



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

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



June 14, 2012

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

Dear Supervisors:

**REPORT BACK REGARDING JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
SHERIFF, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE, AND COUNTY COUNSEL REGARDING THE
QUALITY AND LENGTH OF STORED VIDEO FOOTAGE AND ASSOCIATED COSTS**

On May 15, 2012, your Board requested that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) provide "a joint report and recommendations in 30 days on the video data storage, specifically, the length of storage, quality of data, and any associated costs and funding options, if necessary."

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

Consistent with recommendations by County Counsel, the Office of Independent Review (OIR), and Merrick Bobb, the Department is currently storing video recordings for a period of 25 months. The recommendations were based on State statutes [California Government Code Sections 34090.6(a), 34090.7 and 26202.6(a), etc.] mandating a video storage period of 12 months, and Federal statutes allowing person(s) to file a Federal lawsuit for up to 24 months. In order to comply with recommendations regarding video storage and remain within its existing budget, the Sheriff's Department is currently recording and storing video at five frames per second (FPS).

The Department's Technical Services Division (TSD) conducted a demonstration to show the difference between video footage at five FPS and ten FPS. While the video recorded at ten FPS was better, the reduction in quality was minor and only recognized during incidents with extremely fast motion. In most instances, the use of video at five FPS would be acceptable. The slower frame speed could be a factor if technicians were required to break down an incident frame by frame.

A Tradition of Service

The decision regarding video quality is financial. If funding were not an issue, the Department, CEO, and County Counsel would obviously prefer to have all video recorded and stored at ten FPS. Recognizing the economic circumstance of Los Angeles County, we have jointly developed two options for your consideration:

OPTION 1:

- Storage:** 25 months storage at 5 FPS and 720p
- Cost:** \$2 million (existing funds—no additional funds required)
- Pros:** Cost efficient
Long-term storage of video
Excellent resolution to identify persons involved
- Cons:** Could prevent frame by frame analysis during extremely fast motions

OPTION 2:

- Storage:** 25 months at 10 FPS and 720p
- Cost:** \$4 million total (\$2 million existing + \$2 million additional funding)
- Pros:** Excellent video quality
Excellent resolution to identify persons involved
Long-term storage of video
- Cons:** Additional funding required (approximately \$2 million)

Another option initially considered by the Department was storage of video for 14 months at ten FPS (Option 3). This option was based on the Board of Supervisors' policy adopted on June 29, 1999, which authorized the Department to discard all video after a 14-month period. It was deemed not viable because it failed to meet the 25-month criteria recommended by County Counsel, OIR, and Merrick Bobb.

OPTION 3:

- Storage:** 14 months at 10 FPS
- Cost:** \$2 million (existing funds—no additional funds required)

- Pros:** Cost efficient
Good quality video for long-term storage
Lesser burden on the Department's Data Network

Cons: Reduced amount of long-term storage

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Commander James Hellmold at (213) 893-5003.

Sincerely,



LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF