

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND

June 4, 2024

JANICE HAHN

**Transparency and Accountability: Proper Maintenance and Accounting for All  
Cameras in the Los Angeles County Jails, Court Holding Tanks, and Patrol  
Station Lockups**

The Los Angeles County (County) jail system is comprised of seven jail facilities, including one Intake Center, the Inmate Reception Center, that hold on average 12-13,000 incarcerated people. Additionally, there are 562 court holding tanks<sup>1</sup> that are overseen by the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department’s (LASD) Court Services Bureau and 21 patrol station lock ups<sup>2</sup>.

The jails, holding tanks, and patrol station lock ups are also equipped with fixed and Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras – more than 4,000<sup>3</sup>, that are utilized for security, investigations, accountability, and other uses.

<sup>1</sup> Information provided by LA Sheriff’s Department on May 16, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> Id.

MOTION

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Currently, there is no policy on how often the cameras should be maintained, replaced, or assessed for ongoing effectiveness, nor are there audits that are conducted to ensure the cameras are in working order and is capturing the areas it was set to monitor. Unfortunately, it is only after-the-fact, when the footage is being reviewed post-event or incident, that a problem with the camera is detected, e.g.: broken, not recording, which is too late.

In April 2024, the Chief Executive Office included in its Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Recommended Budget a request for \$9.3 million dollars to be set aside “in the Provisional Financing Uses (PFU) budget unit for body-worn cameras for custody deputies to increase transparency and accountability in custody operations. These adjustments continue the County’s commitment to improve conditions and mental health care for those who remain in custody at its jails.” The body cameras, purchased to comply with the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) consent decree, are to supplement the existing cameras in the facilities. Therefore, along with policies to govern body worn cameras, there should be policies to accompany the cameras that are in the jails to ensure they are effectively working with frequent, ongoing, and documented reporting and auditing of the maintenance, checks, and effectiveness of the cameras to ensure there is prompt resolution and repairs.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors request the LA Sheriff’s Department and direct County Counsel, the Office of Inspector General and the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission to collaboratively draft policy related to the maintenance and auditing of cameras in the jails, court holding tanks, and station lock ups and report back to the Board, in writing, on the agreed policy, timeline to finalize

and implement the policy with training, if needed, within 120 days.

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