

# County of Santa Clara

Office of the Sheriff

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Laurie Smith  
Sheriff

March 16, 2016

Honorable Mike Wasserman, Chair  
Honorable Ken Yeager  
70 West Hedding Street  
San Jose, CA 95112

RE: Public Safety and Justice Committee  
March 16, 2016  
Agenda Item 7

Dear Supervisors Wasserman and Yeager:

Please accept this Jail Reform Plan that includes our collective efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of custody staff, inmates and visitors within our County custody facilities. As you know, our inmate population is changing and we are tasked with safely managing more inmates in need of mental health services and those incarcerated for more serious crimes, with lengthier sentences.

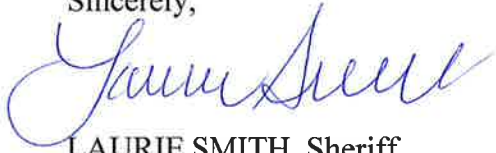
Our custody staff, supervisors, command staff and our facilities must strive to safely and humanely accommodate this changing inmate population. This plan will move our county toward reaching that goal.

Many of the reforms in this plan were initiated prior to the tragic death of Michael Tyree. Michael's death has been a catalyst for all involved, including the Blue Ribbon Commission, to move as swiftly as possible to identify and implement meaningful changes to virtually all aspects of our custody operations. Attachment B, titled *Addressing Jail Issues Timeline*, reflects just the reforms since July of 2011.

Further, as you will see from the breadth of recommendations contained in the Jail Reform Plan we make significant recommendations in the areas of independent oversight, accountability, and training. These recommendations combined with our previous initiatives will improve the organizational culture of custody operations.

We will provide a copy of this Jail Reform Plan to the members of the Blue Ribbon Commission and we will continue to work collaboratively with the Commission as we move our custody operations forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laurie Smith".

LAURIE SMITH, Sheriff

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hirokawa".

JOHN HIROKAWA, Chief

LS:JH:dsb