

# Hongisto

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During the past 3½ years, Richard Hongisto, the Sheriff of San Francisco, has distinguished himself as one of the most qualified sheriffs in America. Newspapers, professionals in the field of jail management and leaders throughout California and San Francisco have praised Sheriff Hongisto for his extraordinary competence in achieving reform in one of California's worst jails and for his leadership throughout California and the Nation.

1. Instituted a training program for deputy sheriffs. During the last year alone deputies received more than 41,000 hours of training.
2. Initiated in-service training programs for new deputies entering the department.
3. Started specialized training courses for management personnel.
4. Developed rules and regulations for deputies and inmates.
5. Created an internal affairs unit.
6. Brought order to a chaotic payroll system.
7. Created property and inventory control system to record the whereabouts of Department property and established responsibility for the protection and maintenance of this property.
8. Initiated regular jail inspections to ensure that the jails are consistently clean and safe.
9. Installed manpower utilization studies and management evaluation systems to increase the efficiency of present personnel and other resources of the Department.
10. Has vastly improved the quality of food at the jail.
11. Improved medical care through more staff, more efficient distribution of medication and a drastic reduction of inmate deaths.
12. Established a federal management assistance program.
13. Co-operated in the consolidation of City Prison and County Jail under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department.
14. Increased the number of bailiffs guarding the judges and established a management system to supervise these bailiffs.
15. Increased the number of Sheriff's Department vehicles from 16 to 27.
16. When the Sheriff took office the Sheriff's Department had almost no radio communication equipment. Now all Department cars have fully equipped emergency radio systems.
17. When Sheriff Hongisto assumed office there was only one class at the County Jail. The Sheriff built an educational wing at San Bruno which houses seven classrooms.
18. Installed showers in the jails so that inmates are able to shower more than once a week.
19. Installed all new laundry equipment at the jails.
20. Built a four-chair dental clinic.
21. Has eliminated overcrowding.
22. Has improved the library system in co-operation with the San Francisco Public Library.
23. Established a recreation program for inmates to reduce jail tensions through organized athletics and entertainment.
24. Created a superb children's playground at San Bruno County Jail.
25. Established a parole project now being used as a model project for the entire State of California.
26. Has played a vital role in pressing prison reform legislation. Recently, five bills were passed through the State Legislature which were originally written and promoted by Sheriff Hongisto.
27. In the past four years the Sheriff has brought over \$1,000,000 in Federal and State aid into the San Francisco Sheriff's Department.
28. The prisoner services divisions have saved taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars by streamlining the processing of inmates.
29. Improved the Retirement System for deputy sheriffs.
30. Upgraded inmate clothing.
31. Improved bedding facilities at the Prison.
32. Increased charges to the Federal Government for Federal prisoners incarcerated at County Jail. This has brought over \$200,000 per year to San Francisco taxpayers.
33. Instituted psychiatric care programs for emotionally disturbed inmates.
34. Created the first County Jail ombudsman in the United States.
35. Established a philanthropic foundation - Friends of Deputies and Inmates to receive tax-free donations to the jail.
36. Expanded visiting hours at the jail.
37. Developed a minority recruitment program.
38. Made the Sheriff's Department the first department of city government to have open hearings on its own budget.
39. Instituted thorough background research programs for employees entering the Sheriff's Department.
40. Upon taking office four years ago there was one budgeted rehabilitation officer to serve over 10,000 inmates over the course of a year. Today, without costing San Francisco taxpayers a cent in increased local budgets, over 40 rehabilitation staff are on duty in the jails, paid by Federal funds. There is a rehabilitation caseworker available to each inmate who enters county jail.
41. The creation of a job training and job finding division which has found jobs for 144 inmates last year alone and prepared another 226 inmates for re-entry into the job market.
42. Created a vocational rehabilitation division which counseled over 600 inmates last half-year alone, and referred 290 inmates to proper agencies for job placement.
43. Created a Women's Service Unit in the county jail to deal in depth with the special problems of female inmates.
44. Established a volunteer program to enable qualified citizens to assist deputies and inmates, and to involve the public in the operations of the Sheriff's Department.
45. Obtained a grant to provide a law library at the jail.
46. Obtained ten typewriters donated by IBM.
47. Established a procedure to ensure that inmates are not held beyond the normal release time. This program saves taxpayers thousands of dollars a year in illegal incarceration costs.
48. Obtained \$10,000 in recreation equipment from grants provided by the San Francisco Foundation and the San Francisco Warriors.
49. Initiated a drug counseling program at the jail.
50. Established an alcohol diversion program to Laguna Honda Hospital for Alcoholics.
51. Enabled 60 inmates to enroll in community based job training programs.
52. Enrolled 120 inmates in City College when released from prison.
53. Developed a newsletter and extensive Speakers Bureau to inform citizens about the needs and problems of the jail.
54. Has recruited a staff of volunteer attorneys to assist inmates with their legal problems.
55. Obtained funding to create a shuttle system to provide friends and relatives of inmates with free transportation to the jail on visiting days.
56. Created a program for public and private agencies to provide services and counseling to 700 inmates per month. These agencies range from Alcoholics Anonymous to Salvation Army and Red Cross.
57. Located post-release housing for inmates at reasonable rents.
58. Obtained Christmas gift donations from such businesses as Kraft Candies, Crown Zellerbach, Mother's Cookies; producing 600 gift boxes for inmates.
59. Sponsored a Christmas dinner at the jail, organized by women from Macedonia Baptist Church, Mt. Sinai, True Hope and First Union.
60. Obtained donation for a \$3,000 Reading Machine to teach inmates reading which will be soon in use at county jail.
61. Established a training program for jail counselors.
62. Recruited and trained 65 volunteers to work in finding jobs for inmates.
63. Established a program which brings numerous volunteers to projects in the jails.
64. Established outreach office in Mission District where former prisoners may come to receive counselling and support to prevent return to crime.
65. Started a program of monthly concerts at the jail.
66. Founded an office of Volunteer Services for the Sheriff's Department which has over 750 volunteers working with the Department. The volunteers include teachers, counselors, journalists and artists, who offer a wide variety of services to inmates at no cost to the taxpayer.
67. Made strides toward the installation of an in-house radio station at the San Bruno Jail.
68. Appointed the first woman attorney as Chief Legal Adviser to the San Francisco Sheriff's Department.

**CO-CHAIRPERSONS:** Supervisor Dorothy Von Beroldingen and Congressman John Burton. **TREASURER:** Gary Jackson.

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