



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



July 12, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT BACK DATED JULY 7, 2021

The purpose of this correspondence is to address the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) report dated July 7, 2021, on "*Protecting Surviving Families from Law Enforcement Harassment and Retaliation*." All the cases cited in the OIG's report are either in current or pending litigation with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). The OIG may choose to consult directly with County Counsel to discuss confidential information related to the litigation.

First and foremost, let me start off by saying the dedicated men and women of the LASD work tirelessly day after day to keep the residents of Los Angeles County safe. Despite the negative rhetoric and intentional lies placed on law enforcement by officials with political agendas, the LASD continues to provide a high level of service to our communities.

I have read the report back and will be having my staff look into the information contained in the report. The LASD takes all allegations of misconduct seriously and investigates all complaints thoroughly with the information provided. It should be noted the LASD initiated several Watch Commander's Service Comment Reports (complaints) on the original request for investigation by the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) on November 19, 2019, regarding the allegations cited in the OIG's report back. No additional information was provided to the LASD to investigate the allegations for any possible misconduct by personnel.

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During the course of our investigation, the LASD reached out to the OIG and COC on various occasions to solicit any additional information, which could be used to help with the complaint process. On January 31, 2020, a letter was sent to the OIG requesting the OIG provide the LASD with any and all information or evidence pertaining to the allegations (see attached letter). No additional information was received.

The LASD made a timely response to the original request for investigation and investigated eight complaints in four months encompassing approximately 400 pages of investigative material. On March 11, 2020, the LASD provided a written response to the COC regarding the outcome of the complaints (see attached letter). The OIG was also provided a copy of the letter and has access to these complaints for oversight review.

On November 17, 2020, the OIG provided you a report back *"Inquiry and Assessment as to the Harassment of Families by LASD Patrol Operations Staff Following a Fatal Use of Force by LASD."* Yet again, the OIG intentionally left out the fact the LASD contacted those who filed written complaints on behalf of families such as: the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Centro Community Service Organization, and Black Lives Matter - Los Angeles. The OIG also incorrectly stated that "The Office of Inspector General offered to assist LASD in this regard. LASD did not respond to this offer." This was completely false. A letter was written to the OIG addressing our concerns on November 20, 2020 (see attached).

As stated, the LASD takes all complaints seriously. The LASD will hold any Department member accountable if misconduct is founded. It is unfortunate the OIG continues to interfere with our investigations and uses its position to spread false information to the public.

Should you have any questions, or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



ALEX VILLANUEVA
SHERIFF