



Patrick Hedges

Sheriff-Coroner

P.O. Box 32

San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department

Area Code:
(805)

May 20, 2009

Administration
781-4540

Animal Services
781-4400

Civil
Enforcement
781-5484

Crime
Prevention
781-4547

Custody
781-4600

Detectives
781-4500

Patrol
781-4550

Coast Station
528-6083

Dispatch
781-4550

North Station
434-4290

South Station
473-7100

Watch
Commander
781-4553

Permits
781-4575

Property
781-4533

Records
781-4140

Warrants
781-4588

The Honorable Martin Tangeman
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
San Luis Obispo County Superior Court
County Government Center, Room 385
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: 2008-2009 Grand Jury Interim Report – Property Rooms

Dear Judge Tangeman:

I have reviewed the 2008-2009 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury Interim Report regarding Property Rooms in San Luis Obispo County. My response to their Finding and Recommendations is as follows:

Finding:

2. *The Sheriff's Department complies with the POST Standards and all legal statutes. Officers are all well trained and disciplined in their recording of evidence. Corrections in the storage of evidence has made it more secure from theft or intermingling with other cases. Policy and procedure directives are dated and supervision of Substation property rooms was lax until after Grand Jury inspections.*

The respondent agrees with this finding.

Recommendation:

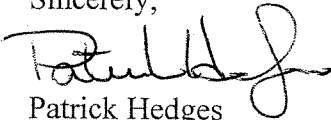
1. *The Sheriff should update property room policies and procedures to meet industry standards, especially those pertaining to the temporary storage of evidence to make it more secure.*

The recommendation has been implemented. The current evidence/property handling policy is in revision and at the executive level for review. Roll call training has been conducted to insure deputies are adhering to the established evidence handling procedures. An additional day has been added to property pick up from patrol stations to insure temporary storage of property at patrol stations is not an issue.

2. *The Sheriff's Department should conduct regular, independent monitoring of substation property rooms.*

The recommendation has been implemented. Executive staff has directed patrol station Commanders and Sergeants to conduct and log daily inspections of patrol station property rooms to insure compliance with all department policies and directives in handling of property. Unannounced inspections by executive staff are conducted on a random basis.

Sincerely,



Patrick Hedges
Sheriff-Coroner

c: San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury