



CITY OF ATASCADERO

August 29, 2012

The Honorable Barry T. LaBarbera, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

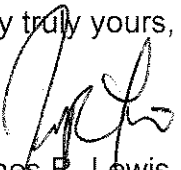
**SUBJECT: Grand Jury Report, entitled:
"A Vital Function of the Judicial System: Law Enforcement
Property and Evidence Rooms"**

Dear Judge LaBarbera:

Please see the enclosed response from the City of Atascadero to the above referenced report. This item was discussed by the Atascadero City Council during their meeting of August 14, 2012.

I trust the response appropriately addresses the concerns of the Grand Jury; if you need additional information please contact me at 470-3400.

Very truly yours,


James R. Lewis
Assistant City Manager

enclosure

xc: SLO County Grand Jury

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: "A VITAL FUNCTION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM: LAW ENFORCEMENT PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE ROOMS."

Report Date: The Grand Jury Report is undated, but was sent to the City by correspondence from the Grand Jury dated June 5, 2012.

Authorized Responder: Mayor Bob Kelley

FINDINGS:

We agree with the findings numbered: 2

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendations numbered 1, 9 and 12 have been implemented, a summary is attached.

Date: August 14, 2012

Signed: Bob Kelley
Bob Kelley, Mayor

Number of pages attached 2

ATTACHMENT TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM **RESPONSE BY CITY OF ATASCADERO**

Report Title: "A VITAL FUNCTION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM: LAW ENFORCEMENT PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE ROOMS."

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendation: All law enforcement agencies in the County should adhere to their respective policies relating to property/evidence room inspections. This recommendation relates to Finding No. 2.

Response to Recommendation No.1:

The Atascadero Police Department will continue to adhere to policies pertaining to evidence room inspections as it has in the past. The Atascadero Police Department recognizes the findings of the Grand Jury (Finding No. 2) that they are in compliance with this recommendation. The Atascadero Police Department is in the final stages of implementation of the newly adopted Lexipol Policy Manual and will take care to follow the provisions of the manual as it relates to property/evidence room inspections.

9. Recommendation: All personnel assigned to property/evidence rooms in the county should continue their training and/or update their knowledge through professional organizations. It is also highly recommended that they join the county chapter of CAPE.

Response to Recommendation No. 9:

The Atascadero Police Department Property Specialist currently attends, and will continue to attend, training through the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), California Association for Property and Evidence (CAPE) and other professional associations whose goal it is to educate law enforcement professionals and improve upon current evidence collection and retention methods.

12. Recommendation: The Grand Jury recommends that the police chiefs and County Sheriff explore the feasibility of a county-wide property/evidence room consolidation, possibly under a joint powers agreement.

Response to Recommendation No. 12:

On June 13th, 2012 the Sheriff discussed the idea of consolidation with the County Chief's at the Criminal Justice Administrators Association meeting. As a result of that meeting the Sheriff contacted the San Mateo Sheriff's Office. San Mateo Sheriff's office was mentioned in the Grand Jury report as a County that was pursuing consolidation. It was determined that San Mateo County is only attempting to consolidate their property rooms with cities they contract with and they have no plans to consolidate with other agencies. On the surface this appears to be a logical plan, however upon discussion with the Chiefs, this idea would result in significant costs and logistical operational difficulties for Cities and the County. The Chiefs and Sheriff will continue to look for opportunities to collaborate on evidence disposal and evaluate the possibility of the consolidation of the long term storage of refrigerated items of evidence.