

NEWS RELEASE

May 23, 2013



ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY

**700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST • SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701 • 714/834-3320
www.ocgrandjury.org • FAX 714/834-5555**

**The Grand Jury Reports on the Condition of the
Orange County Juvenile Detention Centers**

Santa Ana, California---The 2012-2013 Orange County Grand Jury today released a report on the condition of juvenile detention facilities in the county. The main question was, "How do we know if we are taking care of our at-risk juveniles?" The answer to this question was found in close examination of the three operational facilities, interaction with incarcerated juveniles, meetings with various levels of the Orange County Probation Department, and discussion on budgetary issues.

The number of juveniles detained by the Orange County Probation Department has decreased dramatically over the past five years. This is the result of conscious understanding by Probation that juveniles respond better to family parenting than incarceration. For those juveniles who must be detained Probation attempts to make the experience positive by providing on going education, drug rehabilitation, psychological counseling, and medical care. For some this is the first time the juvenile has seen a dentist.

Without diminishing praise for a job well done, the Grand Jury must point out variances to the Probation Department's Juvenile Detention Center Budgets made financial analysis of operations impossible. Also, the money spent on a vacant juvenile detention center was never budgeted. Therefore, it would be wise to make these budgets as transparent as possible to please the taxpayer and next year's Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury report, including Findings/Conclusions and Recommendations, can be found on the Orange County Grand Jury's website, www.ocgrandjury.org. This report will also be included as part of the Final Report of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury, to be published later this year.

2012-2013 Orange County Grand Jury

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raymond Garcia".

Raymond Garcia
Foreman