

Audit of Sale of Police Equipment to City of Gardena and Transfer to Cambodia

It has recently come to light that transactions occurred approximately 10 years ago involving the purchase of unused and used bulletproof vests (173 unused for \$5,190 and 300 used for \$3,000) by the City of Gardena from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. At least 173 of these vests were reportedly sent to Cambodia inside a patrol car, one of several vehicles which was also sent to Cambodia.

The Auditor-Controller's office conducted a review of the purchase by the City of Gardena from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. However, at the time of the audit, it appears that the Auditor-Controller was not aware that commodities sold to the City of Gardena were sent to Cambodia. Federal, state and local statutory, legal and policy violations may have occurred with these transactions.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Office of Independent Review (OIR) to review whether there was collusion with an unidentified third party through the sale of the bulletproof vests and surplus vehicles to the City of Gardena. Additionally, direct OIR to review whether the shipment of the bulletproof vests by the City of Gardena to Cambodia went to a law enforcement, and report any violations of the law or relevant policies; and

Direct the Auditor-Controller to identify any violations of policies governing the disposition of surplus property as established by the Board of Supervisors; and

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
FEBRUARY 19, 2013
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1. Pursue the cooperation of the City of Gardena and other jurisdictions as necessary, in order to conduct a comprehensive audit into these transactions, to include, but not be limited to:
 - a. The legality of the purchase of bulletproof vests by the City of Gardena from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the subsequent export of these items to Cambodia, as well as in the manner in which they were shipped;
 - b. The legality of the transfer of police vehicles to Cambodia, as well as the manner in which they were shipped;
 - c. The review of any federal, state, or local statutes or laws which may have been violated with these transactions; and
 - d. Identification of any fraudulent or illegal activity by or on behalf of personnel, including within the Sheriff's Department (full-time and reserve) and the City of Gardena (full-time, volunteer, or elected).

The Auditor-Controller should also send the final report, due within 30 days, to the United States Attorney's Office, as well as the District Attorney's Office, for review.

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