County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
http://ceo.lacounty.gov

SACHI A. HAMAI
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February 10, 2016

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

Jim McDonnell
Sheriff

REPORT BACK REGARDING H.P. AUTOMOTIVE AND TOW SERVICE, INC. (ITEM NO. 39-C, AGENDA OF JANUARY 19, 2016)

In early 2015, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) initiated a review of its policy and procedures with regard to Tow Service Contracts. While the Department has for many years enjoyed productive and positive relationships with the companies that provide towing services to the residents of Los Angeles County, as with many other policies and procedures that govern the Department, this was an opportunity to refresh and reiterate the guidelines and operational procedures related to those services.

As a result, the Department introduced new policies and guidelines on November 4, 2015. Along with the new policies, the Department also created through their Field Operations Support Services Unit, Field Operations Directives that were designed to be disseminated to all patrol stations for the purpose of briefing patrol personnel on the requirements and parameters of tow companies within their station or unit jurisdictions.

The centerpiece of the new policy was the creation of a "Chief's" Panel. The newly created Chief's Panel acts as the reviewing authority for individual patrol stations/units requesting the renewal or termination of existing Department tow service agreements or the initiation of new ones. The Chief's Panel is comprised of chiefs from Court Services, Administrative Services, Technology and Support, and Special Operations Divisions.

On Tuesday, January 19, 2016, the Chief's Panel convened to review several proposed new tow contracts as well as the status of H.P. Automotive and Tow. Based on media reports, specifically articles published by the Los Angeles Times, the Chief's Panel decided to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated February 27, 2013, pursuant to paragraph 34.1, between the County of Los Angeles and H.P. Automotive and Tow in its entirety. The termination of the MOU was effective January 30, 2016, 10 days from the date of the letter sent to H.P. Automotive and Tow.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Williams, Public Safety Cluster, at (213) 974-1155.

SAH:JJ:JM
SW:AY:cc

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Sheriff

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