



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



October 8, 2020

Max Huntsman, Inspector General
County of Los Angeles Office of Inspector General
312 South Hill Street
Los Angeles, California 90013

Dear Mr. Huntsman:

OIG ANALYSIS OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED ASSAULT BY BANDITOS

This letter is in response to the October 2020 analysis report your office published on the criminal investigation into the Kennedy Hall incident on September 28, 2018, conducted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (LASD) Internal Criminal Investigation Bureau (ICIB) investigators.

It is extremely troubling that your office alleges ICIB investigators did not conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. Your report failed to document that the LASD conducted a criminal and administrative investigation where investigators interviewed over 70 involved parties and witnesses in this case.

As you should already know, ICIB investigators conduct criminal investigations and not administrative investigations. In order to preserve the integrity of a criminal investigation, the investigators do not compel statements. Your report eludes that ICIB investigators purposely did not ask questions or tried to cover-up criminal activity.

The criminal investigation conducted by the LASD was subsequently presented to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division, by ICIB investigators for their review. On February 6, 2020, the District Attorney's office declined to prosecute the case and provided a 28-page declination report indicating there was insufficient evidence for a filing.

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When I first took office, I relieved the East Los Angeles Station Captain of his command, overhauled the entire leadership of the station, and transferred 36 personnel because of this incident.

Unlike previous administrations, I became the first Sheriff to successfully implement a policy specifically addressing employee groups, which violate the rights of other employees or members of the public.

The administrative investigation was completed in approximately 100 days despite the pandemic, civil unrest, wildfires, and budgetary restraints. In my commitment to transparency, I held a press conference with the public on August 13, 2020, to discuss the results of the completed investigation. Twenty-six deputies in this incident were either suspended or terminated.

I welcome oversight to bring balance and meaningful dialogue for the best interest of the public we serve. It is unfortunate you continue to omit facts and bring false narratives in support of your political agenda.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my Chief of Staff, Captain Jorge A. Valdez, at (213) 229-3001.

Sincerely,



ALEX VILLANUEVA
SHERIFF