



# HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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DATE: July 14, 2016

TO: THE HONORABLE JOYCE HINRICHS PRESIDING JUDGE OF  
THE SUPERIOR COURT

FROM: MICHAEL T. DOWNEY, SHERIFF

RE: RESPONSE TO GRAND REPORT 2015-2016

## "Jails and Law Enforcement Facilities"

The Humboldt County Grand Jury noticed Sheriff Michael T. Downey on June 1, 2016 of findings and recommendations contained in the Humboldt County Grand Jury report for 2015-2016. I have submitted the attached worksheet and below I have responded to the recommendations as requested by the Grand Jury.

### Recommendation No. R1

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office has been in the process of digitizing records for a number of years in order to reduce the need for the storage of vast amounts of documents. The process continues and will be completed in a timely manner.

### Recommendation No. R2

The issue of broken glass partitions in the inmate visitor areas of the correctional facility has been addressed a number of times. In the past the Sheriff's Office has installed other types of material such as plexi-glass and other composites.

The Sheriff's Office is now utilizing a Lexan material, which meets our requirements for strength and breakage issues. The glass partitions mentioned in the report are being replaced, as needed, with this new material that is manufactured locally and much more cost effective than the industry standard of wire reinforced glass.

### Recommendation No. R3

Security of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office evidence yard is a concern and has been addressed in past Grand Jury reports. Progress on securing the yard has been made over the past few years but more needs to be done.

One major issue is that it is a rented facility, which requires consent and agreement by the owners of the property for needed upgrades. Also the costs associated with improvements are at times prohibitive and must be budgeted for each year. This is an ongoing process and improvements will be made based upon the above mentioned restrictions and considerations.

**Recommendation No. R4**

This recommendation is similar to Recommendation #3 and will be addressed upon identification and budgeting for the funding to fulfill the recommendation.

**Recommendation No. R5**

Storage of large items continues to be problematic and the Evidence Technicians are continually utilizing creative solutions to this problem. We have sought large surplus shelving to accommodate large items and will continue attempting identifying adequate storage areas for large pieces of evidence. This is a budget sensitive item similar to the aforementioned recommendations.

**Recommendation No. R6**

This recommendation should be forwarded to Humboldt County Roads who are responsible for signage on county roads. I am not in opposition to the implementation of such signage and believe it would enhance services.

**Recommendation No. R7**

Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC) does not inspect facilities constructed prior to 1978 due to prison standards after that time. The holding facility is utilized, infrequently, with someone being placed in a cell for a matter of minutes to no more than an hour while the arresting officer completes paper work or for the arrestee to use the bathroom facilities in the cell. The holding facility has been inspected by the health department in the past as well.

**Recommendation No. R8**

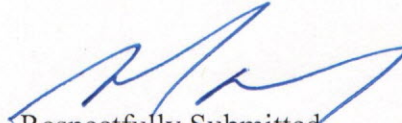
This recommendation will be implemented upon full staffing being reached at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility.

**Recommendation No. R9**

The feasibility of installing a phone outside the station will be explored and implementation will occur upon identification of funding.

**Recommendation No. R10**

This item has been brought to the attention the CAO's Office and Building Maintenance, with some planning taking place. This recommendation should be responded to by either the CAO or Building Maintenance. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office is not responsible for any structural upgrades of the existing facility.

  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael T. Downey, Sheriff  
Humboldt County

Cc: Amy Nilsen, County Administrative Officer