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**NEVADA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**KEITH ROYAL**  
SHERIFF / CORONER  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

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July 19, 2017

The Honorable Thomas M. Anderson  
Presiding Judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

*Reviewed  
7/26/17  
KRA*

RE: Response to 2016-2017 Nevada County Detention Facility Inspection Grand Jury Report

Dear Honorable Judge Anderson:

In response to the Grand Jury Report dated May 25, 2017 on the Detention Facilities in Nevada County:

**Nevada County Superior Court Holding Facility**

**FINDINGS:**

- F1. The video monitor in the control room currently being used to monitor the numerous camera sources at the Holding Facility is too small. This makes the job of monitoring all of the video sources unnecessarily difficult.

**Agree**

- F2. A camera monitoring the outside of the main entrance of the courthouse would increase security. It would allow COs in the control room and the guards at the main entrance to observe potential problems.

**Partially Agree**

There is the potential for a camera monitoring the main entrance of the courthouse to increase security. Correctional Officers in the Courthouse are assigned to transport and monitor the movement of inmates from the jail the courtroom. Court security is not the primary mission of a correctional officer. Additionally, we do not supervise the guards at the main entrance to the court and are not informed as to their assigned duties. The guards at the main entrance are contracted employees by the Court.

**Nevada County Detention Facilities**

- F3. All detention facilities administered by the NCSO are understaffed. This results in excessive overtime.

**Agree**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **Nevada County Superior Court Holding Facility**

- R1. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office should make an investment in a larger monitor for the control center of the Nevada County Superior Court Holding Facility

***The recommendation has been implemented***

**The Nevada County Sheriff's Office agrees to provide court security services to the Superior Court of the County of Nevada pursuant to an Agreement. The terms of the Agreement state that security equipment is the responsibility of the Court to provide.**

**The Nevada County Sheriff's Office has provided a larger monitor that has served to mitigate this issue; however, this monitor was provided by the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, and should eventually be returned to its previous use, as it was not provided in accordance with the aforementioned terms.**

- R2. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office should install a camera to allow observation of the exterior area approaching the main entrance to the courthouse.

**The recommendation will not be implemented at the present time**

**Our Agreement with the Court for Security services states that new or replacement security equipment and other security enhancements shall be the responsibility of the Court.**

- R3. Video from this exterior camera should be fed to both the control center and a monitor observable by the screening guard.

**The recommendation will not be implemented at the present time**

**Our Agreement with the Court for Security services states that new or replacement security equipment and other security enhancements shall be the responsibility of the Court.**

### **Nevada County Detention Facilities**

- R4. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office should increase staffing to authorized levels.

***The recommendation has been partially implemented***

**The Nevada County Sheriff's Office has been actively recruiting and testing for the position of Correctional Officer prior to and since this Grand Jury**

Grand Jury Response  
July 2017

**Inspection. Law enforcement and corrections work is stressful, dynamic, and often physically demanding. While many people have expressed an interest in working for the Nevada County Sheriff's Office in the capacity of Correctional Officer, many have been turned away. The Nevada County Sheriff is unwilling to compromise professional standards in order to increase staffing numbers. Factors outside of the sheriff's scope of control, such as salary and benefits (or a lack thereof), present challenges in respect to recruitment and retention. Further compounding these recruitment and retention challenges are the everyday challenges of personnel issues to include absences due to family emergencies, welcoming children into a family, or injuries sustained both on and off duty. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office will continue to recruit and interview prospective correctional officers until staffing is at normal and acceptable levels. At present, overtime is unavoidable.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KRoyal', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Keith Royal  
Sheriff-Coroner