

CALIFORNIA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On March 15, 2010, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the California City Police Department (CCPD) to observe the facilities, interview personnel and review current activities pursuant to Penal Code §925(a).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Chief of Police, Mayor and City Manager and was taken on a tour of the CCPD.

BACKGROUND:

The California City Police Department facility is located at 21130 Hacienda Boulevard, California City, California. The 15,000 square foot facility is approximately 16 years old and was designed with the dispatch area centered in the middle of the facility. California City is 204 square miles and has a population of approximately 14,700.

FINDINGS:

1. California City Police Department has sixteen officers. Officers living in California City are permitted to take vehicles home. Most officers (60%) live in Lancaster, Ridgecrest or Bakersfield. The CCPD has five dispatchers and a part time evidence clerk. Dispatch center operates 24 hours a day. Officers work twelve hour shifts. The CCPD has eleven reserve officers.
2. The facility has four jail cells and prisoners are held no longer than 12 hours and are monitored by the dispatcher. Prisoners to be held longer are transported to Central Receiving in Bakersfield. Hostile and special needs prisoners are taken directly to Central Receiving in Bakersfield.
3. California City Police Department has an excellent working relationship with the Federal prison facility at California City. The prison currently employs 550. Of the eleven reserve officers eight of them are full time correctional officers at the prison. Approximately one-half of the population of California City departs each day and works elsewhere.
4. The CCPD is involved in many community outreach activities, e.g. Historical Society, Explorer Program (eight students), Neighborhood Watch, Broken Arrow (special needs children), Cal Pals instructs dirt bike training for children and Volunteers in Public Service.

5. Grants received by the CCPD are \$176,000 for Desert in Response Team (DIRT), \$23,000 for communications upgrades, \$202,000 over three years' for one officer and \$240,000 for the 911 system overhaul.
6. California City has a new high school and CCPD works closely with the school in spite of budget constraints. The CCPD conducts an annual disaster preparedness class for the high school students.
7. The Off Road Highway Vehicles (OHV) Permit Program is a major responsibility for CCPD. The City is home to a vast area of ultra terrain composites which require off road permits. The OHV Permit Program and DIRT plays a public safety role for all visitors to the community. DIRT also maintains the Borax Bill Park located along Twenty Mule Team Public Review Parkway. Fees collected from the OHV Permit Program pay for infrastructure maintenance of roads, sewer, water and park maintenance for OHV areas.
8. The CCPD is also responsible for the Animal Control Unit (ACU) and completed a new roof for the Animal Control Building and improved the adoption program with less euthanasia. The ACU has one officer and two kennel helpers.

COMMENTS:

The CCPD is to be commended for the strong support received from the Mayor, City Manager and City Council. The CCPD is also very involved in community activities especially where children are concerned as well as patrolling OHV activities. Further information on the CCPD may be obtained on the website: www.calcitypd.org

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The California City Police Department should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury.

Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury, click on: Sign up for early releases.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED