

## **RENE C. DAVIDSON COURTHOUSE TEMPORARY HOLDING FACILITY INSPECTION**

On October 20, 2020, the grand jury inspected the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse Temporary Holding Facility in Oakland, accompanied by staff from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office which included a lieutenant, a sergeant and two deputies. Prior to inspecting the facility, the grand jury reviewed the Alameda County Health Department's 2019 inspection report titled, "Alameda County Adult Court and Temporary Holding Facility Inspection Report." This allowed the grand jury to determine whether any noted deficiencies or recommendations for improvement by the Health Department were addressed.



*Elevator, Rene C. Davidson  
Courthouse Jail*

The facility temporarily houses detainees awaiting court appearances within the same building. Detainees are transported by van or bus in the morning from other jails in the county, and arrive through a secured, gated underground sally port. Detainees are checked in when they enter the courthouse building. A specially equipped elevator is used to move detainees from the sally port to courtrooms and cells. The specially equipped elevator has partitions that separate detainees from staff. In May 2021, repair has begun on this elevator and while it is out of service, detainees are transported to the jail by alternate elevators.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of the courthouse jail has been minimal, the number of detainees per day has only been one or two, with a maximum of three or four. For example, although no detainees were present in the jail during our inspection, the grand jury was informed that two detainees from Santa Rita Jail had scheduled court appearances that day. However, during non-pandemic times, the range of detainees per day can be 70 to 90, with a maximum of 120. The full cadre of staff normally assigned to this facility is 20 deputy sheriffs or bailiffs, three supervising officers, and eight sheriff's technicians.

Due to the pandemic, safety and sanitation measures were reviewed. Before leaving other jails, detainees have temperature checks and are issued facemasks. They arrive with a certification of health and COVID-19 status, and a classification identifying mental status, tendency toward violence, and any requirements for separation from other detainees or other special treatment. Upon arrival, detainees are issued packets of hand sanitizer and antiseptic wipes and assigned to a cell. Cells are cleaned at least once a day by custodial staff. Toilet paper rolls were seen in nearly every cell and at all toilets in the pods. Staff safety protocols include temperature checks and the completion of a COVID-19 symptom questionnaire at the

beginning of a shift. Facemasks are worn by staff and detainees at all times. Disposable gloves, hand sanitizer and antiseptic wipes were observed in several staff areas throughout the courthouse jail.

We found fire extinguishers, first aid kits, automated external defibrillator, and Narcan to be available, maintained, and unexpired. Floors were well swept and surfaces clean and wiped down. All toilets were in working order, but some day-use area sinks had missing faucet handles. The staff reported these were on back order from the county General Services Agency, and that it is difficult to locate hardware that matched 82-year old fixtures. Mechanical controls, such as those used for unlocking and opening cell doors, were tested and found to be in order. Surveillance cameras were functioning and were monitored in an enclosed control room.



*Security cameras being inspected by a member of the grand jury*

Detainees spend no more than nine hours at the courthouse, never overnight. Each cell contains two twin bunk beds without mattresses, a toilet, and a sink. A common area outside of the cells provides park-bench style seating. Lunches as well as needed medications accompany the detainees to the courthouse. Detainees normally have free access to a day room from their cells. Phone calls and visitors are not allowed. Should the detainee and their attorney wish to meet in private, there are two interview rooms available for them. A special cell is available to accommodate a detainee using a wheelchair since the regular jail cell doors are not wide enough.

The jury also reviewed emergency evacuation procedures, inquiring mainly about fire safety. One secure fire-resistant stairwell is locked to public use and detainees are led down the stairs to the sally port accompanied by deputies, and outside the building if necessary.

All deputies have immediate access to new and updated policies and procedures through an electronic application that can be accessed by cell phone, tablet, or computers.

The grand jury found the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse Temporary Holding Facility to be orderly and efficient, and the staff impressed us as experienced and knowledgeable. During these extraordinary times, the grand jury observed that staff had adapted to and implemented several changes due to the pandemic, including several new safety and sanitary measures.

**FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:** *None*  
**RESPONSES REQUIRED:** *None*

## **OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT JUVENILE HOLDING FACILITY INSPECTION**

On November 10, 2020, the grand jury inspected the Oakland Police Department (OPD) juvenile holding facility. The facility is located at 455 Seventh Street in Oakland. The OPD sergeant who supervises the facility assisted the grand jury members during the inspection.

Per OPD staff, during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, no juveniles are processed at the OPD facility. Rather, they are taken directly to Juvenile Hall in San Leandro. Prior to the statewide lockdown, juveniles that were brought to the facility were asked a series of questions to determine their level of exposure or symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable diseases. The facility does not offer medical care or mental health services, and there is no equipment for drug or alcohol testing.

This facility is designated as a temporary holding facility. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the facility processed between 30 and 60 juveniles per month. The facility is inspected throughout the year by several state agencies and is current on all required inspections. The agencies inspecting the facility are the California Board of State and Community Corrections, the Alameda County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, the Alameda County Health Department, and the Oakland Fire Department. The grand jury reviewed the policies, procedures and orders manual, which is updated weekly and is internally accessible online to OPD staff.



*OPD Juvenile Division Holding Area*

The facility has sufficient video monitoring of hallways and holding areas. Juveniles are kept separate by gender and gang affiliation. If detainees need language interpretation, the facility has access to Language Line — a private company that offers interpreters via telephone. Juveniles are allowed to make one phone call upon detention. Prior to entering the facility, the arresting officer will search the juvenile for any weapons or illegal contraband. A second search is conducted once the juvenile enters the facility. OPD personnel must check their weapons into gun lockers before entering any part of the holding facility.

Multiple safety and departmental procedure signs are displayed throughout the facility. Automatic external defibrillator machines, first aid kits, and emergency exit route signs are clearly posted. This equipment is up-to-date. The juvenile area has two holding cells with a bench, toilet and sink. One cell was missing a soap dispenser.



*Juvenile Division Holding Cell*

The facility provides the arresting officer a workstation to record the juvenile’s personal information, photo, and fingerprints in the OPD database, which has the capability to check for prior law enforcement contact or criminal records. Juveniles who are witnesses to a crime may also be brought to the facility to be interviewed. Interviews are conducted in one of two small rooms with two chairs,

a table, a camera, and a microphone for recording the interview. If a juvenile is kept at the facility for longer than six hours, food will be offered upon request. Officers must also complete a “Monthly Report on the Detention of Minors” form explaining the reason for any extended detentions.



*Juvenile Division - Fingerprinting and Booking Station*

The grand jury found the Oakland Police Department Juvenile Holding Facility to meet or exceed the expectations for this type of facility. The staff were very cooperative and professional, and appeared to take pride in their efforts to provide a clean and safe environment.

**FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:** *None*  
**RESPONSES REQUIRED:** *None*



## UNION CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT JAIL INSPECTION



On October 27, 2020, the grand jury inspected the Union City Police Department Jail. This facility temporarily holds adult detainees prior to transferring custody to the Alameda County Sheriff's Santa Rita jail in Dublin, CA. Juvenile detainees are transferred to the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center (ACJJC) in San Leandro, CA.

While conducting the inspection with jail staff, the grand jury reviewed jail and COVID-19 policies and procedures for the facility. Upon intake, detainees are asked health, dietary, and standard COVID-19 protocol questions to ensure the health and safety of detainees and staff. Detainees requiring medical attention are transferred to Washington Hospital in Fremont. Staff are also trained in first aid and automated external defibrillator use.



*Jail Vending Machine*

Upon request, food is purchased for detainees at local fast-food restaurants or from vending machines at the police department at no cost to the detainee.

One specially trained Public Services Officer (PSO) is permanently assigned to the jail. When the PSO is off-duty, other officers provide coverage. When female detainees are held, a female officer is assigned.

The jail has one juvenile holding cell used to hold up to three detainees awaiting transfer to the ACJJC. There are three additional holding cells that can accommodate a maximum of nine adult detainees. Adult cells contain a toilet, a drinking faucet, a sink, and sufficient lighting, all in working order.

In a 2013 grand jury inspection report of this facility, it was noted that there was ammunition in uncovered trays in plain view in the sally port (the former prisoner-intake area). At our

recent inspection, we were informed that the sally port is no longer a part of the detainee intake area, and ammunition is now stored in a locked closet outside the jail.

The grand jury found no deficiencies while inspecting the Union City Police Department jail.

**FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**      *None*  
**RESPONSES REQUIRED:**                      *None*

---