

LASD and OIG Memorandum of Agreement

In 2014, the LA County Board of Supervisors (Board) created the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to provide oversight and monitoring of the Sheriff’s Department. To ensure that the OIG can provide proper oversight the establishing ordinance gave the office access to department documents. Under County Code Section 6.44.190, “the Sheriff’s Department and all other County departments shall cooperate with the OIG and promptly supply any information or records requested by the OIG, including confidential peace officer personnel records, inmate medical and mental health records, and protected health information of inmates necessary for the OIG to carry out its duties.”

In 2015, under the previous Sheriff, the OIG and the Sheriff’s Department entered into the Memorandum of Agreement to Share and Protect Confidential LASD Information (MOA) to effectuate County Code Section 6.44.190 and to create a process for document and information sharing between the department and OIG. In addition to the processes detailed in the MOA, over the years, the Sheriff and OIG developed other protocols for information sharing.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

While the MOA, and the protocols established in the preceding years, helped facilitate information sharing and provided the OIG access to department documents, the agreement and the protocols have not been utilized in the same way under the current Sheriff. Recently, the OIG has had difficulty getting information from the department and accessing documents. Access to department documents and records is imperative for the OIG. The office cannot function as the Board intended without it.

On July 23, 2019, the Board unanimously adopted a motion by Supervisors Hahn and Ridley-Thomas to explore options for expanding the authority of the OIG, including granting the office subpoena power. While the Board awaits the legal analysis from County Counsel on granting subpoena power to the OIG, County Counsel should work with the Sheriff and OIG to renegotiate the MOA to provide the OIG with immediate access to department documents and records. The MOA should codify the ways in which the OIG can access department information.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel, in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department and OIG, to negotiate a new memorandum of agreement to ensure that the OIG is able to fulfill the duty of the office as detailed in County Code Section 6.44.190 and report back in forty-five days.

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JH:ah