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**2012-2013 GRAND JURY RELEASES REPORT ON REVIEW OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN  
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY**

(Stockton) The 2012-2013 San Joaquin Grand Jury studied the County's law and justice system in order to develop support for efforts to reduce crime throughout the County. While outside the law enforcement system itself, as regular citizens the Grand Jury members have had the benefit of being in an objective and nonpartisan position from which to view, evaluate, and recommend change. This report addresses three areas within the law and justice system: law and justice staffing, county jail capacity and law enforcement leadership.

Staffing has been reduced in all areas of the law and justice system. These reductions have negatively affected the level of all public safety services provided to citizens in San Joaquin County. The Grand Jury is recommending the County and Cities adopt policies to increase law enforcement staffing.

The County Jail is overcrowded. In order to stay within a court-mandated capacity, inmates are regularly released before serving their full sentences. Many options are being discussed that would ease this overcrowding. The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors approve a plan that addresses the overcrowding at the jail, and that the approval include sufficient staffing to supervise the additional capacity.

San Joaquin County has talented people in leadership positions within the various law enforcement entities. However, the coordination between the different agencies must be increased. The Grand Jury is recommending that a committee be established to study methods and options to increase efficiencies and shared capabilities in county-wide law enforcement.

There are many initiatives and ideas for improvement, some of which are underway, many complementary, but others controversial and/or political. This report does not endorse any political position regarding public safety. Rather, its purpose is to rise above the factions, and walls which can divide and impede progress, and instead focus on the best solutions at hand. San Joaquin County can afford no less if we are to sustain for the long run our right to live in safe and secure communities.

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*A copy of the Report can be accessed by visiting: <http://stocktoncourt.org/grandjury/>*

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