

TAFT POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On March 10, 2016 the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2015-2016 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited the Taft Police Department (Department). The visit was to inquire into the operation and management of the Department pursuant to California Penal Code §925(a).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Taft Police Chief. A question and answer session was held in the Police Chief's office. After the question and answer session, a brief tour of the Department was conducted where the Committee met with other staff and Law Enforcement Officers.

BACKGROUND/FACTS:

- A. The Department is located at 330 Commerce Way in Taft, CA 93268.
- B. The staffing level of the Department is:
 - Police Chief
 - One Lieutenant
 - Three Sergeants
 - Three School Resources Officers
 - 12 Officers
 - Five Dispatchers
 - One Community Service Officer
 - One Animal Control Officer
 - One Shelter Tech
 - One Code Enforcement Officer
 - One Administrative Assistant
- C. The Department has a small gym with a few treadmills.
- D. The property room is well organized and is undergoing some renovations. The property room is managed using a Report Management System to track property and location of all evidence collected by the Department. Only the property room clerk has access to the property room and has sole responsibility for all contents. Property and squad room renovations are scheduled to be completed by mid-July 2016.
- E. Video surveillance recordings are retained between four and six months.

- F. The Department has eight holding cells for men and four cells for women.
- G. The City of Taft has their own 911 call center with mapping and computer aided dispatch.

FINDINGS:

- F1. In the Department's jail section, prisoners are constantly monitored by the Police Dispatcher and once an hour by a Corrections Officer from the Taft Modified Community Correctional Facility next door. Prisoners may be held up to 72 hours before the Kern County Sheriff's Department picks them up for transportation to the Kern County Central Receiving Facility for arraignment.
- F2. The Committee learned that in 2011, the Department installed a 24,000 watt solar system. The solar system not only provides power to the Department but it also provides shade for the parking lot. This solar system will be paid for over 20 years.
- F3. The Police Chief reported that the community has had no graffiti or gang problems or homicides over the past year. The Department received over 10,000 calls for service this past year.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury would like to thank the Police Chief and his staff for their courtesy and professionalism they extended to us during the visit and tour. Keep up the good work.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

NONE

NOTES:

The Taft Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED