



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



July 18, 2006

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

Dear Supervisors:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) mission to aggressively seek and attract qualified men and women who are interested in a career in law enforcement.

In December 2005, a goal to hire 1,000 deputy sheriffs per year was established. I am pleased to announce that the Department foresees meeting that goal. In fact, the Department has maximized their academy class schedule and are currently holding classes at the STARS Center in Whittier, at the College of the Canyons in Valencia, with planned classes in the Antelope Valley beginning November 2006.

For the past several months, the Department has consistently maintained up to 1,300 candidates in the background investigation process and have filled each academy class with the maximum number of recruits.

In order to make the deputy sheriff testing more convenient for applicants, the Department increased their testing from three days a week to six days a week. In addition to this, the Department also conducts off-site testing, which brings the testing process to local areas. Since July 2005, the Department has conducted 27 off-site tests.

In 2007, the Department anticipates exceeding the 1,000 deputy sheriff hiring goal, increasing the number of graduates by 16 percent, and has scheduled up to 16 academy classes. With these projections, the Department will impact the current number of deputy sheriff vacancies.

A Tradition of Service

I would like to thank each of you for your support and monetary assistance. Like many other law enforcement agencies throughout the country, the Sheriff's Department has experienced formidable challenges attracting qualified candidates. However, with your assistance, the Sheriff's Department has acquired the resources necessary to address these challenges. The Department's Recruitment and Background Investigations Units are now appropriately staffed to reach our hiring goals.

The Department has also taken part in a working group that was established, at your request, to evaluate any bottlenecks to further improve the hiring process. The work group has met on several occasions and has been very successful in analyzing current procedures. Subsequent to the work group's full review, the workgroup will be presenting to your Board recommendations to further enhance the staffing in the areas of training and polygraph examinations, along with a number of non-monetary ideas that should even further increase our hiring capability. The Sheriff's Department always seeks partnership with other County representatives to work together and quickly address any deficiencies in our processes.

Again, I am grateful for your efforts to help this Department succeed and maintain the valued reputation we have as a leading law enforcement agency. Without your support, our tasks would have been extremely difficult to accomplish. I am confident that the Department will meet our hiring expectations in both 2006 and 2007. I welcome and appreciate your interest in further enhancing our Department's hiring process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF