Meeting Date: 09 23 08

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
☐ Approved Recommendation	☐ Info/Consent
☐ Ord. No(s). _____	☐ Report
☐ Res. No(s). _____	☐ Public Hearing (Info/consent)
☐ Other _____	■ Other Council Business

Prepared By: Martin R. Erickson MRE Agenda Item No. N-3

Reviewed By: City Manager City Attorney Finance Other (Specify)

DATE: September 17, 2008

TO: City Council

FROM: Edmund F. Sotelo, City Manager
City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: **Ventura Youth Correctional Facility**

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council execute a letter opposing the proposed closure of the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility of the Division of Juvenile Justice, to be replaced with a 1,500 maximum-security health care facility.

DISCUSSION

To-date, the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors, Ventura Council of Governments, and the cities of Camarillo and Fillmore have sent letters to the federally appointed Receiver, Mr. J. Clark Kelso, expressing their concerns with the possible conversion of the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility into a medical and mental health facility for 1,500 adult male prisoners.

Prominent among the concerns expressed in the letter was that the proposed prison hospital would adversely affect the health and safety of Ventura County and its residents by drawing substantial numbers of medical personnel from the private sector to the public sector, exacerbating the shortage of medical professionals available to treat Ventura County residents. As Oxnard is home to one of the County's major medical facilities, St. John's Regional Medical Center, this poses a potential impact to our residents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact at this time.

MRE:lal

Attachment 1 - Letter in Opposing to proposed closure

CITY COUNCIL

CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
305 West Third Street • Oxnard, CA 93030 • (805) 385-7428 • Fax (805) 385-7595

September 23, 2008

Mr. J. Clark Kelso, Receiver
California Prison Health Care Receivership Corporation
P. O. Box 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814-4038

SUBJECT: Proposed Ventura County Prison Health Care Facility

Dear Mr. Kelso:

After careful consideration of the matter, the City Council of the City of Oxnard opposes the proposed closure of the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility of the Division of Juvenile Justice, to be replaced with a 1,500 maximum-security health care facility.

While we appreciate the magnitude of the challenges facing the California prison system, we are alarmed about the health and safety risk that this facility creates for residents of the City of Oxnard. At nearly 200,000 residents, Oxnard is Ventura County's largest city, representing nearly a quarter of County's population.

The Ventura County Youth Correctional Facility is not an appropriate site for a 1,500 maximum-security health care facility. We trust that you will also come to the same conclusion as you evaluate the potential impacts on our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas E. Holden
Mayor

Dean Maulhardt
Mayor Pro Tem

John C. Zaragoza
Councilmember

Andres Herrera
Councilmember

Timothy B. Flynn
Councilman

ATTACHMENT 1
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