

**County of Santa Clara
Office of the Sheriff**

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Laurie Smith
Sheriff

DATE: May 24, 2016

TO: Supervisor Mike Wasserman, Chair
Supervisor Ken Yeager, Vice Chair

CC: Board Offices
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Don Larkin, Deputy County Counsel
Esther Peralez-Dieckmann, Director of the Office of Women's Policy
Guadalupe Rodriguez, Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women

FROM: Laurie Smith, Sheriff 

SUBJECT: Receive report from the Commission on the Status of Women relating to Jail Monitoring Report. [PSJC Item 6 for May 25, 2016]

I am writing in support of the report from the Commission on the Status of Women relating to the Jail Monitoring Report. I want to thank the volunteers and Commissioners who donate their time to receiving training and conducting monthly monitoring visits with women incarcerated at Elmwood.

This has been a very successful collaboration between the Office of the Sheriff and the Commission. We established the first County Jail Monitoring Program at a Women's Facility in 2013. I am proud of the work we have accomplished together in our first three years and look forward to the continued partnership. We have made significant progress and will incorporate the recommendations into the Jail Reform Plan to ensure they continue to move forward as a priority. Below are some areas we have identified where particular attention is needed.

Continued Training

As part of the Jail Reform Plan, I recommended adding an additional four hours of Gender Response training for all staff assigned to custodial facilities. This is in agreement with the recommendations presented by the Commission in their report. We are currently reviewing our entire training curriculum to determine a schedule for the coming year. At our next training update to PSJC and

FGOC in August, I will bring forward an implementation timeline for when this training will occur, complete with a deadline by which everyone will be trained.

As for adding this curriculum to the academy; we agree this is an important component and we are currently reviewing many areas to add to the academy such as use of force, grievances, ADA, and suicide prevention. We plan to develop a revised academy curriculum to bring to PSJC and FGOC as part of our training update in November.

Hazardous Waste

We appreciate the Commission's role in developing solutions for the clean-up of hazardous waste. We believe the addition of an inmate "haz-mat team" will be a create opportunity for our female inmates and look forward to the pilot certification program.

Classification and Data Collection

The County Executive's Office currently holds a contract with a nationally recognized classification expert. We have provided the expert with information and a sampling of inmate data for evaluation and development of recommendations on a new system. We anticipate the expert's report will be made available within the next few months and presented publicly. After, we will begin the process to decide how to proceed with a new classification system that is consistent with the priorities outlined in the Jail Reform Plan, which include a valid, objective, and equitable system. The new system will take into consideration the gender differences between criminal offenses and the impact of incarceration on males and females.

To our knowledge, the CJIC replacement is three to five years out, but this process is being run by County's Information Systems Department.

Continued MOU

The Jail Monitoring program provides a vital service to the Office of the Sheriff by facilitating input from female inmates. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Office of Women's Policy and the Jail Monitoring Program. We have begun discussions regarding the updated MOU and are confident we can have a new, three year agreement in place by July 1, 2016.