



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



May 23, 2022

Brian K. Williams, Executive Director
County of Los Angeles
Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
World Trade Center
350 South Figueroa Street, Suite 288
Los Angeles, California 90071

Dear Mr. Williams:

ACTUAL CONFLICT WITH KENDALL BRILL & KELLY LLP

In a letter dated March 25, 2022, from the law firm Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP (KBK), I was advised their firm had been retained pro bono by your office to investigate the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (Department) alleged Deputy Cliques. In case you are unaware or have yet to be informed by your County Counsel, KBK was retained to represent the County of Los Angeles (County), the Department, and myself in two ongoing federal consent decrees over the last several years.

Consequently, this firm is inappropriate to handle an investigation on your behalf, where there is an actual conflict with this firm's representation of the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), while also representing myself and the Department in other matters. Where this law firm has a duty to more than one person or organization, it cannot do justice to the actual or potentially adverse interests of both parties.

I have also become aware that Mr. Bert Deixler is a member of the same firm and is party to attorney-client privileged communications and information regarding myself and the Department in the course of this firm's representation in the two federal consent decrees.

Moreover, Mr. Deixler was recently recruited by County Counsel to be the federal monitor on one of the ongoing consent decrees in Federal Court.

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Mr. Williams

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However, shortly thereafter, his name was withdrawn. Instead, his name now appears to be repurposed as the pro bono attorney from the KBK firm retained by County Counsel on behalf of the COC.

Please be advised an ethical wall will not cure the actual conflict. Furthermore, I do not waive the privilege for the KBK firm to take on this investigation using confidential information that they would not otherwise have, due to their ongoing representation of my office and the Department.

Please inform of us of the new firm you will retain regarding any investigation by your office, once you have done so. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my Chief of Staff, Commander John L. Satterfield, at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alex Villanueva', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ALEX VILLANUEVA
SHERIFF

Mr. Williams

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May 23, 2022

AV:JLS:ac
(Office of the Sheriff)

c: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Acting County Counsel Dawyn Harrison, Office of the County Counsel