

September 12, 2006

Nancy Wieben-Stock, Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Wieben-Stock:

My office received the Orange County Grand Jury report, "**Perspective of Orange County Jails, A Continuing Dilemma!**" Based upon the requests detailed in the report, I have compiled responses to Findings 6.4 and Recommendation 7.4.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:

6.4 Inadequate inmate tracking: *Inmate location verification during work release time away from city jails is based on the "honor system," with occasional random calls to reported places of employment by detention facility personnel.*

We agree in part and disagree in part, with qualification. The Seal Beach Police Department maintains a hardscape jail for its own use, specifically to book and temporarily house its own arrestees, arrested by its own officers. Once booked and processed, its arrestees are released on a promise to appear, post bail, or are transferred to the Orange County Jail for further incarceration. Seal Beach Police Department arrestees rarely reside longer than six (6) hours in its facility.

The City of Seal Beach does outsource remaining bed space to a private jail management company for their use to service pay-as-you-stay prisoners who apply through the court system for the privilege of serving their sentences in an alternative facility to the Orange County jail system. Applicant prisoners forwarded to the facility by the Orange County Courts are pre-screened as to the type of crime committed and the circumstances surrounding the crime with information based on a combination of court minute orders, case files, and known previous criminal history. Crimes of violence and crimes against children are rejected.

Applicant prisoners may also apply to the court systems for work release privileges. No applicant is allowed work release without a signed minute order from a trial judge allowing the work release privilege. The Seal Beach Police Department retains final judgment as to which applicants are accepted, based upon strict criteria. There are no exceptions to this rule.

The jail management company, by agreement with the assigning courts, performs random checks upon the employers of work release prisoners to verify the work release prisoner's compliance with the program. Their records are available to the court system upon request.

The Seal Beach Police Department is open to the review, consideration and implementation of best practices in this regard, as they are developed.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

7.4 Track inmates using available technology: *The Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Santa Ana, and Seal Beach detention facilities should consider a GPS-based solution for tracking inmates on work release. The solution should include devices that can be triggered on demand by detention supervisors.*

We agree. Although the City of Seal Beach and its police department do not directly house work release inmates, the private contractor referred to in Finding 6.4 does. The contractor does not currently, but will acquire, assign, and install GPS-based tracking devices on all work release inmates. This practice will be implemented as soon as possible.

We appreciate the Orange County Grand Jury's time and effort spent examining these issues, and the illumination it draws to this subject. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further service.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kirkpatrick
CHIEF OF POLICE