



LOU BLANAS
Sheriff

July 27, 2005

Honorable Michael Virga, Presiding Judge
Sacramento Superior Court
County of Sacramento
720 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Sacramento County Grand Jury Report: The Handling and Security of Inmate Correspondence at the Sacramento County Main Jail

Dear Judge Virga:

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the following specific responses are respectfully submitted to you regarding the 2004-2005 Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations on The Handling and Security of Inmate Correspondence at the Sacramento County Main Jail

Finding 1. The staff of the Main Jail was negligent in allowing inmate mail drops to remain unsecured and at risk of being accessed by other inmates. The Grand Jury was advised that a total of 16 mail drops needed to be made secure.

Regarding Finding 1: The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 1. Unsecured mail drops should be repaired promptly as promised by Main Jail authorities. *The 16 mail drops were fixed immediately in September of 2004 when the Main Jail was notified by the Grand Jury of the unsecured mail drops. During subsequent visits by the Grand Jury in late 2004 and in early 2005, the mail boxes were checked by the Grand Jury and found to be in good working order.*

Finding 2. Jail floor officers did not notify maintenance personnel of defective slots so repairs could be made in a timely manner.

Regarding Finding 2. The Sheriff's Department does not agree with this finding as the cause of the problem, but has identified and resolved the problem as addressed in Recommendation 2.

Recommendation 2. Main Jail staff should develop a procedure to ensure that mail related deficiencies as noted in this report are promptly reported and repaired. *When the Grand Jury inspected the mail drops in September of 2004, a maintenance system existed to repair the mail drops, but it was not being consistently followed. A review of the entire Main Jail maintenance system was conducted to ensure maintenance requests were completed in a timely manner. As a result of the review, deficiencies were noted and immediately corrected. During the year, additional maintenance requests for the mail drop boxes were completed and the broken boxes were repaired immediately.*

Finding 3. Jail staff, in responding to inmate complaints of mail not received or delayed mail delivery, instructed inmates to review the rules regarding correspondence in the Inmate Handbook.

Regarding Finding 3. The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding and has taken additional steps as outlined below in addressing Recommendation 3.

Recommendation 3. Main Jail staff should post next to the mailbox in each pod a sample envelope addressed per the rules in the Inmate Handbook. *An example of inmate correspondence, prepared as directed in the Inmate Handbook, has been posted above all of the inmate mail drop boxes in each of the pods. Additionally, the website at www.sacsheriff.com has been updated with directions for the public to send correspondence to inmates housed at the Main Jail. Main Jail mail officers have also been supplying correspondence directions to inmates in response to grievances dealing with inmate mail issues. These directions list "how to" examples on the grievance reply to assist inmates with mail and correspondence problems.*

As always, please feel free to contact me for further information on this or any other issue. My direct telephone number is (916) 874-5712.

Very truly yours,

SHERIFF LOU BLANAS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Capt. M. Iwasa #24". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Captain Mark M. Iwasa
Commander, Main Jail Division