



EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Office of the Chief of Police

June 23, 2015

Honorable Judge J. Hinrichs
Presiding Judge Humboldt County Grand Jury
Superior Court of County of Humboldt
825 Fifth Street Room G03
Eureka CA 95501

Re: Humboldt County Jail Sites Visits Report


Dear Judge Hinrichs:

The Humboldt County Grand Jury conducted a jail site visit of the Eureka Police Department two times between September 2014 and January 2015. This is authorized pursuant to 919(b) PC, the Grand Jury "shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." The Eureka Police Department fully cooperated with the Grand Jury members and shall continue to enable them in the future.

The Eureka Police Department (EPD) does not maintain a prison or jail facility. It was decommissioned by official memo and policy in January of 2014. The holding cells are now used for the storage of evidence and bulk property. While it is beyond the scope of 919(b) PC, the Eureka Property room is a concern to police administrators and technicians. Over burdening of the property room is partly the reason for expanding the property room into what used to be holding cells and a storage room off of the holding cells.

(R2) The Eureka Police would like to reduce the enormous amount of property being held in its property room and has done so recently by removing property no longer needed as evidence. Certain types of murder cases demand that evidence must be held in perpetuity. Sexual assault evidence must be held a minimum of 20 years and other cases to adjudication. Expanding the property and evidence function to a separate facility is a cost the city cannot bear at this time, but can be examined for future planning. Part of the new Records Management System supports a software package that will allow better inventory control, expediting the removal and reduction of property volume. EPD hopes to purchase that functionality in the upcoming year.

Should you have any questions please let me know.


Andrew G. Mills
Chief of Police

cc: Sam Giannandrea, Foreperson, Humboldt County Grand Jury
Pam Powell, Eureka City Clerk