

This document is an extract of a larger publication.

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Assistance Initiatives to address the most vulnerable and service resistant illegal campers on the Parkway, as per Recommendation 1, cited above.

5. Middle of the Night Jail Releases: Balancing Safety and Jail Processing Concerns

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

The 2017-2018 Sacramento County Grand Jury conducted an investigation to minimize the number of middle of the night releases from the Sacramento County Jail and to reduce potential safety problems for the person being released and for the community.

2017-2018 FINDINGS

- F1. The new jail management system (ATIMS) being implemented in the Jail will modernize and make more efficient all jail operations from intake to release.
- F2. Until the ATIMS system becomes operational, the Jail continues to process releases without regard to the time of release. This results in more than necessary late-night releases occurring on a daily basis.
- F3. There may be inconsistencies within the different shifts regarding how Court Ordered Releases (COR) are processed by Jail desk personnel and given to release officers. The chain of command, including who is responsible, is not defined.
- F4. The Jail has no written checklist type system in place to inform inmates of their options upon release.
- F5. The Jail does not have a taxi service contract or taxi voucher system that would provide persons being released in the middle of the night with the free option of a taxi service.
- F6. The present debit card system is not user friendly, does not offer a cash option, and may result in a service charge. Further, use of the system may result in the loss of amounts under \$20.

2017-2018 RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. Implementation of the new ATIMS system should be expedited and specifically be aimed at minimizing late night releases.
- R2. Until implementation of ATIMS, steps should be taken to minimize late night jail releases as recommended.
- R3. Existing written instructions on processing CORs should be updated with a goal of processing such releases consistently and as quickly as possible.

- R4. A written or electronic checklist-type release form should be developed and utilized to fully inform persons being released of their options during the late night hours to incorporate all suggestions previously noted.
- R5. The County should contract or use a voucher system to provide a taxi service option for late night releases.
- R6. The existing debit card system should be reviewed, with the aim of making it more user friendly. Persons being released should be given cash if their balances are less than \$20

2017-2018 RESPONSES

The Sacramento County Sheriff provided responses to the findings and recommendations noted above on September 11, 2018.

The 2018-2019 Sacramento County Grand Jury notes that the required responses are in compliance with PC Section 933 and PC Section 933.05.

The Sacramento County Sheriff reported the following actions:

- R1. *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.* The Sheriff's Department is working diligently with ATIMS developers to implement the new jail management system in accordance with a set schedule that has been created by industry experts. New software will not change the requirements for release of inmates nor will it replace the need for more personnel to perform necessary work to accurately calculate and confirm each scheduled release.
- R2. *The recommendation has been implemented.* The Sheriff's Department must maintain compliance with a court-ordered consent decree and section 853.6 of the Penal Code. All arrestees booked with only misdemeanor warrants shall be issued a citation and released, unless judges' remarks indicate otherwise. The Sheriff's Department attempts to minimize late night releases.
- R3. *The recommendation has not yet been implemented* but will be addressed in the release of the ATIMS system.
- R4. *The recommendation has not yet been implemented* but will be addressed in the near future. The Sheriff's Department is working with the Department of Health and Human Services and is working to develop signage for inmates in the release tank to access the County's 211 system.
- R5. *The recommendation has not yet been implemented.* The Sheriff's Department believes this recommendation should involve a discussion with County leadership to contemplate the facilitation and financing of such a venture.
- R6. *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.* The Sheriff's Department does not keep cash on hand. This would require an increase in staffing in order to comply with the County's policy on separation of duties with cash handling.