



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**HALL OF JUSTICE**

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



June 2, 2020

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor, Third District  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Dear Supervisor Kuehl:

## EMERGENCY CAPTAIN PROMOTIONS

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) currently has three lieutenants serving as unit commanders. Lieutenant Sal Becerra is serving as the unit commander for the Lost Hills Station, Lieutenant Don Rubio is serving as the unit commander for the Community College Bureau, and Lieutenant Chris Johnson is serving as the unit commander for the Marina del Rey Station.

These lieutenants have been successfully leading their commands through the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing successful strategies to minimize the spread of the virus to their personnel, and now leading their commands through one of the largest protest movements since the Los Angeles riots in 1992. The George Floyd protests quickly turned destructive and violent, and have led to mass arrests across the county and nation. The destruction of property and violence afflicted on residents and police has affected many cities within Los Angeles County, especially the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and Long Beach. As the protests continue, the antagonists are becoming even more emboldened, more destructive, and more violent. The geographic areas within the Department's jurisdiction (including contracting cities, unincorporated county communities, community colleges, and other entities) have, up to this point, been minimally impacted. This has not been sheer luck. In addition to year round intensive training for these emergencies, the Department's success is significantly based on a well-coordinated, tightly weaved network that heavily relies on rank for command of resources and personnel.

211 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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Supervisor Kuehl

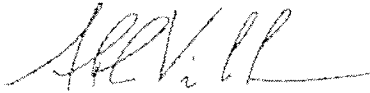
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It is for these reasons, and to avoid the undermining and discontinuity of leadership that I am making an emergency appointment of Lieutenant Salvador Becerra, Lieutenant Don Rubio, and Lieutenant Chris Johnson to Captain, bypassing the protocol of recently established captain interviews.

Should you have any questions, please contact Captain John Burcher of my staff, at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'ALEX VILLANUEVA', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ALEX VILLANUEVA  
SHERIFF

AV:JB:ac

(Office of the Sheriff)

cc: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District, Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District, Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor Janice Hahn, Fourth District, Board of Supervisors  
Chair, Kathryn Barger, Fifth District, Board of Supervisors  
Sachi Hamai, Chief Executive Officer  
Mary Wickham, County Counsel, Office of the County Counsel

Rob De Geus, City Manager; Westlake Village  
Reva Feldman, City Manager; Malibu  
Kerry Kallman, City Manager; Hidden Hills  
Greg Ramirez, City Manager; Agoura Hills  
Ray Taylor, City Manager; Calabasas

Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director, California Contract Cities Association  
Tab Rhodes, President, Professional Peace Officers Association