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A Report to Establish Alternative Solutions to  
Transporting B and A Misdemeanor  
Offenders to the County Facility

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An Administrative Research Paper  
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## **ABSTRACT**

This report is to establish the feasibility of housing B and A misdemeanor offenders with in the Pflugerville Police Department holding facility. The detention is for a short term bases only, until it is determined if the individual will be released on a recommended bond or transported to the county facility. The problem facing the Pflugerville Police Department is the time patrol officers spend transporting prisoners to the county facility.

This report will research alternative methods for releasing B or A misdemeanor offenders prior to transporting them to the county facility. This report will research time officers spend outside the city for transports. The salary spent for officers to make such transports and fuel costs.

The city of Pflugerville has a holding facility capable of housing up to 15 prisoners. At the time of this report the city had an approximate population of 22,000. The county facility is approximately 18 miles away.

This research includes several interviews with agencies using alternative solutions to transporting prisoners to the county facility. The agencies interviewed were Cleveland Police Department, Galveston County Sheriff's office, Friona Police Department, and the College Station Police Department. The research gathers information from the Pflugerville Police Department's computer aided dispatch (CAD) system.

This researcher found the average salary spent on Pflugerville officers for transporting prisoners, times spent on these transports and fuel costs. After reviewing the information gathered it was determined that alternatives existed. Solutions were recommended regarding alternatives to transport and cooperation between the County Sheriff and the Police Chief are vital.

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## **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to establish alternative solutions to transporting B and A misdemeanor offenders at the Pflugerville Justice Center (P.J.C.). The detention is for a short term bases only, until it is determined if the individual will be released on a recommended bond or transported to the county facility. The Pflugerville Justice Center (P.J.C.) is equipped with a holding facility. The facility has five different cells and is equipped to hold up to fifteen prisoners.

The problem or issue facing the Pflugerville Police Department is the time patrol officers spend taking prisoners to the Travis County Central Booking Facility. The Travis County Central Booking Facility (T.C.C.B.F.) is located in Austin, Texas. This facility is located approximately eighteen miles away, which adds up to a thirty-six mile round trip. Past experience has shown it takes officers up to one hour and twenty minutes to make the round trip. This takes away from coverage on the streets. Prior to transporting B and A misdemeanor offenders to the T.C.C.B.F., they are brought to P.J.C. for fingerprints, photographs, completion of paperwork for T.C.C.B.F., and affidavits. The only thing left for the officer to do is transport the prisoner to T.C.C.B.F. There the Prisoner is turned over to the T.C.C.B.F. personnel for booking and magistration. By transporting the prisoners to P.J.C. first it allows the Pflugerville Police Department to keep its own records on individuals arrested. Many other police departments also use the T.C.C.B.F. This usually effects the booking time it takes officers at T.C.C.B.F., which is the bases of this research report.

The purpose of the research report is to determine whether B and A misdemeanor

Offenders can be held at the Pflugerville Justice Center. This report will research the most cost-effective way of handling B and A misdemeanor offenders.

One of the methods that will be used is a cost analysis. Some of the costs that will be analyzed for example, will be how much, on average, the Pflugerville Police Department ( P.P.D ) spends for an officer to perform the transport, cost of fuel, cost for food if prisoners are housed and, medical cost or liability issues. What additional manpower, if any, will be needed to man the P.J.C., if B and A misdemeanor offenders are held. Are there other means to transport these offenders? What availability will have to be made concerning a Judge? Can other arrangements be made for bonding purposes?

The intended outcome of this research report is to find a cost-effective way to process B and A misdemeanor offenders for release prior to transporting to T.C.C.B.F.. This report is not looking for long term housing of prisoners. The report is to analyze the cost and establish if a policy or procedure for holding and processing B and A misdemeanor offenders until they are either transported to the Travis County Central Booking Facility or arrangements are made to be bond out of the Pflugerville Justice Center holding facility.

The implication of this research report may affect the way the Pflugerville Police Department transports or holds B and A misdemeanor offenders at the Pflugerville Justice Center.

## **Review of Literature**

The city of Pflugerville is located in the northeast part of Travis County. The city has grown in the last 20 years from a population of 600 to near 22,000 as of today's date. When this researcher was first employed to the patrol division 5 years ago the police department was housed in a 3900 square foot building. The building contained one holding cell, capable of holding 6 prisoners. Today the new police department is located in the Pflugerville Justice Center hereafter referred to as the P.J.C. The P.J.C. is approximately 39,000 square feet with 5 holding cells. There are two main holding cells, two isolated cells, and one padded cell. The facility is capable of holding up to 15 prisoners.

Currently the Pflugerville Police Department only holds those individuals arrested on a class C misdemeanor. The longest an individual can be held is 48 hours. An individual arrested for offenses above a class C misdemeanor must be transported to the Travis County central booking facility hereafter referred to as central booking. Central booking is located down town in the city of Austin.

An individual arrested by a Pflugerville officer will normally be brought to the facility for finger printing and photographing. A file is kept at the facility on these individuals. The exceptions to this rule are individuals arrested for driving while intoxicated or are being combative. These individuals are transported straight to central booking unless medical treatment is needed.

This study shows that the average time for an individual to be processed at the facility is approximately 22 minutes. It will take approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes if the individual needs to be transported to central booking. This time can be longer

depending on traffic and also on how busy central booking is at the time of arrival.

The distance round trip to central booking and back is approximately 36 miles. If an intoxalizer operator is needed, 30 to 45 minutes can be added to the turn around time depending on the availability. This can make a total trip time of over 2 hours.

This research paper will view other alternatives solution, which maybe used instead of transporting certain b and a misdemeanor offenders by utilizing recommended bonds, or magistrate them for bail. I have made several phone interviews with the following police departments regarding their procedures for transporting prisoners and the use of recommended bonds.

The first contact was with the Cleveland Police Department at 281-592-2622 and interviewed Chief Ike Hines via telephone on 10/10/02. Chief Hines stated they had a population of approximately 8,000 and transported their prisoners to the county facility approximately 32 miles away. He stated the reason they started having prisoner magistrated the following morning was to avoid transporting them. Their holding time was approximately 48 hours, with a maximum of 72 hours. If the individual could not bond out by then they would be transported on to county. He also stated if a prisoner was to be transported, they would try and get a deputy from county if possible. The second contact made to Cleveland Police Department was a telephone interview with Captain Darrel Broussard. He reiterated what Chief Hines had said and stated their prisoners arrested for a class C misdemeanor were allowed to bond out on some recommended bonds already in place.

The next department contacted was the Galveston County Sheriff's office. A

personal interview was done with Lt. Pruitt. He stated until recently the prisoners held at their holding facility were released if requirements were met for recommended bonds. He stated one of the reasons they stopped is because the prisoners were not being checked through the life scan. This is a procedure that allows law enforcement to check to see if the prisoners are wanted through another agency by positive identification.

An interview with Assistant Chief Brian Frieda of the Friona Police Department also provided some insight into this research. He stated their department consisted of 6 officers with a population of approximately 4,000. He advised their facility consisted of a holding cell and to transport a prisoner to county involved a 25 mile one way trip. Frieda stated this would leave the streets short when this occurred and that his department worked on a recommended bond program. When an individual was arrested and brought to the Friona Police Department, depending on the charges a recommended bond would be set. If a magistrate were unavailable the arresting officer would inform the prisoner of the bond and upon payment they would be released.

Another department contacted was the College Station Police, located in College Station Texas. An interview was done via telephone by this researcher with Brian Hagen. Mr. Hagen is a communication supervisor with the College Station Police Department. He stated his department has a recommended bond program. He stated they have a holding facility consisting of 5 cells. Their population is approximately 70,000 including the college.

Their holding facility is approximately 8 miles from the county jail. Mr. Hagen stated they have a list of recommended bond amounts that have been set for class B and



A misdemeanors. The recommended bonds are used for individuals that have been arrested after 5pm during weekdays and for the weekends. He stated that if an individual could not make bond they would be transport the following day to the county facility. He stated by having this bond program in place it allows them to release individuals that would normally be transport to the county facility, this in turn would take away from their patrol strength until the officer returned. He stated they would hold an individual for a class c violation out of their department up to a maximum of 72 hours.

This researcher also conducted an interview via telephone with Brandon Wood. Mr. Wood is the Director of Facility Planning. The Texas commission on Jail Standards employs him. He stated his department classifies municipal holding facilities as “Municipal Lock Ups” He stated jails are classified as those owned by the county or contracted by the county to be used as jails for the county.

There are many counties in Texas that have established recommended bond programs for B and A misdemeanor Offenders. This has helped in the over crowding of local jails. It is found that the Austin Police uses the central booking facility Department, Department of Public Safety, Travis County Sheriff’s Department, and the Pflugerville Police Department. This can add to the booking time for prisoners if any department has performed a raid or other special event resulting in a large amount of arrests.

## **Methodology**

This research will be done via telephone interviews with other agency personal. To gather information on their policies and procedures and determine if any of the

information may be beneficial to the Pflugerville Police Department. Additionally, information gathered from the Pflugerville Police Department computer operated dispatch (CAD) will be researched. Also information gathered from mileage taken from the dispatch log on vehicles transporting prisoners to T.C.C.B.F. and time spent for transport and booking will be examined. The cost for fuel to perform the transport of prisoner to T.C.C.B. F. from P.J.C. and how much salary is spent paying officers to transport prisoners from P.J.C. to the T.C.C.B.F. will be analyzed for this study.

The reason for this research is to determine whether or not any alternatives can be found for releasing prisoners arrested for certain B or A misdemeanors prior to transporting them to the T.C.C.B.F.. This research is to find if a release procedure/s found would enable the Pflugerville Police Department a means of releasing certain B or A misdemeanor offenders held at the Pflugerville Justice Center holding facility, prior to transporting them to the Travis County central booking facility located in down town area of Austin, Texas.

The information gathered from this research will be presented to the Pflugerville Police Chief. Upon his review and with the cooperation of the Sheriff of Travis County, the researcher believes some type of alternative regarding transport or per-release can be reached.

## **Findings**

In the effort to obtain information on holding facilities, it was found that there is very little written on this topic or research done. This researcher found that the first modern jail was believed to be built in America, in 1790. It was named the Walnut Street

Jail and was established by William Penn (del Carmen, 1990)

This researcher also found the forerunner of the modern jail, known as a Gaol (also pronounced jail) was designed in Europe during the sixteenth century. The definition of a county jail was also found to be defined as any jail, lockup, or other facility that is operated by or for a county for the confinement of persons accused or convicted of a offense. The Texas Jail Standards Commission does not define holding cells as jails, unless they are used in connection with the above definition (del Carmen, 1990)

This researcher found the average salary spent each time a prisoner was transported to central booking was approximately \$34.00. The average cost for fuel for one round trip to central booking was estimated at \$ 2.58. The average time spent outside the city for one round trip was estimated to be 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Information gathered from the computer aided dispatch from January through August of 2002 concerning individuals arrested for misdemeanor offenses by the Pflugerville Police Department was 876. The total misdemeanor arrests made from the previous two years (2002 and 2001) was 1205. The reasons for the increase in arrests are believed to be contributed to the increase of population and business growth within the city. The city of Pflugerville has grown from a population of just over 600 twenty years ago, to approximately 22,000 at the time of this research. This is nearly a 4000% increase in population. This increase has resulted in new businesses, larger crowds at intercity functions and increase of calls for police assistance.

Taking the information gathered, the researcher took the average salary spent \$34.00 per trip and multiplied it by the number of trips 876 made to central booking from

January – August 2002, it totaled \$29,784. The researcher took the total cost of fuel per trip \$2.58 and multiplied it by the number of trips 876 made from January – August 2002, it totaled \$2,260.08. The average time of 1.2 hours spent for each transport was multiplied by the number of trips 876, made from January – August 2002, it totaled 1051.2 hours officers spent outside the city.

The dollar total spent from January – August 2002 on transporting prisoners to central booking was \$ 32, 044.08 and time spent was 1051.2 hours. The average cost per trip for transporting a prisoner was estimated at \$36.58 and 1 hour and 20 minutes. The estimated amount spent to feed a prisoner for a 24 hour period was \$6.00, three meals at two dollars each.

### **Discussion/Conclusions**

After reviewing the information gathered it was determined that alternative solutions may exist. The following alternatives are suggested. 1) Recommended bonds be set by the sheriff's department of Travis County on certain B or A misdemeanor offenders and allow their use by the Pflugerville Police Department. If the prisoner meets the recommended bond requirements but could not make the bond, they would be transported to central booking. 2) A prisoner arrested for a B or A misdemeanor and brought to the P.J.C. and did not meet the requirements of recommended bonds, would be magistrates the following business day after arrest or within 24 hour whichever ever comes first. The magistrate would set bail at this time. If the prisoner could not make bail, they would be transported to central booking. 3) Work out an agreement with the Travis County Sheriff's for transportation of prisoners arrested for B or A misdemeanor offenses and

unable to make bail or bond. Transportation by Travis County Sheriff's office could also include an individual arrested for a felony depending on their policy of transporting felony and misdemeanor offenders together.

The solutions stated above would depend on the following. 1) The cooperation between the Sheriff of Travis County and the Chief of Police of Pflugerville. 2) A judge from the City of Pflugerville would agree to magistrate certain B or A misdemeanor offenders that meet the criteria for per-release from the P.J.C., if an agreement could be met. The researcher feels one of the above solutions would be beneficial to the Pflugerville Police Department by reducing officer's time spent outside the city. The researcher also feels this will be beneficial to the Travis County Central booking facility by reducing the overcrowding that occurs there everyday.

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