Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Orange County Grand Jury:

I have reviewed the 2009-2010 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Detention Facilities in Orange County." After researching the issue raised in the Grand Jury report and speaking with my command staff, I am pleased to forward to you my responses.

FINDINGS

F.2 Graffiti: At the Garden Grove temporary holding facility an extreme amount of gang and tagging-type graffiti was found etched into the east jail cell floor.

RESPONSE

The east holding cell floor of the Garden Grove holding facility is coated with a special epoxy. The epoxy flooring is in place to protect suspects, particularly intoxicated suspects, from falling down and injuring themselves on bare concrete. Although the graffiti is an eyesore, the structural integrity of the epoxy flooring remains intact to provide the safety it was designed for.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R.2 Graffiti: Graffiti should be removed from the east jail cell of the Garden Grove temporarily holding facility and any graffiti appearing in the future should be removed immediately.

RESPONSE

My staff has researched the ability to remove the graffiti and have found only one company in the State of California, licensed to work on this type of epoxy flooring. Furthermore, to repair this damage will
cost approximately $4100 each time the floor needs to be serviced to remove any future graffiti.

In these tough economic times, we are striving to be good stewards of public funds and must account for all non-essential expenditures. Although the current graffiti is unsightly, it is not visible to the public. We have determined the graffiti is being etched by the use of zippers, located on the pants of suspects placed in this holding cell. Since we are only a temporary facility, we do not have the ability to remove the suspect’s clothes and then provide them with alternative clothing. This prohibits us from stopping this type of damage in the future, thus a waste of taxpayer monies on a continuous basis.

Due to the cost involved to remove the graffiti and to continually remove it, it makes it cost prohibitive to my department. We will monitor and review any new technologies, which may provide an economical and permanent solution to this matter.

If I may be of any assistance on this or any related matter, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Polisar
Chief of Police