



CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

September 27, 2019

Sheriff Tom Lopez
Yolo County Sheriff
140 Tony Diaz Drive
Woodland, CA 95776

Dear Sheriff Lopez,

I read the September 26 post and video from *Public Safety News* that features Yolo County Sheriff Deputies dropping off a transient man within City of Sacramento limits and a includes this response from your office spokesperson about the incident:

"Last night, shortly after 10:30pm, deputies were dispatched to a suspicious persons call in the area of South River Road, north of the town of Clarksburg. The reporting party was concerned about trespassing and possible vandalism to a nearby water pump. About an hour later deputies located the individual depicted in the photograph you provided. This man indicated he was travelling from the Midwest, had been in the Sacramento area for over a week, and was unfamiliar with the area. The area where the man was contacted is rural and void of any type of services. The subject requested a ride back to Sacramento and asked to be dropped off where he could find some food (he was offered money from the deputies but declined as he had his own).

We understand the appearance this activity had. Unfortunately, this individual inadvertently made his way into a very rural area of unincorporated Yolo County leaving him without options. The man was not found to meet the criteria for an involuntary detention due to his mental health challenges and providing him and his belongings with a transport into an area nearby services was determined to be the best solution at the time."

My colleagues and I are very unhappy about the implications of your office's action in this case. We have a serious homeless challenge already and are taking aggressive actions to bring people indoors and enforce illegal behavior.

We hear rumors frequently that other jurisdictions are busing people into Sacramento. We are doing more than our fair share.

I have the following questions on behalf of my city:

1. Are your deputies aware of the [many services](#) provided by and within Yolo County?
2. Does your office have a relationship with the service providers in your county?
3. Did your deputies try contacting any of the service providers within Yolo County to provide this man with assistance?
4. Did your deputies research services within the City of Sacramento to conclude that was an appropriate area to transport this man?
5. Did your deputies try contacting any of the service providers in the City of Sacramento? Specifically, providers in the area where they transported this man to directly connect him to those services for assistance?
6. Did your deputies contact any of the service providers in the area where they dropped this man off to notify them of their actions and that there was a man in need of assistance?
7. Did your deputies notify the Sacramento Police Department about their intent and actions to drop this man off within Sacramento city limits?
8. Did your deputies seek permission from the property owner to drop this man off on private property?
9. Did your deputies notify the business owner and/or employees on site at the time of the incident about what was happening?
10. Did your deputies ensure the safety of this man and others in the area where they left him?
11. The man said he was in Clarksburg to try to find a job picking grapes; did your deputies offer to connect him to employment services within Yolo County where he was looking for work?
12. Are your deputies equipped with body cameras and/or in car cameras?
Would your office be willing to release those videos?
13. What type of training and protocols does your office have in place for deputies to provide assistance to the vulnerable transient population within your county?
14. Is this type of 'best solution' determination by your deputies a frequent occurrence?
How many times have deputies been asked to or determined they should transport transient individuals from your county into neighboring jurisdictions?

15. Finally, will you evaluate this incident in good faith to determine how your office and deputies can better serve a vulnerable transient population within your county that does not conclude the best solution is transporting them into a city outside your jurisdiction?

I have included the original post as an addendum to this letter and a [link to it here](#) for your reference. I appreciate your time and attention with this incident and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Darrell Steinberg
Mayor
City of Sacramento

CC:

Yolo County Supervisor Chair, Don Saylor, District 2
Yolo County Supervisor Vice Chair, Gary Sandy, District 3
Yolo County Supervisor Oscar Villegas, District 1
Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza, District 4
Yolo County Supervisor Duane Chamberlain, District 5

City of Sacramento Vice Mayor Eric Guerra, District 6
City of Sacramento Councilmember Angelique Ashby, District 1
City of Sacramento Councilmember Allen Warren, District 2
City of Sacramento Councilmember Jeff Harris, District 3
City of Sacramento Councilmember Steve Hansen, District 4
City of Sacramento Councilmember Jay Schenirer, District 5
City of Sacramento Councilmember Rick Jennings, District 7
City of Sacramento Councilmember Larry Carr, District 8
City of Sacramento City Manager Howard Chan
City of Sacramento Police Chief Daniel Hahn

ADDENDUM

EDITORIAL: It appeared Yolo deputies dumped a transient in Sacramento; Sheriff's office gives some clarification

[*Featured](#), [*Featurette](#) / September 26, 2019



So this happened.... as we say in today's vernacular: One of our tactical photojournalists was sitting very conspicuously in the Mc Donald's parking lot Wednesday night. While working on a post about a body discovered on the Richards Blvd. off ramp, he observed two Yolo County Sheriff's units roll quickly into the south end of the parking lot and stop crosswise across the parking spaces against the building. The following video is what he witnessed next: **[video]**

Two Yolo County Sheriff's Deputies pull into Mc Donald's on Richards Blvd, dump him and his stuff off in the middle of the parking lot and leave.

In all appearances, two Yolo County Deputies just came over the county line and dumped a transient person from their county, right into downtown Sacramento.

After the deputies got back in their rigs, shut their doors and zoomed off back to Yolo, our team member asked the man why the deputies just dumped him off in the Mc Donald's parking lot. **[video]**
AUDIO: We asked the individual if he knew why he was dropped off. He thought the Transformers dropped him off. Take a listen to the above audio.

We knew there had to be more to the story, so we reached out to the Yolo County Sheriff's office for an explanation, which is as follows in its entirety:

Last night, shortly after 10:30pm, deputies were dispatched to a suspicious persons call in the area of South River Road, north of the town of Clarksburg. The reporting party was concerned about trespassing and possible vandalism to a nearby water pump. About an hour later deputies located the individual depicted in the photograph you provided. This man indicated he was travelling from the Midwest, had been in the Sacramento area for over a week, and was unfamiliar with the area. The area where the man was contacted is rural and void of any type of services. The subject requested a ride back to Sacramento and asked to be dropped off where he could find some food (he was offered money from the deputies but declined as he had his own).

We understand the appearance this activity had. Unfortunately, this individual inadvertently made his way into a very rural area of unincorporated Yolo County leaving him without options. The man was not found to meet the criteria for an involuntary detention due to his mental health challenges and providing him and his belongings with a transport into an area nearby services was determined to be the best solution at the time.

Lieutenant Matthew Davis
Yolo County Sheriff's Office