

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

July 11, 2023

Providing Thermal Undergarments to All People in Custody in the Los Angeles

County Jails

In the Office of Inspector General (OIG) quarterly report, “Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department—January to March 2023” (Report), it brought to the attention of the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s (LASD) reprehensible practice of not providing thermal undergarments to people in custody despite complaints of freezing temperatures in the County jails.

According to the Report, LASD has a surplus of 315,000 thermal tops and bottoms (thermal undergarment set) for a current jail population of about 13,000 people in custody. The Report states that LASD asserts that in order to provide the existing population with the thermal undergarment set it requires a total of 550,000 tops and bottoms. This, however, is no excuse to not dole out and distribute the inventory it currently has or preclude LASD from purchasing additional sets.

Anecdotally, people in custody in the County jails are seen with their arms tucked

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inside the short-sleeved scrubs; wrapped with a sheet or blanket if they have them; or wearing cut-up socks as sleeves in an attempt to keep warm.

While people in custody are in the care of LASD, it is incumbent that they are treated humanely and that includes ensuring that they have access and are provided clothing appropriate to temperature and that facilities maintain appropriate temperatures.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Request the Sheriff to
 - a. Provide all people in custody who request a thermal undergarment, with a thermal top and bottom, with its current surplus in 30 days;
 - b. Maintain a log of undergarment distribution alongside existing logs of clothing and linen exchanges;
 - c. Create clear and consistent policy, in collaboration with the Office of Inspector General, on the issuance of thermal undergarments to people in custody; and
 - d. Provide the Board of Supervisors with a report back, in writing, upon completion of all directives.
2. Direct the Office of Inspector General to:
 - a. Oversee the issuance of the undergarments and review distribution logs, including speaking to people in custody about their ability to readily access undergarments when requested; and
 - b. In collaboration with the Sheriff's Department, ensure that it is

maintaining an adequate inventory of thermal undergarments for existing and future people in custody.

3. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with LASD and OIG, in identifying funding to purchase the additional undergarment sets to provide existing and future people in custody with a thermal top and bottom, and report back in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Supplemental Budget.

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