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City of
Richmond



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

April 2, 2010

Mr. Ronald Tervelt, Foreperson
2009-2010 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 911
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Re: Grand Jury Report No. 1002, "County and Municipal Detention Facilities Inspection"

On March 8, 2010, the Richmond Police Department received a findings letter from the Contra Costa County Grand Jury, County and Municipal Detention Facilities Inspection team. The letter referenced a recommendation regarding the Richmond Police Department and its control and handling of overflowing bio-hazard containers (sharps containers), in the jail booking area.

An immediate inspection of the area in question revealed a small sharps container stationed next to the breathalyzer, quite full and overflowing (photo no. 1). This sharps container is primarily used by the County Health Department blood alcohol technicians, on contract to draw blood from suspected DUI arrestees. It is also used to discard the plastic mouthpieces used by the arrested subjects after blowing into the breathalyzer.

Staff confirmed that the responsibility of maintaining these bio-hazard containers lies with the contracted services of the County Health blood alcohol technicians. It is expected that they will remove all contents and/or replace the container with a fresh one. This process was reconfirmed with the director of the service and is expected to occur on each visit.

Additionally, we have invested in newer and larger bio hazard containers to better serve the officers and technicians. Both the DUI intake station and the property booking area have been updated with the newer units (photo no. 2). The new containers have been wall mounted and are very easy to lift and replace, as opposed to the smaller units which sat on the desk tops.

Pg. No. 2

Re: Grand Jury Report No. 1002

These changes in containers and confirmation of process and procedures should alleviate our intake facility from having similar issues occur in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Medina', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Ed Medina
Deputy Chief of Police
Richmond Police Department

Cc: Mayor Gail McGlaughlin (email)
City Manager Bill Lindsay (email)



"Old container" in violation

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Jail Booking –
Intoxilizer Desk



Property booking
area