



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

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

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*Executive Director*

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May 6, 2020

Ms. Sachi Hamai  
Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Hamai:

As I am sure that you are aware, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva has suggested that there is a need to reduce service in several areas, including the proposed closure of several County Sheriff stations as a result of recent reductions in the Sheriff's Department budget. It is axiomatic that such assertions by the Sheriff would cause a great deal of concern and questions by members of the affected communities. To say that the public is alarmed is quite an understatement.

Because of the significant public alarm and feedback, the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), has an interest in better understanding the budget issues involved. Yesterday, the COC invited the Sheriff to appear at the COC meeting to address these concerns and answer some of the questions posed by members of the community. Unfortunately, he has declined to make such an appearance. However, the questions remain and the dearth of information on this subject is causing angst and consternation amongst many members of the community. To get to the gravamen of the matter, we are writing to you to inquire as to whether you will be able to provide answers to the following questions:

1. Has there been a request from the CEO's office for all County departments to submit potential budget cuts as part of a curtailment exercise?
2. Did the Sheriff's Department provide you with proposed budget cuts?
3. Can you describe what those cuts were?
4. Did those cuts include the closing of Sheriff stations?
5. For the current and previous 5-year budget cycles, has the Sheriff's Department received their entire budget request? Why or why not?
6. How does this compare to other County Departments?
7. Why is this year's budget \$400M less than what the Sheriff requested?
8. Do you see it as a necessity to close the Parks Bureau and the two patrol stations?
9. What about the disbanding or curtailment of units which handle sexual abuse, child abuse and sexual trafficking crimes?
10. In the past where the Sheriff's budget has not been fully funded, has the Sheriff made up for the shortfall? How?
11. Do you see any true savings by shutting the various patrol stations and bureaus? Do you believe that there will be a diminution in service as a result of these proposed closures?

12. Has the Sheriff's Department been singled out for any special budget cuts or requests?
13. To your knowledge, are there other budgetary cuts that can be curtailed/eliminated instead of closing sheriff stations?
14. Do we know for a fact that the savings claimed by the Sheriff are accurate? For example: curtailment of Special Victims Bureau \$23.5M, closing the Altadena station \$6.3M, closing the Marina del Rey station \$5.9M...
15. Could the \$6.3M savings claimed by the Sheriff for closing the Altadena station be curtailed in overtime or elsewhere? Same for the \$5.9M saving for the Marina del Rey station
16. Can the LASD operate without compromising public safety with the \$3.5B recommended budget?
17. Is the amount of overtime claimed by the Sheriff necessary to maintain public safety?
18. The Sheriff claims that reducing the number of academy classes increases the amount of overtime. Is this statement accurate?
19. How is it that closing the Altadena station saves \$6.3M if the deputies will still be on patrol and the station personnel will be placed in other LASD vacancies?

We apologize for the immediacy of this request, however, there is an urgent need to address this situation. 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](mailto:BWilliams@coc.lacounty.gov) with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Brian K. Williams  
Executive Director, Civilian Oversight Commission



Patti Giggans, Chair  
Civilian Oversight Commission

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