



SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jim Cooper
Sheriff

July 6, 2026

The Honorable Lawrence G. Brown
500 G Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report "Slowly Sunsetting Main Jail Late-Night Releases: Progress Made, but the Midnight Door Remains Open"

Dear Judge Brown:

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office (SSO) hereby submits its formal response to the 2025-2026 Grand Jury Report regarding late-night release practices at the Sacramento County Main Jail.

The SSO remains committed to the goal of minimizing discretionary late-night releases to enhance the safety of both the community and those being released. Since October 2025, our operational practice has been to limit discretionary releases between the hours of 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM.

Current Release Data and Compliance: Year-to-date data for 2026 reflects our continued efforts to manage these timeframes:

- **Total Releases:** 13,158.
- **Releases between 11:00 PM – 6:00 AM:** 2,012 (15.3% of total).
- **Releases between 1:00 AM – 5:00 AM:** 1,029 (7.8% of total).

To ensure consistent application of these practices, the Main Jail Division is currently updating the Late-Night Releases Internal Departmental Correspondence (IDC). Once finalized, this will be redistributed as a recurring operational reminder to all personnel.

Responses to Recommendations

Recommendation R1: The SSO should continue coordination with court and Jail staff to further reduce late-night releases... by December 31, 2026.

Response: The SSO agrees with the intent of this recommendation, though external factors impact its implementation. While formal night court has been eliminated, afternoon court calendars have effectively doubled in size and often continue until 6:00 PM. This increased volume can delay the receipt of necessary release paperwork, creating a backlog of individuals who must be processed before the 1:00 AM discretionary cutoff.

Recommendation R2: The SSO should continue to regularly monitor and enforce the efficient and timely release of individuals... and report on their progress by December 31, 2026.

Response: This recommendation is being implemented. We are currently reviewing release data to better categorize the specific reasons for release. This will allow staff to more clearly distinguish between mandatory releases (such as court-ordered or bail bond releases, which occur 24/7) and discretionary releases that can be delayed until morning hours.

Recommendation R3: The SSO should ensure that all released individuals receive the exit information resource handout automatically by December 31, 2026.

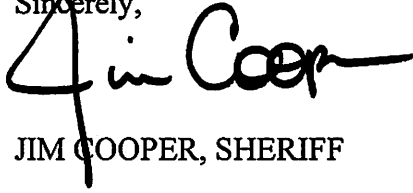
Response: The SSO has implemented a modified version of this practice. Previously, when community resource guides were distributed automatically, they were frequently discarded in the release tank, flushed down toilets, or left as litter outside the facility. Consequently, these guides are now provided upon request. Release staff are directed to advise all incarcerated persons that the guide is available, a copy is posted at the release desk, and we are exploring additional signage within the release tank to remind individuals of these resources.

Additional Safety Measures and Voluntary Stay-Overs: Beyond the Grand Jury's specific recommendations, the SSO maintains several policies to support safe releases:

- **Voluntary Stay-Overs:** Consistent with Penal Code § 4024 and Corrections Policy 519.3.1, individuals eligible for release who suffer from mental illness or substance addiction may voluntarily remain in custody for up to 16 additional hours to facilitate a daylight release. Furthermore, current practice allows any incarcerated person to request to remain in custody until morning, an option that is periodically utilized under supervisor notification.
- **Screening and Transportation:** Release staff completes a Release Screening Form with every individual, providing an opportunity to identify those who do not wish to be released at night. Additionally, Regional Transit (RT) passes are provided to individuals released with less than \$7 or upon request from Adult Correctional Mental Health (ACMH).

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office will continue to evaluate its procedures to ensure we provide "Service with Concern" while meeting our legal and public safety obligations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "C".

JIM COOPER, SHERIFF

Chief Deputy Matt Owens
Correctional Services

MO/mo

cc: Ms. Erendira Tapia-Bouthillier, Grand Jury Coordinator