



Office of The City Council
City of South Lake Tahoe

Jason Collin, Mayor
jcollin@cityofslt.us
(530) 545-9043

1901 Lisa Maloff Way, Ste. 203
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
www.cityofslt.us

VIA EMAIL

July 14, 2020

Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury
Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court
1354 Johnson Blvd, Suite 2
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
court-admin@eldoradocourt.org

Re: *Responses to El Dorado Grand Jury Case 19-02 "South Lake Tahoe Police Facility" and Case 19-04 "Policing Those with Behavioral Health Issues"*

Dear Judge Kingsbury:

Pursuant to Section 933(c) of the California Penal Code, enclosed is the South Lake Tahoe City Council's response to the applicable findings and recommendations set forth in El Dorado County Grand Jury Reports 19-02 and 19-04, issued in May 2020. The City Council approved the attached responses at its meeting on July 14, 2020.

The City Council thanks the Grand Jury for its efforts in reviewing these aspects of City operations and for each member's service volunteering for the Grand Jury.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:


Jason Collin
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Tom Simpson, Foreperson, 2019-2020 El Dorado County Grand Jury
(tom.simpson@edcgrandjury.com)

19-02: South Lake Tahoe Police Facility

The Grand Jury requested responses from the City Council to Finding F1 and Recommendations R1, R2, and R3.

Findings:

Finding F1. The South Lake Tahoe Police Department Facility is inadequate for modern police operations and requires funding for extensive renovation or replacement.

City Council Response:

The City disagrees partially with the finding.

The City agrees that the police station was inadequate for modern police operations prior to the major renovation project currently underway, but notes that this project will resolve the highest priority concerns including lobby hardening, asbestos removal, and restroom accessibility. The City is spending \$816,000 on the construction contract for this renovation project and committing additional Public Works Department resources to expand the scope of the renovation. The City agrees that long-term, funding for a new police station is desirable and has begun the planning process to locate a new City government facility including a new police station as described below.

Recommendations:

Recommendation R1. The City should have a professional space and facility needs study completed with cost estimates for a new or renovated police facility.

City Council Response:

This recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented by July 2021.

On January 14, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-006 Outlining Proposed Terms for a New Agreement Between El Dorado County and the City of South Lake Tahoe for the Development, Operation, and Maintenance of Recreation and Government Facilities on the "56-Acres." That resolution includes terms for an agreement to develop and use the El Dorado County-owned property centrally located within the City for purposes including "a new City government / Police Station facility generally located along US 50 on the southern edge of the '56-Acres' in the future." The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors adopted a similar resolution the same day. Since then, City staff have issued a Request for Qualifications for firms to update the 56-Acres Master Plan to incorporate the recreation and government facilities set forth in Resolution No. 2020-006. The City awarded the contract to Design Workshop on July 14, 2020. The scope of work for that project will include a high-level needs assessment for the proposed City government facilities including a new police station, to determine how much space is needed for those facilities. Rough cost estimates for a new police station can be generated once the high-level needs assessment is complete. An agreement with El Dorado County will be negotiated based on the terms in Resolution No. 2020-006 and is anticipated to be executed after the 56-Acres Master Plan is complete.

Recommendation R2. The City should explore funding options for the renovation or replacement of the current police facility.

City Council Response:

This recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in 2021.

Once the City has implemented Recommendation R1 by July 2021, the City will be in a better position to explore funding options. Typically, the identification of fund sources occurs upon 30 percent completion of design, at which point a more accurate cost estimate can be produced. Also by that time, the long-term fiscal impacts of COVID-19 on the City's budget will be better known. The City would be interested in pursuing low-interest loans and grants for this project. The City is not aware, however, of grant funding available at this time for police stations, and understands that the new El Dorado County Sheriff's facility referenced in the Grand Jury Report did not receive any grant funding.

Recommendation R3. The City should move expeditiously to renovate their current police facility.

City Council Response:

This recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented by November 2020.

On January 14, 2020, City Council approved a construction contract for \$816,000 with CNW Construction, Inc. for the Police Station Renovation Project. This renovation project includes the following scope of work:

- Removal of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in areas of work including flooring, flooring mastic, sheetrock, sheetrock joint compound, vinyl cove base, and cove base mastic.
- Installation of new flooring throughout (except armory and evidence area).
- Installation of new ceiling tile throughout (except armory and evidence area).
- Installation of new ceiling grid and tile in certain areas (including records room, lobby, conference rooms, and Chief's office).
- New paint throughout (except armory and evidence area).
- Expansion of interview room.
- Expansion of kitchen/break area.
- Expansion of public lobby including target-hardening all walls and customer service windows and doors, and installation of overhead security camera.
- Renovation of public restrooms to comply with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards
- Replacement of existing personnel lockers with new lockers which have a lower drawer and seat space and are equipped with 110v electric outlets for charging devices.
- Installation of corner guards on all wall corners.
- Installation of interior card reader access to secure areas.

In addition to the work being performed by CNW Construction, Inc., City staff is completing the following scope of work:

- Removal of all excess and outdated communications wiring within the ceiling cavity.
- Installation of new CAT6 cabling serving internet/voice/data to all offices.
- Replacement of all outlets, switch cover plates, and outlet cover plates.
- Boulder installation to deter vehicle threat.
- New workspace furniture and fixtures in some areas.

This project commenced on April 15, 2020, and is expected to be complete by November 2020.

19-04: Policing Those With Behavioral Health Issues

The Grand Jury requested responses from the City Council to Finding F8 and Recommendations R5, R6, and R7.

Findings:

Finding F8. While not mandated by POST, the South Lake Tahoe Police Department does not provide its officers with Continuing Professional Training in Crisis Intervention Training.

City Council Response:

The City disagrees partially with finding.

The City agrees that the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) does not mandate Continuing Professional Training in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), and that not all officers have received Continuing Professional Training on CIT. The City disagrees with the finding that the Police Department does not provide Continual Professional Training on CIT.

The Police Department currently has 39 sworn officers. Twenty of the 39 sworn officers have received after-academy continuing professional CIT-related training ranging from 4 to 56 hours per officer, averaging 15.4 hours per officer receiving training and 8 hours per officer overall. Also, nine of the remaining 19 officers who have not received after-academy CIT training graduated from a California Basic Police Academy within the past 2.5 years (2018-2019), where they would have received CIT training.

A table listing the academy and post-academy CIT training each officer has received was sent to the Grand Jury via email on February 20, 2020. It is unknown whether that information was considered in the Grand Jury's investigation, but it appears it was not, as the Grand Jury Report states on pages 1 and 3, that "South Lake Tahoe provided no documentation to the Grand Jury to support the premise they provided their officers with Continuing Professional Crisis Intervention Training."

Recommendations:

Recommendation R5. The South Lake Tahoe Police Department should establish an internal standard for Continuing Professional Training for Crisis Intervention Training course hours and Refresher Training Crisis Intervention Training and have their officers attend such training.

City Council Response:

This recommendation has not been implemented but will be in Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

The City recognizes the value of CIT and wants to ensure maximum impact and value from any new training requirement. The Police Department will establish an internal standard of 40-hour CIT Continuing Professional Training course with 8 hours of refresher training every two years. In January 2020, the South Lake Tahoe Police Department requested a recommendation on a 40-hour CIT course from El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office indicated that it was planning to present a 40-hour CIT course this year for the Sheriff's Office and would be able to include other El Dorado County law enforcement agencies including the South Lake Tahoe Police Department in the training. The Police Department intends to send as many

officers as possible to the training. Having a local training improves consistency in delivery of services across the County and would be less expensive as it would save on travel/hotel costs.

As acknowledged in the Grand Jury Report, POST does not require CIT. In addition, POST has suspended many reimbursements for training, so the City needs to ensure that its Police Department training budget is allocated prudently. The City will participate in the local training as soon as practical pending COVID-19 training restrictions are lifted and courses are scheduled, which the City currently expects will occur in Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Recommendation R6. The South Lake Tahoe Police Department should explore with the County Health and Human Services Agency, the expansion of PERT into the City.

City Council Response:

This recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in Fiscal Year 2020/2021. The City has started the conversation with El Dorado County regarding whether County Health and Human Services is able and willing to expand the program into the City of South Lake Tahoe. The County's PERT program is funded with state grants through the Mental Health Services Act. The PERT team currently does not respond to calls within the City but allows the South Lake Tahoe Police Department to access PERT clinicians by telephone for advice on responding to an individual experiencing a mental health issue.

The City understands that the County's Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Mental Health Services Act Plan will be further exploring expansion of PERT into the City of South Lake Tahoe as part of its annual Community Program Planning process which starts in Fall 2020. According to the County, considerations on whether the County will agree to expand PERT into the City include stakeholder input as to the need for PERT within the City, available Mental Health Services Act funding, impact to other County Mental Health Services Act projects, and Mental Health Services Act funding restrictions. The City would be very supportive of expanding PERT here and looks forward to exploring a partnership with the PERT program.

Recommendation R7. Expansion of HOT into the South Lake Tahoe Police Department should be explored with the County Sheriff's Office.

City Council Response:

This recommendation has been implemented.

On April 28, 2020, the Police Department formalized our homeless outreach response by assigning a Police Sergeant and three other officers to be the City's Homeless Outreach Team. In May 2020, the City's HOT collaborated and participated in training with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office HOT. The City and County HOTs conducted two joint outreach events in the City on May 13 and May 20, 2020. In addition, the County HOT trained the City HOT on the use of a GIS software program to assist in managing information related to persons experiencing homelessness. This collaboration will help provide better and more efficient homeless outreach efforts between the City and County moving forward.