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CITY OF SANTA ANA
POLICE DEPARTMENT

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

August 3, 2010

Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: 2009-2010 Orange County Grand Jury Report

Dear Sir,

The attached statement is in response to finding F3 and recommendation R3 in the 2009-2010 Orange County Grand Jury Report on Detention Facilities in Orange County pertaining to the Santa Ana Jail.

If there are further questions concerning the response by the Santa Ana Jail, please feel free to contact me at 714-245-8120.

Sincerely,

PAUL M. WALTERS
Chief of Police

RUSSELL M. DAVIS, Administrator
Jail Bureau

**2009-2010 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY
Report on Detention Facilities in Orange County**

**Response by Santa Ana Jail
August 3, 2010**

The Orange County Grand Jury issued the following findings pertaining to the Santa Ana Jail as a result of their inspection:

F.3 Safety: The furniture in the cells and day-room in the Santa Ana City Jail is not secured to the floor, creating a potentially unsafe environment for inmates and jail personnel.

The following recommendation was listed by the Grand Jury in response to this finding:

R.3 Safety: The Santa Ana City Jail is to conform to the practices of all other Orange County detention centers and firmly secure all furniture in the facility that is accessible to inmates.

Pursuant to Penal Code 933.05 Santa Ana responds as follows:

933.05 (a) (2) Santa Ana disagrees wholly to the finding (F.3 Safety). It is true that in the general population cells, cell chairs and dayroom tables and chairs are not secured to the floor. The dayroom tables utilized for general population are folding tables on rollers and are unfolded for meals and games and folded and moved to the side during cleanup and while not in use. The dayroom chairs are Norix stackable plastic chairs that are brought out when needed and stacked when not needed. The same Norix chairs are used in the cells at the inmate desk. This furniture has been in use in this facility continuously for the past 14 years. It was never designed to be attached to the floor.

The Santa Ana Jail, unlike all other jails in Orange County, is a Direct Supervision Jail. The officer responsible for the inmates in a module is inside the module with the inmates at all times. One of the central themes of a Direct Supervision Jail is a normalized environment. The furniture and fixtures are selected to support this concept and is the same type of furniture and fixtures utilized in most Direct Supervision Jails throughout the Country.

Although the inmate who committed suicide by jumping from the upper mezzanine railing used one of the Norix chairs to climb over the railing, the furniture is not a factor. He could have easily climbed over the railing without the use of a chair.

I do not agree that this is a safety issue. In fact, a comparison of safety records between the Santa Ana Jail and all others in Orange County will reveal that the Santa Ana Jail is as safe as or safer than any others. A few years ago, inmates in the Orange County Jail

ripped a high security spider table which was securely bolted to the floor and used it to smash security glass. The attachment of furniture to the floor is not what establishes and maintains safety, it is the staff who are directly supervising inmates.

933.05 (b) (4) This recommendation (R.3 Safety) will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The use of free standing furniture is not a safety issue. It has been successfully used in this facility for over 14 years and is commonly used in almost all other Direct Supervision Jails throughout the United States.