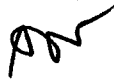




COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Board of Supervisors

DATE: February 19, 2008
BOARD MEETING DATE: February 26, 2008
SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: None
VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: President Adrienne J. Tissier, Supervisor, District 5 
SUBJECT: Investigation of Youth Services Center Escape

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct the County Manager to select an outside consultant with the appropriate experience to conduct an investigation into the Youth Services Center (YSC) escape. The County Manager should report back to the Board of Supervisors no later than March 11, 2008 regarding the selection of the consultant. Assign Supervisors Tissier and Church as an ad hoc subcommittee of the Board to oversee the investigation.

BACKGROUND:

On February 14, 2008 an inmate at the Youth Services Center (YSC) being held on homicide charges escaped. The escape apparently was planned inasmuch as it appears that an accomplice outside of the facility provided assistance.

The YSC was opened on September 15, 2006. The facility cost the County \$155 million to build and is regarded as a state of the art facility, including secured detention facilities for inmates being detained for serious charges.

DISCUSSION:

It is critical that the Board of Supervisors has an independent and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding the escape including recommendations to prevent future escapes and promptly contact all affected parties. The Board of Supervisors has the authority to conduct such an investigation under Government Code section 23505.

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is estimated that the cost of an outside consultant will not exceed \$50,000.