



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SHEILA KUEHL

JANICE HAHN

KATHRYN BARGER

September 18, 2018

Honorable Jim McDonnell
Sheriff, Los Angeles County
211 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Sheriff McDonnell:

The Interim Public Defender has recently made us aware of a practice that is - to our knowledge - currently being rolled out by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department ("LASD") involving satellite lock-up facilities in the criminal courthouses. Specifically, it is our understanding that the LASD is installing audio/video devices in these facilities for the purpose of recording inmates awaiting their court appearances. While we acknowledge your legal authority over the jails, the audio recording of inmates in this location (satellite lock-up facilities) creates significant concerns because attorney/client communications regularly occur in these areas. Consequently, audio recordings compromise the attorneys' ability to confidentially communicate with their clients.

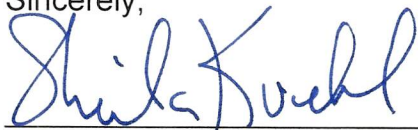
We are bringing this matter to your attention and asking, at a minimum, that you intervene to stop the audio recording portion of the devices from being installed in these satellite lock-up facilities. As you may know, the LASD has already rightly acted to halt audio recording operations in the attorney conference rooms of the criminal courthouses to protect those attorney/client communications. We are now asking that the LASD immediately do the same in the satellite lock-up facilities. As you know, confidential communications are at the heart of the attorney/client relationship, without this, effective representation is simply not possible.

Failure to halt these audio recording operations will likely require that defendants be transported by LASD Deputies from the satellite lock-up facilities to the attorney conference rooms so that confidential communications can take place in those secure locations. In addition, to the logistical problem created by the transfer of inmates in this manner, such a practice will also compromise the efficient running of the court and impact the resources of, among others, the Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender and the LASD. It may also extend time spent in jail by the inmates waiting to communicate with their counsel.

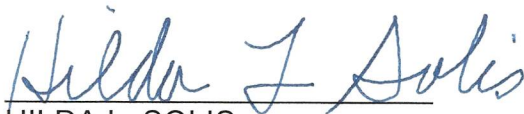
Honorable Jim McDonnell
September 18, 2018
Page 2

We trust that the LASD will agree with the concern created by this practice and act swiftly to halt it. Please inform us of the LASD's efforts in this regard as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



SHEILA KUEHL
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Third District



HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District



MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District



JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District



KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District

c: Honorable Jackie Lacey
District Attorney

Honorable Scott M. Gordon
Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles