



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

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

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Alex Villanueva, Sheriff
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
211 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Sheriff Villanueva:

Public safety is one of the most vital functions conducted by government. It is one of the reasons that every year, the County invests billions of dollars into the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and entrusts you to serve as a sound fiscal agent for the people's money. As such, our communities rely upon you to provide this public safety and we are grateful for the efforts of the men and women of the Department who daily risks their lives to do so.

With so much at stake, we are alarmed to learn of your recent proposal to enact several cuts within the Department which includes the proposed shuttering of the Altadena and Marina del Rey stations. It is equally troubling to hear of the curtailment of the specialized units that investigate sexual abuse, child abuse and human trafficking crimes, some of the most vulnerable victims in our society. To say the least, these proposals have caused great concern amongst members of the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) and the community.

While we understand the need to adjust your budget as a result of the current pandemic, we are taken aback by the nature of some of your proposed cuts and believe that there must be some public discourse concerning the nature and need for these proposed cuts. You should know that many members of both communities potentially impacted by the station closures have reached out to the COC for answers, some concerned for their safety fearing that they will not have assistance when they need it. The public is entitled to feel at ease when it comes to public safety and closing sheriff stations creates alarm, angst, and anger.

In light of the above, we ask that you or the most senior member of your staff attend our May 7, 2020 virtual COC meeting to greater explain your proposed budget cuts and to ensure the community that public safety will not deteriorate despite the closure of the sheriff stations.

Brian K. Williams
Executive Director

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Thank you for your anticipated prompt response to this request. Please do not hesitate to call me at (213) 253-5678 or contact me via email message at BWilliams@coc.lacounty.gov with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Brian K. Williams
Executive Director, Civilian Oversight Commission



Patti Giggans
Civilian Oversight Commission

BKW:em

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