



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

"To Hold or Not To Hold"

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

In response to this recommendation, an ongoing effort continues to exist with allied agencies in regards to sharing information regarding a number of issues in the correctional facility. The Law Enforcement Chiefs Association (LECAH) meets monthly as well as a law enforcement liaison meeting facilitated by the District Attorney also the investigators from all county agencies meet weekly as well. Each of these forums are designed to share information, such as changes and updates in jail procedures.

Recommendation No. R2

The current forum was designed for the average officer to understand and utilize based upon familiarity and ease of use. The form is straight forward with appropriate check off boxes, which allow for the officer to have an individual held if the officer feels it is necessary, based upon the offense. The form is user friendly and easy to understand, continued training has assisted in educating the line officer in its proper use. I see no need to create a new form, which would lead to even more confusion for the arresting officer.

Recommendation No. R3

The task of education regarding the responsibility of the arresting officer who wishes to utilize the Request for Non-Release form is ongoing. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

continually reminds allied agencies of the forms existence and how to best utilize the form in the event an officer feels the arrestee should be held.

I would like to remind the Grand Jury that the Humboldt County Sheriff's Correctional Facility accepts those arrestees who are incarcerated based upon the probable cause developed by the arresting officer. Correctional Deputies are not authorized to hold an arrestee simply because a law enforcement officer has made a lawful arrest. It is up to the arresting officer to document the probable cause, which led up to the arrest and many times that information, is documented in a report hours or sometimes days after the arrest has been made.



Respectfully Submitted,
Michael T. Downey, Sheriff
Humboldt County

Cc: Amy Nilsen, County Administrative Officer