



San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

December 1, 2008

Jail Planning Unit

Lt. Deborah Bazan 650-508-6721

M/A Bob Livengood 650-508-6722

C/O Mike Mitchell 650-508-6723

Community Questions??

Q. Why can't the LaHonda facility not be used for inmates who are in for the duration with no outside needs?



A. The La Honda Medium Security Facility could be used to house up to 116 medium and minimum security inmates. The remoteness of the facility does present transportation problems. Inmates housed there would need to be sentenced with a very minimum number of medical, mental or legal issues.

Q. Agrees a new jail is needed, but is concerned about a Coyote Pt. location because area is used by families. Also, why build a jail on a prime waterfront location in a flood zone?

A. The decision on where the replacement jail will be built is still some months away. In the mean time, a comprehensive review of 25 sites is underway. A number of objective criteria will be evaluated for each site and a site recommendation will be made to the Board of Supervisors in the Spring of 2009.

Q. Drug programs don't work, we must legalize drugs.

A. The legalization of drugs and other issues relating to the control of drugs is an issue within the purview of the State Legislature and the U.S. Congress.

Q. How long has SNCCF been closed and why isn't it being used? What is cost to rehab SNCCF vs. building a new jail? Can La Honda facility be used for training/rehab only?



A. The Sheriff's North County Correctional Facility closed in 1996. SNCCF was primarily a booking facility and not used to house prisoners for extended periods of time. It was closed due to budget constraints. The cost to rehabilitate SNCCF is around \$600,000 and is not deemed cost effective from either a rehabilitation or operational perspective. The remoteness of the La Honda facility makes it unattractive as a job training or rehabilitation facility.



Community Questions??

- Q. I understand the County is planning a PERT program to prevent people from going to jail due to mental illness and in need of treatment. Will the PERT program become a reality?
- A. The Sheriff is supportive of the PERT concept and philosophies. Budget issues will need to be addressed prior to the initiation of a PERT program.
- Q. Mr. XXXX lives in the North Shoreview neighborhood. He's concerned about a jail at Coyote Pt. due to its proximity to schools and a Boys and Girls Club.
- A. The decision on where the replacement jail will be built is still some months away. In the meantime, a comprehensive review of 25 sites is underway. A number of objective criteria will be evaluated for each site and a site recommendation will be made to the Board of Supervisors in the Spring of 2009.
- Q. You want to build a minimum security when La Honda is obsolete? Why not ship majority of inmates waiting for trial to other counties or prisons? How and who will pay for new jail? What other projects are underlining the jail construction?
- A. Some of the La Honda facility is outdated. The minimum security Honor Camp portion of La Honda is obsolete. But the Medium Security Facility in La Honda is now ready for occupancy and if re-opened, will house medium security inmates. Inmates awaiting trial cannot be housed in State prisons. And housing our inmates in other county jails is not cost effective.
- Q. Who will be responsible for making sure any programs will be continued and successful? The key will be on how innovative this new jail is in its approach to incarceration prevention
- A. The Sheriff is solely responsible for the operation of all adult corrections facilities and will oversee any and all jail programs. The Sheriff is committed to innovative in-custody programming that helps reduce recidivism and will continue to collaborate with our program providers.
- Q. What % of inmates is diagnosed as mentally ill? When do they get diagnosed? Shouldn't they be in a hospital? If not, do they get the proper meds?
- A. It is estimated that upwards of 55-60% of inmates in San Mateo County show some signs of mental illness. Diagnosis can occur at the time of admission or at a time subsequent to booking. Many mentally ill inmates would be better served in a mental hospital environment, but a pronounced lack of this acute mental care forces those needing care to stay in local correctional facilities. Proper medication is prescribed and provided to inmates with mental illness issues.



Community Questions??

Q. What kind of programs will be offered for women?

A. The Sheriff is committed to expanding and improving the programming offered to women housed in the replacement jail. It is expected that vocational training, self improvement classes, educational opportunities and family re-unification will all be offered to women inmates.

Q. Recommends we build an excellent building for addicted, pregnant, in custody women?

A. Medical care for pregnant inmates will continue to be provided. Additionally, programming will be offered to help inmates deal with alcohol and drug addiction.

Q. Can you elaborate on how parents are reunited with their children? What support is available for families now and in the future?

A. Family re-unification will be accomplished at the replacement jail using best practices to ensure meaningful inmate/child interaction that is beneficial to both the inmate and their children, keeping in mind facility security and sufficient supervision. Support for the families of inmates is currently provided by a number of local non profit organizations including the Service League of San Mateo County . It is anticipated that the replacement jail will continue to offer assistance to families impacted by the incarceration of a friend or loved one.



Q. Do we classify inmates in terms of severity of crime? Can jail facility be considered in terms of kinds of prisoners? What is being done about inmates who are in USA illegally? What will happen to old facilities?

A. Inmates are classified based on a number of factors, including their criminal history, the severity of the crime they are being booked for, their physical characteristics, their demeanor at the time of booking and their personal history. The replacement jail will be a Type II correctional facility per the California Corrections Standards Authority meaning it will house both pre-trial and sentenced inmates. Jails in California are classified by the type of inmates it houses. Inmates that are found to be here illegally are held in custody until the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency can interview them. The Maple Street Correctional Facilities will be demolished when the replacement jail is built.

Q. Have you heard of the success of the Maricopa Co., AZ? What do you think about it?

A. The Maricopa County detention facilities do have a different custody philosophy from our Sheriff's vision for our jail operations.



San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

Jail Planning Unit

Q. Is it possible that the treatment programs being implemented could be effective enough to reduce the over-crowding situation?

A. Most objective studies show that treatment can reduce recidivism rates from 5-10% at best. That kind of a reduction in inmate recidivism will not reduce overcrowding in a significant way.

Q. SF has their jail in the hills of DC or San Bruno. Is there any consideration to jointly build a prison (jail) at that site.

A. Options such as this have been evaluated and it is not feasible nor meets our needs at this time.

Q. Are you talking about one facility that would be a medium security, or more than one? I'm confused, because of the discussion of expanding services for the women's prison (jail) and for the men. Will both be served at the same site?

A. The planned replacement jail will be one facility that houses both pre-trial and sentenced men and women inmates. It will be designed to house medium and minimum classified inmates, with the Maguire Correctional Facility continuing to house the county's maximum security inmates.

Q. Will this replace the current RWC facility or is it in addition to the RWC facility?

A. The replacement jail will allow the county to demolish the current Women's Correctional Center and the other correctional facilities on Maple Street in Redwood City.

Q. What is SMC doing to encourage employees to hire men and women who have served time in jail?

A. This is a very difficult issue. The Sheriff's Office has supported job training programs through non profits like Opportunities Industrialization Center West (OICW) now known as Job Train.

Q. Does the needs assessment consider the following: teenage pregnancies, community corrections for CDCR convicts, crime because of economy, increasing mental illness from drug use, possible federal take-over, harsher and longer sentencing, breakdown of lower income families for minorities, roving gangs, more juveniles become incarcerated as adults?

For Judge Forcum: Does Judiciary have a plan if CDCR collapses?

A. The recently completed needs assessment focused on short and long term strategies to relieve jail overcrowding and planning for a replacement correctional facility. Many of the societal ills mentioned in your question are touched on briefly in the needs assessment, but are not the focus of the efforts of the Sheriff's Office per se.