



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

World Trade Center
350 South Figueroa Street, Suite 288, Los Angeles California 90071
(213) 253-5678

April 14, 2021

Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office
500 W. Temple St., Room 713
Los Angeles, CA 90012

COC LETTER OF SUPPORT REGARDING LASD BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Dear CEO Davenport:

The Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), as undertaken by the Budget Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc) has been monitoring the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Budget Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 departmental budget requests and priorities.

As a part of our on-going efforts to address critical issues facing the LASD, the COC is writing in support of budget prioritization of the specific items/ programs listed below. This prioritization is based upon a review of the budget documents prepared by LASD and comments from the public at COC meetings to support and improve law enforcement services that have a direct and positive benefit for the community at large. Amongst the items submitted in LASD's FY 2021-22 Recommended Budget Request Priorities, the COC supports the funding for the following in the below COC priority order:

1. **Body Worn Cameras (LASD Priority #3)**
 - a. The COC supports this budget priority as presented and submitted by the LASD to the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to complete the BWC implementation phase.
 - b. This budget priority is in alignment with the [COC's BWC adopted \(July 26, 2018\) recommendations](#).
2. **Mental Evaluation Team (MET) Restoration (LASD Priority #7)**
 - a. The COC supports this budget priority as presented and submitted by the LASD to the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to restore 6 positions for MET.
 - b. This budget priority restores the funding lost when Prop 109 (Office of Diversion) funding was re-directed to other priorities and sets the MET program back on track to be in alignment with the [COC's MET adopted \(February 15, 2018\) recommendations](#).
3. **Integrated Co-Response & Crisis Intervention Bureau (LASD Priority #8)**
 - a. The COC supports this budget priority as presented and submitted by the LASD to the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to support the establishment of a bureau with the continued MET expansion.
 - b. This budget priority is in alignment with the COC's February 15, 2018 recommendation concerning MET expansion. This will increase MET units

Brian K. Williams
Executive Director

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to 45 from the current 33, providing 24-hour coverage for mental health crisis county-wide.

4. Veterans Mental Evaluation Team (MET) Expansion (LASD Priority #9)

- a. The COC supports this budget priority as presented and submitted by the LASD to the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to meet the co-response needs of the veteran population.
- b. This innovative collaborative program is vitally needed to support our growing veteran population (largest in the United States).

The COC's support of these specific LASD FY2021-22 Budget Request priorities do not imply support of non-referenced priorities or an increase in the department's total budget. Additionally, the Ad Hoc acknowledges the growing commitment by LASD to engage the COC in the budget process to date.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (213) 253-5678.

Sincerely,



Lael Rubin
Chair, Civilian Oversight Commission



Casimiro Tolentino
Vice Chair & Lead, Budget Ad Hoc Committee

CC Honorable Hilda L. Solis, Board of Supervisors District 1
Honorable Holly J. Mitchell, Board of Supervisors District 2
Honorable Sheila Kuehl, Board of Supervisors District 3
Honorable Janice Hahn, Board of Supervisors District 4
Honorable Kathryn Barger, Board of Supervisors District 5
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