

## City of Huntington Beach



**CALIFORNIA 92648** 

2000 MAIN STREET

Dave Sullivan Mayor

August 25, 2006

Honorable Nancy Wieben Stock Presiding Judge of the Superior Court 700 Civic Center Drive West Santa Ana. Ca. 92701

Dear Judge Stock:

I am in receipt of the 2005-2006 Orange County Grand Jury report entitled, "Perspective of Orange County Jails a Continuing Dilemma!" as well as the letter authored by Orange County Grand Jury Foreperson Bette Flick regarding the requested response to findings and recommendations included in the report.

The report lists finding 6.4 which states, "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."

I agree that the stated finding is consistent with the manner in which work-release inmates are monitored during time they have been released from our facility as instructed by court order.

The report also lists recommendation 7.4 which states, "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."

The recommendation to consider using an active GPS-based solution for tracking inmates requires further analysis. Our jail staff has been in contact with other local agencies in an effort to research a program that uses such a solution. As of this writing, Anaheim is researching the issue, but we have been unable to locate any municipal jail that is currently using any type of electronic monitoring program. We have, however, located a number of potential vendors as well as different approaches to both the passive and active GPS monitoring of inmates.

During the next six months, our staff will examine potential vendors and products in an attempt to determine the feasibility of their use in our work-release program. This analysis will include active and passive GPS systems. We will also examine the impact a GPS monitoring program could have on our jail staffing and ascertain how that will affect the associated fee structure for potential participants in the program.

We will provide you with a letter detailing our findings no later than March 12, 2007. Our jail has a very stringent background process to screen work release applicants, likely one of the most thorough of any city in Orange County. We have found applicants that have been rejected by our screening process are frequently accepted into other facilities' work release programs. In the last year, the

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Huntington Beach city jail has received over 100 applications for work-release program. Of those, only 26 were accepted into our program. Only four (4) of those applicants were convicted of felonies.

We will continue our stringent background process for screening applicants and will continue to comply with all court orders associated with participants in our sentencing program.

Sincerely,

Dar Sullivan

Mayor