



Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Chad Bianco, Sheriff-Coroner

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May 19, 2025

Riverside County Grand Jury
3516 9th Street
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: The following is the response to the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury 2024-2025
Report: In-Custody Homicide at SITE-B Blamed on Prisoner Identification Errors.

Dear Riverside County Civil Grand Jury,

This correspondence is in response to the 2024-2025 Riverside County Civil Grand Jury Report titled, "In Custody Homicide at SITE-B Blamed on Prisoner Identification Errors." Please find responses to Findings #1-10 as well as responses to the Recommendations #1-9 below.

FINDINGS

Finding 1

The Business Office at the Robert Presley Detention Center (RPDC) failed to update the system with accurate information received from the Cal ID Livescan report for the subject arrestee. The arrestee was booked under an alias name and with a different CII Number than the one assigned under his real name and other aliases he had used in the past.

Response to Finding 1

The respondent, Riverside County Sheriff's Office, agrees with the finding.

Finding 2

COMPAS (Correctional Offender Management Profiling) Assessment is not used as required by SOP #3 for SITE-B. An explanation was given that this tool is only used in therapeutic programs. Department staff responded that they had never been used, or had never seen or heard of it.

Response to Finding 2

The respondent, Riverside County Sheriff's Office, partially disagrees, with the finding. The SITE-B SOP #3 does not state the tool is to be utilized specifically for placement into therapeutic programs; however, this assessment tool was utilized to develop therapeutic treatment plans based on the identification of an individual's risk and needs. The therapeutic treatment plan drove participants' schedules of therapeutic curriculum and length of dosage hours within a correctional environment to bring about successful change and to reduce the likelihood of recidivism. This assessment tool was utilized to assess individuals seeking entry into SITE-B's Residential Substance Abuse Program. This program was discontinued due to the change in legislation which reduced many felonies to misdemeanors and a federal stipulation which requires the Riverside Sheriff's Office to release lower-level offenders due to overcrowding. Consequently, this program was eliminated due to the inability to maintain enrollment. Since this program no longer exists, the COMPAS assessment is not utilized to place inmates in this program.

Staff assigned to support assignments, such as SITE-B, rotate out of these assignments and return to a jail after a few years. This is done to ensure core perishable skills to function competently and safely in the detention facility are maintained. Additionally, as legislation, mandates, and policies frequently change, staff need to be reassigned within a jail environment to remain current on these revisions. The Residential Substance Abuse Program was discontinued more than four years prior, so many staff are unaware of the COMPAS assessment as it is no longer used.

Finding 3

Training for the clearance and enrollment procedures at SITE-B is done informally and by OJT (on-the-job) only.

Response to Finding 3

The respondent, Riverside County Sheriff's Office, wholly disagrees with the finding. Staff assigned to SITE-B responsible for clearance and enrollment procedures have always been required to attend formal training at BCTC in booking, business office, and classification procedures. As of March 2025, staff are required to complete this course prior to being assigned to oversee these processes. Additionally, they attend formal on the job training for booking, business office, and classification procedures upon being assigned to a classification position.

Finding 4

Training for bookings and business office procedures is done by OJT only. Additionally training is conducted at Ben Clark Training Center; it is only voluntary and for civilian staff.

Response to Finding 4

The respondent, Riverside County Sheriff's Office, wholly disagrees with the finding. All correctional deputies learn booking, intake, and classification procedures during their academy training. Upon graduation of the academy and assignment to a detention facility, these processes are reinforced and assessed during a formal training program with a certified training officer. The formal training for jail operations, including booking, intake, and classification procedures is a two-month program and training in business office procedures is a three-month program. Trainees

must successfully pass written, verbal, and practical tests to complete their training to be successfully released from the formal training programs.

Additionally, any staff member assigned to any assignment can take the business office course provided at the Ben Clark Training Center and it is not restricted to civilian staff. The current practice is to send staff throughout the Corrections Division to this course regardless of assignment to refamiliarize them with business office procedures.

Finding 5

Subjectivity or “fluidity” in decision making for housing classification at RPDC resulted in placing subject inmate in the least restrictive environment as opposed to the most restrictive.

Response to Finding 5

The respondent, Riverside County Sheriff’s Office, wholly disagrees with the finding. The classification assessment performed based on the information the classification deputy had at the time was correct. The decision to house the individual in his assigned housing unit was appropriate and corresponded to the CII. The inmate was not improperly housed based on subjectivity. The folly in housing was based on incorrect identity of the inmate, not as a result of subjectivity during the classification process.

Finding 6

Due to delays in receiving Livescan reports, inmates may be classified for housing prior to the Business Office validating their identification and criminal history.

Response to Finding 6

The respondent, Riverside County Sheriff’s Office, agrees with the finding. To address this issue, the policy pertaining to housing inmates was revised on March 26, 2025 to read, “If the identity of the individual cannot be positively identified, the classification staff will delay the housing process until the business office staff confirms identification through LiveScan.

Finding 7

Vaguely worded policies and procedures allow too much discretion in booking and processing. For example, the use of words like “can,” “may”, and “such as” suggest that something could be done, rather than being required.

Response to Finding 7

The Respondent, Riverside Sheriff’s Office, agrees with the finding. These policies were revised to remove subjective verbiage May 16, 2025.

Finding 8

Policies & Procedures indicate the Integrated Biometric Information System (IBIS) can be used as a tool to identify arrestees in the booking process. IBIS was not used in the booking process for subject inmate at RPDC due to its reported malfunctioning. Work orders to repair IBIS at RPDC were not produced, as requested.

Response to Finding 8

Respondent, Riverside County Sheriff's Office, agrees with the finding. The RPDC IBIS machine is currently fully functioning, and staff are using the machine during the booking process. Additionally, all Riverside County Jail IBIS machines are operational and are required to be utilized during the booking process.

Finding 9

The Breakdown Workstation in the Business Office (RPDC) identifies and corrects booking/processing errors. There is no continuous improvement process in place within the department to track and correct these types of mistakes to help prevent them from being made in the future.

Response to Finding 9

Respondent, Riverside County Sheriff's Office, agrees with the finding.

Finding 10

Some operating systems at RPDC were reported to be over 30 years old. The Board of Supervisors approved a consulting agreement to provide recommendations for the Computer Aided Dispatch, Record Management System, and Jail Management System. The Sheriff's Technology Services Bureau is currently evaluating recommendations and planning for an extensive implementation of new technology.

Response to Finding 10

Respondent, Riverside County Sheriff's Office, agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

By end of year 2025, install clear instructions and a procedure for validation of the Livescan report, including cross-referencing arrestee aliases in JIMS. Procedure to be clearly documented with signature/initial of a supervisor.

Response to Recommendation 1

The recommendation has been implemented. Clear instructions and a process to validate the LiveScan report was added to Policy 506.05 on May 16, 2025. The policy requires business office staff to validate the identity of the arrestee by comparing the CII, LiveScan, Homeland Security, and FBI responses. If the names differ, staff are to notify the print room, classification, a sergeant, and the arresting agency. Staff are required to document all notifications made on the individuals' LiveScan and the sergeant notified will sign the booking file indicating they were advised of the change in identification of the individual.

Recommendation 2

By end of year 2025, either eliminate the requirement to complete a COMPAS (Correctional Offender Management Profiling) Assessment, SOP 3#, at SITE-B, or implement it as intended for inmates prior to being cleared and enrolled in SITE-B programs.

Response to Recommendation 2

The recommendation has been implemented. The COMPAS assessment was eliminated from use as the therapeutic program for which it was intended was eliminated.

Recommendation 3

By end of year 2025, organize and implement mandatory training programs, including annual recertification for SITE-B staff responsible for clearance and enrollment procedures to include familiarization with booking, business office, can classification procedures.

Response to Recommendation 3

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted and is not reasonable. Holding an annual training course at BCTC for two staff members is not reasonable. Additionally, staff assigned to SITE-B responsible for clearance and enrollment procedures attend mandatory formal training at BCTC in booking, business office, and classification procedures prior to being assigned to oversee these processes. Additionally, they attend formal on the job training for booking, business office, and classification procedures upon being assigned to a classification position. These skills are reinforced daily through their normal job duties. If processes or requirements change, the Riverside Sheriff's Office provides immediate updates, training, and policy revisions to ensure all staff are aware of and are immediately trained on such changes.

Recommendation 4

By end of year 2025 organize and implement mandatory training programs, including annual recertification, at the Ben Clark Training Center for staff members involved in the booking, business office, and classification procedures.

Response to Recommendation 4

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Staff members involved in the booking, business office, and classification procedures attend mandatory formal training at BCTC in booking, business office, and classification procedures prior to being assigned to oversee these processes. Additionally, they attend formal on the job training for booking, business office, and classification procedures upon being assigned to a classification position. These skills are reinforced daily through their normal job duties. If processes or requirements change, the Riverside Sheriff's Office provides immediate updates, training, and policy revisions to ensure all staff are aware of and immediately trained on such changes.

Recommendation 5

To reduce "fluidity" and subjectivity in the classification process, include in the Intake and Release policy #504.10, written procedures to require classification staff to review the Livescan report,

Probable Cause Statement, and the Criminal History report of an arrestee. Complete no later than August 1, 2025.

Response to Recommendation 5

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The classification process is covered in Classification Policy 504.02. In this policy, classification staff are required to review the LiveScan report, Probable Cause Statement, and the Criminal History report of an arrestee. To include this requirement in Policy 504.10 is not warranted because staff performing intake and release processes are not involved with the classification process nor are all of these documents available during the intake process.

Recommendation 6

Perform a detailed review of the Policies and Procedures for the Booking and Business Office, specifically 504.10 [Intake & Release] and 504.26 [Fingerprinting, Booking, Photos] to replace vaguely worded instructions with clear directives. Complete no later than August 1, 2025.

Response to Recommendation 6

The recommendation has been implemented. Policies 504.10 and 504.26 were updated May 16, 2025, to replace words such as “can,” “should,” and “may,” to “shall,” “will” and “must.”

Recommendation 7

Repair and require use of the current IBIS system, or acquire a different system, to accurately identify an arrestee at the onset of the booking process. Complete repairs by the end of year 2025. If the system is to be replaced, acquire by end of year 2026.

Response to Recommendation 7

The recommendation has been implemented. All IBIS systems are fully operational and are required to be utilized during the booking process.

Recommendation 8

Develop and implement an electronic database to record all booking and processing errors identified by the Breakdown Workstation in the Business Office (RPDC). The tracking system is to identify the root causes and lead to the implementation of a preventative measures (i.e., continuous improvement program). Complete and install by end of year 2025.

Response to Recommendation 8

The recommendation has been implemented. An electronic database was created May 16, 2025, to record all booking and processing errors identified by the breakdown workstation in the business office. This database will identify the causes of discrepancies in booking and processing inmate files, which will result in training and corrective action being taken.

Recommendation 9

Finalize negotiations with selected vendor(s) and initiate contracts to implement jail management system upgrades.

Response to Recommendation 9

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future and is expected to be completed by 2027.

In conclusion and with all due respect for the findings, the Sheriff's Office believes there was a single error which contributed to this incident, not the cumulative ten findings contained within the report. While the issues noted indicated room for improvement with our processes and were addressed with revised policies and training, improperly updating the identity of the inmate was the single factor in this incident.

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Sharp", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

DONALD SHARP, UNDERSHERIFF

Riverside County Sheriff's office