

Juvenile Justice Commission
of San Diego County

Jails and Lockups 2021 Inspection Report

2019-2020 Yearly Statistics (from Log Books)

0 / 0 # **Secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

1 / 1 # **Secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

2 / 0 # **Non-secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

26 / 10 # **Non-secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

Authority: Pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 209(b), a judge of the juvenile court shall conduct an annual inspection, either in person or through a delegated member of the appropriate county or regional juvenile justice commission, of any law enforcement facility that contains a lockup for adults which, in the preceding year, was used for the secure detention of any minor.

Please respond to sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting (type or print clearly)

Facility Name: National City Police Dept. Date of Inspection: 12/02/2021
Address: 1200 National City Blvd. Date of Last Inspection: 11/20/2019
National City, CA 91950 Phone Number: 619-336-4411

Facility Manager: Chief Jose Tellez Contact Person: Aaron DePascale
Phone No.: 760-336-4400 Phone No.: 619-336-4476
Staff Assisting: _____ E-mail: svillarias@nationalcityca.gov
Phone No.: _____ Alt. Contact: _____

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Ana España
Commission Chair: Yvette D. Klepin
Phone No.: 858-634-1555
Inspecting Commissioners: Amy Lansing

I. GENERAL COMMENTS:

The station is clean and well-maintained. Signs related to minors' rights were clearly displayed in the secure and non-secure areas but details about minors not being held more than six hours were only posted on the outside of the door to the secure holding room and not available where most minors are held during non-secure processing/holds.

Secure and non-secure logs for 2019 and 2020 were well organized but 2020 did not include either the annual or monthly BSCC reporting logs. The logs could not be found during the inspection and the officer in charge that year has retired. There are both secure and non-secure daily logs for every day of the year, regardless of whether a minor is brought into the station. Daily logs are kept in binders. Separate binders for secure and non-secure logs were used in 2020. The secure and non-secure logs for 2019 were retained in a single binder, separated clearly by month with the monthly reporting logs providing overall guidance.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS (if any):

Signs in both secure and non-secure holding areas should clearly include minors' right not to be held more than six hours.

Careful and accurate reporting of minors held over six hours is recommended, as National City actually overreported the number of minors held over the six-hour limit (see below).

The following questions are used to assess compliance with the state standards governing law enforcement facilities in which minors are held in temporary custody. See Article 9, *Minors in Temporary Custody in a Law Enforcement Facility*, Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations (15 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 1140–1151)

III. CONDITIONS OF DETENTION:

- A. Are minors provided with orientation? Yes No
- B. Are they informed of the purpose of detention? Yes No
- C. Are they told the length of time detention is expected to last? Yes No
- D. Are they informed of the six-hour maximum time limit? Yes No

IV. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION (e.g. cell/locked room):

- A. What is the proximity of minors to adult inmates? [Separated entirely](#)
- B. What is the ability and frequency of staff to supervise minor? [Constant direct visual monitoring](#)
- C. Is there constant auditory access to staff? Yes No
- D. Are minors provided with a snack if requested? Yes No
- E. Do minors have access to toilets and washing facilities? Yes No
- F. Do minors have access to a drinking fountain or water? Yes No
- G. Are there provisions to provide clothing or blankets to assure comfort? Yes No

V. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION OUTSIDE A LOCKED ENCLOSURE:

(this includes minors who are handcuffed to a fixed object such as a rail, bench, chair or table):

- A. Are minors assured no “contact” with adult inmates? Yes No
- B. Is there constant supervision? Yes No
- C. Is there a 30-minute limit and Watch Commander approval every 30 minutes thereafter? [Constant monitoring](#) Yes No
- D. Are minors placed in cell when one becomes available? Yes No
- E. Do minors have access to toilet and washing facilities? Yes No
- F. Is there access to a drinking fountain? Yes No

VI. CONDITIONS OF NON-SECURE DETENTION:

- A. Is there direct and constant supervision by staff during the entire custody period? Yes No
- B. Are males and females put in same room? Yes N

VII. INTOXICATED MINORS:

- A. Does the facility have written procedures for the handling of minors under the influence of any intoxicating substances? Yes No
- B. Did the facility detain any minors, either secure or non-secure, determined to be under the influence of an intoxicating substance? Yes No

It is possible this occurred and was not documented. EMTs are reportedly called if intoxication is noted at the station or minors may be handed over to their parents or taken to a hospital rather than brought back to the station (depending on the severity of intoxication and the charges).

If yes:

1. Was medical clearance obtained? Yes No
2. Were these detentions documented? Yes No
3. If the detention was secure, were there documented safety checks no less than once every 15 minutes? Yes No
4. If the detention was non-secure, was the minor in the constant presence of staff? Yes No
5. Who provides medical clearance for these minors?

VIII. DOCUMENTATION:

- A. Are all mandated visual checks documented? Yes No
- B. Are secure/non-secure detention logs used? Yes No
- C. Do the detention logs list the offense and reason which formed the decision to place the minor in secure detention, as well as the length of time the minor was securely detained? Yes No
- D. Does the facility have signage posted explaining the procedures for the handling of secure / non-secure detention of minors? Yes No

IX. ARE THERE INSTANCES IN WHICH A MINOR(S) WAS HELD FOR MORE THAN SIX HOURS? IF YES, LIST THE DATES, STARTING AND ENDING TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR EACH INSTANCE.

Although three minors were reported by National City to BSCC for holds over six hours (per monthly logs on file), only two minors were actually held over six hours in non-secure detention in 2019, and none in secure detention. A Memorandum (pursuant to compliance with NCPD Policy 311.4) was in the file that described the charges (all charged with 10851 VC), interviews and disposition of all three minors brought into the station on 9/11/19 by the same arresting officer. All three minors were 15-year-old girls. One girl was released after 4 hours and 50 minutes to a family member status post medical treatment (vaginal bleeding, possibly pregnant). The two non-secure holds were both brought in at 0051 hours and released to their mother at 0654 hours.

Although the charge was related to unlawful taking of a vehicle, the three minors were observed to be engaged in behavior suggestive of prostitution. The length of their hold was related to bringing in investigators with specific Human Trafficking expertise to determine if Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was occurring.

No minor was held over six hours in either secure or non-secure detention in 2020.

X. Minors Interviewed (Comments):

No minors present during inspection.