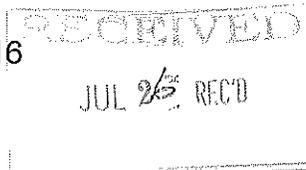




SHASTA COUNTY

Office of the Sheriff

July 7, 2016



The Honorable Gregory Gaul
Presiding Judge, Shasta County Superior Court
1500 Court Street, Room 205
Redding, CA 96001

Tom Bosenko
SHERIFF - CORONER

Dear Judge Gaul:

Re: Response of Shasta County Sheriff to FY 2015-2016 Grand Jury Report.

The efforts and work of the 2015-2016 Grand Jury is appreciated. The Men & Women of the Coroner's Office and the Sheriff-Coroner are grateful for the Grand Jury's work on their report. I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Grand Jury members for their commitment to serving Shasta County and its citizens.

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

SHASTA COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE – COMPASSION MATTERS

Findings:

F1. The current square footage of the Coroner's Office is inadequate for their needs.

Response: The Sheriff-Coroner agrees with the finding.

F2. The lack of a transition room between the autopsy room and the office creates the possibility for biological contamination.

Response: The Sheriff-Coroner agrees with the finding. Plans and funding for the expansion are being implemented.

F3. The lack of an on-staff forensic pathologist decreases the efficiency and continuity of investigations.

Reviewed 07.11.16
[Signature]

Response: The Sheriff-Coroner agrees with the finding. The Coroner's Office has a local Pathologist on contract and a Forensic Pathology Group on contract. The Coroner's Office has been actively recruiting for an on-staff Forensic Pathologist for over a year. An applicant has been offered a job and will start in June 2016. There are less than 500 Forensic Pathologists nationwide. Such a limited pool of qualified applicants makes recruiting for the position difficult.

F4. The lack of a digital x-ray machine limits the investigative capabilities of the Coroner's Office.

Response: The Sheriff-Coroner partially disagrees with the finding. The Coroner's Office contracts with a private vendor for digital x-ray services. The contractor is readily available when needed. Having this service does not limit the investigative capabilities of the Coroner's Office. When autopsy services are conducted with the contracted Forensic Pathology group, the contractor has digital x-ray capabilities. The Coroner's investigative capabilities are not impacted. The Sheriff-Coroner does agree that a new x-ray machine is needed. Further study is needed to determine the cost effectiveness of the purchase, maintenance, and training, for a new x-ray machine, verses contracting with an x-ray service.

Recommendations:

R1. The Grand Jury recommends the Shasta County Sheriff's Office uses the approved funding only for the completion of the 1,000 square foot addition to the coroner's Office building.

Response: Implemented. The expansion of the Coroner's Office has been examined over the last year, prior to the Grand Jury inspection and report. The expansion may receive funding and work may proceed in FY 2016-2017.

R2. The Grand Jury recommends the Shasta County Sheriff's Office and Shasta County Board of Supervisors secure funding specifically for a digital, portable x-ray machine for the Coroner's Office by December 31, 2016.

Response: The Shasta County Board of Supervisors is responsible to provide funding for the purchase of a portable digital x-ray machine. The Sheriff-Coroner may seek funding. Further study is needed to determine the cost effectiveness of the purchase, maintenance, and training for a new x-ray machine, verses contracting with an x-ray service.