

1990-91 Grand Jury

**LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

The primary responsibility of this committee is to investigate complaints from citizens and inmates of penal institutions and to monitor programs in Alameda County as they relate to law enforcement.

**Juvenile Facility - Broadway**

**Purpose:**

To inspect the Probation Center at 4th Street and Broadway in Oakland and Juvenile Hall and other facilities at 150th Avenue in San Leandro and to determine what changes have been instituted as recommended by the 1989-1990 Grand Jury.

**Methodology:**

The committee met with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and other members of the staff. Tours of the facilities were conducted for the committee.

**Analysis:**

Alameda County applied for and received approximately \$2 million from Proposition 86 for health and safety needs. The money will be used to install new heaters, ventilation and air conditioning in the probation center detention area at 4th and Broadway. Automatic sprinklers will be installed at the Juvenile Hall at 150th Avenue, San Leandro.

In complying with the recommendations from the previous Grand Jury, the Probation Department convened a meeting (including representatives of the Juvenile Justice Commission, the Superior Court and various agencies within the County) for the purpose of soliciting suggestions and a plan to arrange financing for an alternate facility. As a result of that meeting, the following has taken place:

The department has received proposals from three firms for the purpose of identifying the needs assessments of the Juvenile Justice Center. The consideration of the replacement of Juvenile Hall also provides an opportunity to examine detention, juvenile court and collateral agency space requirements.

The department is proposing that the effort to replace the aging Juvenile Hall be expanded to planning the construction of a new Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center and include:

- Planned bed capacity for population projections for Alameda County and the local juvenile justice system;
- Adequate courtroom space for consolidation of all juvenile courts, including dependency court;
- Office space for personnel from the Probation Department, Court Clerks, District Attorney, Public Defender, Social Services, Financing Hearing Officers, Health Care and General Services;
- Central location and accessibility to public transportation and away from major earthquake faults;
- Adequate public parking;
- Classroom space requirements sufficient to allow 100 percent (100%) school attendance by detainees;
- Adequate interview rooms for personnel and inmates;
- Adequate clinic space for health care services;
- Adequate visiting areas for parents.

In general, it is commendable that the aforementioned plans are taking shape and we look forward to their becoming reality.

They are, however, long-term goals because of economic necessity. There are short-term concerns which the Grand Jury feels should be addressed in the near future.

**Findings and Recommendations:**

1. The intercom system at 4th and Broadway is old and malfunctions most of the time.

**Recommendation #91-13:** That the aging intercom system be replaced, allowing detainees to reach counselors from their rooms in a timely manner. The intercom system should be completed by January 1, 1992.

2. Washers and dryers were purchased for the facility at 4th and Broadway. Installation seems to be a low priority.

**Recommendation #91-14:** That the washers and dryers be installed. If the doorway of the proposed laundry room must be widened before installation can be completed, the public works department should determine if a structural problem exists. The installation should be finalized by February, 1992.

3. Money has been made available to install new heaters, ventilation and air conditioning at the 4th and Broadway facility.

**Recommendation #91-15:** That this new equipment be installed by June, 1992.

4. In line with Finding Number 3, money is available for automatic sprinklers in Juvenile Hall at 150th Avenue in San Leandro.

**Recommendation #91-16:** That the automatic sprinkler system be installed by March, 1992.