

LASD: DEPUTY REINSTATEMENT

As recently reported by the media, the Sheriff's reinstatement of a deputy previously discharged from County service for allegations of domestic abuse and stalking has been the subject of serious debate and concern. The deputy's discharge was based on documented evidence and the grounds for termination were upheld by the Civil Service Commission. However, at a recent Civilian Oversight Commission hearing, the Sheriff revealed that his actions were based on his own personal doubts about the accuser's credibility and time lapses between the alleged crimes and the report made.

The reinstatement and the reasoning for it sends a disturbing message that a crime victim should not be believed based on the timing of the allegations and one person's doubt about his or her credibility. This approach can further discourage victims from coming forward who are already reluctant to report such crimes for a variety of reasons, including shame, self-doubt and fear. Yet, according to the National Council Against Domestic Violence, on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
KUEHL	_____
BARGER	_____
HAHN	_____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND SHEILA KUEHL
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By County charter, the Sheriff, as the appointing authority, has the right to make personnel decisions within the Sheriff's Department. However, there are grave concerns over how this particular matter has been handled and the message it sends to all of the men and women in law enforcement, as well as victims of domestic violence and the public at large. This action may also hinder the Sheriff's Department's ability to restore and preserve the public trust that is so vital in effective policing.

It is imperative that full and accurate facts drive investigations of criminal matters as well as employee disciplinary cases to ensure that they are both pursued with the highest standard of integrity. It is also important that the Board provide the Sheriff an opportunity to respond to these concerns.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Executive Officer to send a 5-signature letter to the Sheriff expressing the Board's concerns on his recent reinstatement of a previously discharged deputy and request his reconsideration of this action and/or response to the Board's concerns; and,
2. Direct County Counsel to provide a report, within two weeks, on the procedures to be undertaken when there is a conflict between the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff, pursuant to Government Code section 31000.6.

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SUP: KB:SK:ead