

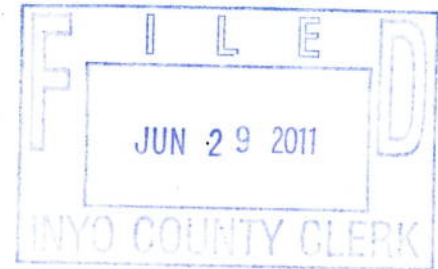
OFFICE OF THE
SHERIFF
INYO COUNTY, CA



WILLIAM R. LUTZE
SHERIFF

KEITH HARDCASTLE
UNDERSHERIFF

"A Professional Service Agency"



June 27, 2011

Honorable Brian Lamb, Judge
Inyo County Superior Court
P.O. Drawer u
Independence, Ca. 93526

RE: Response to Grand Jury 2010-2011 Report

Dear Judge Lamb,

Please consider this a letter of response to the Inyo County Grand Jury 2010-2011 report. This report covers the condition and management of the Inyo County Jail. Below is the response by me regarding the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

FINDINGS:

1. The facility was clean and in good repair. Staffing levels were adequate for the facility.

Response: Agree

2. The video monitoring system within the facility has been replaced/upgraded to include:
 - Improved view of access areas including holding cells, interior jail corridors, storage and workrooms, recreation areas, all doors and exterior delivery points.
 - Improved monitoring of all inside locations including those previously labeled "blind spots".
 - A central monitoring station with multiple video screens in a secure location within the facility.

Response: Agree

3. The room designated for inmate interviews is still not fully utilized even though personnel at the jail have met the recommendations of the Grand Jury from 2009/2010. The fact that Attorneys are not using this room results in greatly increased bailiff costs.

Response: Agree. We are currently working with defense attorneys, the District Attorney and the courts to remedy the issue, which is not within our control. We have implemented a policy to allow this room to be used by attorneys only.

1. The Sheriff's dispatch center has received upgraded radios, resulting in greater capabilities and increased call efficiency.

Response: Agree

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Sheriff and Staff should be commended for the condition of the jail.

Response: Agree – thank you.

2. The Sheriff and staff should be commended for the upgraded surveillance system. Perhaps the Sheriff's office could collaborate with the Juvenile facility in an attempt to upgrade the monitoring equipment at the Juvenile facility.

Response: Agree – thank you. Our staff and the surveillance system contractor, which we used, has met with Juvenile staff and designed a system similar to ours. However, due to budget restraints it could not be purchased this year.

3. Public Defenders and Private Attorneys are strongly encouraged to use the interview room in the Jail, this is especially important in the time of tight budgets.

Response: Agree – thank you.

I want to take this time to thank you and the Grand Jury for their service. If you or the Grand Jury have any additional questions or need further assistance, please contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,


William R. Lutze, Sheriff