



LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Brian L. Martin
Sheriff/Coroner

July 23, 2015

Honorable Stephen O. Hedstrom
Presiding Judge
Lake County Superior Courts
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

To the Honorable Judge Hedstrom,

I am writing this letter in accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05 as response to the June 30, 2015 final report from the Lake County Civil Grand Jury. I first want to thank the Court and express my gratitude and appreciation for the volunteers who dedicated many hours by providing this important service to our community. I welcome the opportunity to have oversight and feedback regarding the Sheriff's Office's operations, and I constantly strive to improve the professional services provided by this agency to the people in Lake County.

The report indicated that the detention facilities that operate in Lake County under supervision of the Sheriff were inspected. The inspection included inspection of the Sheriff's Department Hill Road Correctional Facility, the Main Court holding facility in Lakeport, and the holding facility at the Southlake Superior Court.

The Grand Jury made two findings related to the detention facilities. The first finding was "...that all active detention facilities appear to be in compliance with the Grand Jury inspection forms." I agree with that finding.

The second finding was that "at the South Court Holding Facility in Clearlake it appeared the lock to the main door leading to the holding facilities was difficult to open." I agree with that finding, however I am unable to state the reason the door may be difficult to open. It may be that the lock needs maintenance, or it may be that the particular key that was used was not cut as precisely as it should have been. In any event, the maintenance at the Court Holding Facility is not the responsibility of the Sheriff's Department, as the building is owned by the State of California Judicial Council.

The Grand Jury made a recommendation that "should the Superior Court have a need to use the holding cells at Southlake Superior Court, the Sheriff of Lake County should contact the appropriate agency to ensure the cells meet with all in custody security and public safety standards."

It is my understanding that the cells in the Southlake Superior Court holding facility have not been in use for several years. During my time in office, the cells have not been used to hold any detainees, and I am informed that has been the case for at least a couple of years. I have no intention of resuming the use of these facilities for the holding of detainees or prisoners. If, however, sometime in the future it becomes an option that the Court and the Sheriff wish to explore, I will gladly contact the appropriate agencies to ensure that the facilities meet the appropriate regulatory standards set forth by the State of California, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

In closing I would again like to thank the volunteer members of the Civil Grand Jury for their dedication and commitment, and I would also like to thank you for the leadership and guidance that you provided that ensured that the Grand Jury inspection process was smooth, productive, and beneficial for all.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Martin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian L. Martin
Sheriff-Coroner
County of Lake