



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held May 23, 2006, the Board took the following action:

19

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Knabe:

“As I have stated numerous times in the past, I believe the Sheriff Department’s current practice of Early Release is unacceptable. This Board has previously approved the funding necessary to add over 4,474 jail beds into the system as of July 2006, for total of 22,000 beds, which is equivalent to the beds in the system in 2001. Additionally, I am concerned that the Sheriff’s Department is not taking into account the criminal history of inmates as part of their criteria for determining who is eligible for Early Release. The practice of reviewing criminal histories must be instituted to better protect the community from career criminals. Moreover, this Board needs better information from the Sheriff and Chief Administrative Office regarding exactly what is needed to get back to pre-2002 Early Release levels taking into account the fact that our inmate population has grown to approximately 90% unsentenced felons.

“I therefore recommend that the Sheriff be requested to report back in 14 days on the ability of the Department to reinstate reviewing the criminal history as part of the criteria used to determine Early Release.

“I further recommend that the Sheriff be requested, in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer, to review and report back in 30 days on the actual impact the 4,474 jail beds will have on reducing the Sheriff’s Early Release Program.”

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Chief Marc L. Klugman, Correctional Services Division, and Victor C. Rampulla, Director of Administrative Services, Sheriff's Department, responded to questions posed by the Board.

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

"I share Supervisor Knabe's concern that the Sheriff's current Early Release Program reduces the amount of time serviced by an inmate without taking into account their past criminal history. Also, the potential for recidivist behavior of these inmates must be considered. A better understanding of the population of inmates that are eligible for Early Release is needed, and we must determine if the identification of Early Release inmates can be merged with the newly implemented Sheriff's housing and classification system. This system identifies the most violent inmates so that appropriate housing assignments are made.

"I therefore recommend that the report include a more comprehensive analysis of the demographics of the inmates serving reduced sentences under the Sheriff's Early Release Program, with special attention focused on recidivism. The report should be submitted within 30 days, and should include recommendations on merging the identification of Early Release inmates with the housing and classification system, and how the Department can identify potential recidivists."

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Sheriff was requested to take the following actions:

1. Report back in 14 days on the ability of his Department to reinstate reviewing the criminal history as part of the criteria used to determine Early Release; and
2. In conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer, review and report back to the Board in 30 days on:
 - The actual impact the addition of 4,474 jail beds will have on reducing the Sheriff's Early Release program;
 - A comprehensive analysis of the demographics of the inmates serving reduced sentences under the Sheriff's Early Release Program, with special attention focused on recidivism; and

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- Recommendations on merging the identification of Early Release inmates with the housing and classification system and how the Department can identify potential recidivists.

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Chief Administrative Officer
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Letter sent to:

Sheriff