



City of Morro Bay

Morro Bay, CA 93442

(805) 772-6205

August 14, 2012

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

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

Dear Judge LaBarbera:

On behalf of Council of the City of Morro Bay, thank you for the information provided by the Grand Jury in the report entitled "A Vital Function of the Judicial System: Law Enforcement Property and Evidence Rooms". This report was presented and reviewed by the City Council at their meeting held on August 14, 2012. After carefully considering the report and its findings and recommendations, the City Council offers the following responses:

Grand Jury Finding #4: The Morro Bay Police Department advised that it will complete a full inventory of it's evidence room with the hiring of a new Property/Evidence Technician.

City Response: *The City Council agrees with this statement. In addition, an audit of all money, drugs and weapons was completed when the Interim Police Chief started with the City on April 23, 2012 and this audit found no discrepancies. A full audit of the all property/evidence will be completed by September 28, 2012.*

Grand Jury Recommendation #1: All law enforcement agencies in the County should adhere to their respective policies relating to property/evidence room inspections.

City Response: *The City Council agrees with this statement. As noted in their report, the Grand Jury stated that the Morro Bay Police Department inspection practice exceeded the Lexipol policy.*

FINANCE
595 Harbor Street

ADMINISTRATION
595 Harbor Street

FIRE DEPT.
715 Harbor Street

PUBLIC SERVICES
955 Shasta Avenue

HARBOR DEPT.
1275 Embarcadero Road

CITY ATTORNEY
595 Harbor Street

POLICE DEPT.
850 Morro Bay Boulevard

RECREATION & PARKS
1001 Kennedy Way

Grand Jury Recommendation #9: 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.

City Response: *The City Council agrees with this statement. The Morro Bay Police Department belongs to the San Luis Obispo Chapter of CAPE and our new Property/Evidence Technician is scheduled for training in November 2012.*

Grand Jury Recommendation #11: The following Police Departments shall submit evidence of a full property/evidence room audit to the Grand Jury: Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo & the Sheriff's Department.

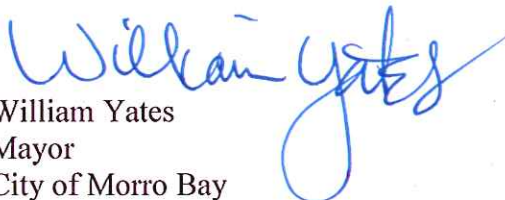
City Response: *The City Council agrees with this statement. A full audit of all property/evidence will be completed by September 28, 2012 and a confirmation of the completion and results of this audit will forwarded to the Grand Jury.*

Grand Jury Recommendation #12: 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.

City Response: *This recommendation requires further analysis. On June 13, 2012 the Sheriff discussed the Grand Jury recommendation of consolidation with the Police Chiefs of the County at the monthly Criminal Justice Administrators Association (CJAA) meeting. There was agreement that on the surface this appeared worthy of further study however there was the opinion that a consolidation using a central facility would result in a significant increase to operational costs and create logistical difficulties for municipal police agencies, which would have to be resolved. The Sheriff has contacted San Mateo County and learned that they are only looking to consolidate this function with contract cities they provide law enforcement for and not other police agencies. The Sheriff and Chiefs agreed to continue to look for opportunities to collaborate and consolidate this function.*

Please let the City know if you have any further questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,


William Yates
Mayor
City of Morro Bay