaville is commended by the Grand Jury for its community service program and should continue and expand where appropriate.

RESPONDING AGENCIES

Vacaville Police Department
Vacaville City Manager

No comments were received from the responding agencies by the Grand Jury.