



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
MANAGEMENT & BUDGET TEAM
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: PHILLIP SMITH-HANES, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2014-15 GRAND JURY REPORT *EFFECTS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 109 AND PROPOSITION 47 ON THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT*
DATE: JULY 30, 2015

The 2014-15 Grand Jury has issued report *Effects of Assembly Bill 109 and Proposition 47 on the Probation Department* and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is required to respond to the recommendation. I recommend that the Board respond as follows:

Recommendation R1: *The Humboldt County Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approve Measure Z funding on an annual basis necessary to hire and retain six new probation officers.*

This recommendation has been implemented.

As promised to voters by the ballot measure that placed the question of a countywide local sales tax to vote, the BOS established the nine-member Citizens Advisory Committee to accept and review Measure Z applications and make funding recommendations to the BOS. The Citizen's Advisory Committee recommended and the BOS has approved funding allocation of \$602,724 for the Probation Department in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16. As indicated in the Probation Department's application, this funding will be used to restore six full-time deputy probation officer positions including overhead. It is anticipated that this funding will be allocated on an annual basis until the sunset of the Measure Z funding.

Recommendation R2: *The Humboldt County Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors direct the Humboldt County Department of Human Resources to review its hiring and recruitment procedures with the objective of increasing retention of probation and substance abuse counseling staff.*

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.

The BOS has adopted the Humboldt County Merit System Rules. This system is designed to provide a fair and just system of personnel management that guarantees each candidate for employee be ranked in a neutral setting that ensures like treatment and equal opportunity. Recruiting with the intention of having greater longevity would add a subjective variable and thus be a violation of the Merit System Rules.

Recommendation R3: *The Humboldt County Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors expedite the remodeling project for the Community Corrections Resource Center.*

This recommendation will not be implemented.

The Community Corrections Resource Center (CCRC) is located in a leased property, limiting the ability of the county to expedite the remodeling project. Modifications to the premises have been, and continue to be, completed to allow for the most efficient utilization of the space. The modifications needed for this location to be ideal are not economically efficient for the location. The Humboldt County Probation Department continues to explore alternate options so that a space can be identified that would properly accommodate the expanding needs of the CCRC.

Recommendation R4: *The Humboldt County Grand Jury recommends that any future grant applications for the expansion of the Humboldt County Correctional Facility include adequate space for the Community Corrections Resource Center.*

This recommendation will be implemented.

The Humboldt County Probation Department will identify future grant needs and ascertain the most effective use of available grant funding. The Humboldt County Probation Department, in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office, is currently working on a grant application for a CCRC expansion grant that will provide funding for a space that is adequate for the CCRC.

Recommendation R6: *The Humboldt County Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors appoint the individual heads of Mental Health, Social Services, Alcohol and Other Drug Programs, and Employment Training Program to the Community Corrections Partnership committee as a whole.*

This recommendation will not be implemented.

The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) has required member agencies pursuant to Penal Code Section 1230(B)(2) that includes the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs, Social Services and Employment Training). The Public Safety Realignment Act expanded the role and purpose of the CCP to an Executive Committee that is required to prepare an Assembly Bill 109 Implementation Plan to enable each county to meet the goals of the Public Safety Realignment Legislation. This committee is mandated through Assembly Bill 117 to include the Director of DHHS as a voting member on the Community Corrections Partnership Executive

Committee. It is the practice of DHHS to have the head of branches to be affected by actionable or informational agenda items present at meetings that pertain to their branch.