



UKIAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

May 4, 2006

Summary

In accordance with duties required, the Grand Jury visited the Ukiah Police Department located at 300 Seminary Avenue in Ukiah.

Background

California Penal Code §925(a) states, "the Grand Jury has a general authority to review city affairs." The 2005-2006 Mendocino County Grand Jury undertook this charge with visits to the Ukiah Police Department.

Methods

The Grand Jury interviewed members of the Ukiah Police Department during on-site visits. The Jury also reviewed the City of Ukiah budget and documents related to the sales tax increase (Measure S), which was intended to augment funds for public safety.

Findings

1. The Ukiah Police Department (UPD) is staffed in accordance with its budget: one Chief, two Captains, six Sergeants, 13 Patrol Officers, three Police Officers/Detectives, one School Resource Officer, three Police Records Clerks, and one Equipment Mechanic. Six Dispatchers are funded through Public Safety monies.
2. Currently there is a School Resource Officer located at Ukiah High School who is also available to other schools within the City.
3. In accordance with the Ukiah City budget, the UPD anticipates receiving \$372,964 from Measure S funds for the fiscal year 2005/2006.
4. Four additional Police Officers will be funded through Measure S monies.
5. The UPD does not possess Tasers.
6. Mental health patients in crisis are transported by the UPD to the Ukiah Valley Medical Center for evaluation, in accordance with California Penal Code §5150.
7. The City of Ukiah has an Emergency Plan, created in 2002, which addresses natural disasters. A new plan is currently being written in conjunction with the County.
8. A significant number of UPD arrests are methamphetamine-related.

Recommendations

The Mendocino County Grand Jury recommends that:

1. the Ukiah City Council provide secured (non-grant) funds to the UPD for additional School Resource Officers. (Findings 2-3)

Comments

Measure S funds have made it possible to provide additional Patrol Officers. This increase in staff benefits both UPD and the City of Ukiah.

Response Required

Ukiah City Council (All findings and Recommendation 1)
Ukiah City Manager (All findings and Recommendation 1)
Ukiah Police Chief (All findings and Recommendation 1)