



October 27, 2020

SENT VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

E-Mail: civilgrandjury@lacourt.org

Presiding Judge
The Honorable Kevin C. Brazile
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, 11th Floor, Room 11-506
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: City of Glendale Response to the 2019-2020 Los Angeles County Grand Jury Report entitled "Detention"

Honorable Presiding Judge Brazile:

On July 31, 2020, the Los Angeles County Grand Jury issued its report entitled "Detention" ("Report"). In this Report, the Glendale Police Department received an unsatisfactory inspection rating. This letter is submitted as the City of Glendale's official response to the findings and recommendations in this Report.

The Glendale Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of service and welcomes oversight inspections as a means of further enhancing our level of professional service. The Glendale Police Department Jail is frequently recognized by various oversight authorities as an exceptionally run operation that functions within all regulatory guidelines. For over 15 years, the Glendale Police Department Jail has successfully maintained an exceptional level of verified performance on an annual basis. Indeed, upon their departure from visiting the Department's Jail facility, a member of the Grand Jury noted to Department staff that the Report would be positive and reflect the professionalism of the facility.

To our dismay, the Jail was rated unsatisfactory. A letter setting forth objections to the statements in the Report regarding the Glendale Police Department Jail was sent to you on July 16, 2020, and is attached hereto. As an agency recognized for maintaining a well-run jail operation, the Glendale Police Department is not accustomed to receiving unsatisfactory reports and thus we take this matter seriously. On page 9 of the Report, the following comments are made regarding the Glendale Police Department:

We were kept waiting 30 minutes for our inspection; very clean;
Video Court arraignments done at station to reduce prisoner

transport; a pay to stay facility (\$91 a night); meals are from Central Jail; cleaning contracted out

Problems: when homeless are detained, clothes are confiscated and bagged as hazardous waste; when the inmates are released they are given paper clothing; officers do all the laundry: prison clothes, towels, and bedding; outside contractors are needed to free-up police officers time

First, we would like to take this opportunity to offer a sincere apology for the extended wait time the Civil Grand Jurors experienced on the date of the inspection. Although the Glendale Police Department strives to process requests for access to the Jail by authorized persons in an expeditious manner, unfortunately on this occasion we did not meet the expectations of the Civil Grand Jurors.

Second, we have thoroughly reviewed the areas noted in the Report as problems and discovered that the statements are based on misinterpretations of Glendale Police Department operational processes. Further, the statements have no basis in fact and were, in two key instances, directly contrary to the information provided by Department staff to the Grand Jurors during the facility visit. In addition, the noted problems have never been raised as issues by the Los Angeles County Health Department or the Board of State and Community Corrections. Those agencies have inspected the Glendale Police Department Jail over the years, most recently in 2019, and have found the facility and its operations to meet or exceed required standards.

The specific statements in the Report and the City of Glendale official responses are set forth below.

Statement: “[W]hen homeless are detained, clothes are confiscated and bagged as hazardous waste; when the inmates are released they are given paper clothing[.]”

Response: The City of Glendale wholly disagrees with this statement as it is not supported by any facts in the Report. During the inspection, a juror asked whether the Glendale Police Department gives homeless people clothing if they defecated or urinated on themselves or had bloody clothing. A Custody Bureau Supervisor responded that persons who have defecated or urinated on themselves would be given blue paper pants, blue paper shirts, or white paper suits and disposable underwear. The Glendale Police Department does not remove or confiscate inmate clothing. Particular pieces of clothing that are hazardous due to blood or feces or otherwise infested are properly disposed of for health and safety reasons. If a person’s clothing is removed for health and safety reasons, staff will provide temporary disposable clothing. The inmate may call family members or friends to bring a change of clothes before being released. If a change of clothes is not brought by family or friends, prior to release, staff may provide unmarked inmate clothing that is similar to medical scrubs. This procedure

applies to all persons and not just homeless persons. The statement in the Report is inaccurate to the point of being reckless.

Further, the statement regarding homeless individuals in the Report is not consistent with policy or practice. Pertinent sections of the Glendale Police Department Custody Bureau policies are set forth below.

Chapter 15 Subsection 5

Jail staff will properly account for and accurately maintain control of the clothing and personal property of each person in custody until the person and/or property is released.

Chapter 20 Subsection 3 STANDARD INMATE CLOTHING

The Jail Administrator shall be responsible for overseeing the control, storage, and inventory of all inmate clothing. A sufficient supply of clothing shall be available at all times, and facilities shall be prepared to meet unusual demands that may arise (i.e.; contaminated prisoner clothing, prisoner booked without sufficient clothing, prisoner clothing held for evidence, etc.).

A standard issue of institutional clothing shall include, but not limited to the following:

1. Clean socks and footwear
2. Clean outer garments
3. Clean undergarments

For males: shorts and undershirt

For females: panties and bra

An inmate's personal undergarments and footwear may, subject to security requirements, be substituted for the institutional undergarments and footwear specified herein. Clothing shall be reasonably fitted; durable, easily laundered or dry-cleaned, repaired, and shall be issued to all inmates held over 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. (California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Section 1260)

Finding No. 5: "Officers do all laundry for facility[.]"

Response: The City of Glendale disagrees wholly with this finding as City of Glendale police officers do not perform laundry duties at the Glendale Jail. Rather, Custody Bureau personnel perform laundry duties when trustees are not available. Laundry duties do not interfere with the primary responsibilities of Custody Bureau personnel. Further, these duties are done in accordance with Los Angeles County Health Department regulations and include solely prisoner towels, bed liners, and blankets, and not prisoner clothes. To specifically include this statement as a basis for an unsatisfactory rating is inappropriate.

Recommendation No. 5: “Outside contractors should be hired to do the laundry, as to free up officers’ time.”

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted as police officers do not perform this work. Laundry duties do not interfere with the primary responsibilities of Custody Bureau personnel. The performance of this task by employees of the Custody Bureau does not violate any jail operational regulation and falls well within the Custody Bureau’s ability to perform its duties while continuing to ensure a safe and secure jail environment.

In conclusion, we recommend that the Court instruct Civil Grand Jurors performing detention inspections to request an agency response for confirmation and/or clarification on any noted items they may deem unsatisfactory before submitting their comments as factual findings. This will greatly enhance the accuracy in reporting. It will also provide assurances to those accessing these reports that all noted items have been confirmed and are factual which serves to further legitimizing reported findings.

Sincerely,

Vrej Agajanian
Mayor

cc: Glendale City Council
Roubik Golanian, Interim City Manager
Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney
Carl Povilaitis, Chief of Police