

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN**

AGN. NO.  
June 3, 2025

**Health and Safety for All: Preservation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards**

Keeping incarcerated people safe from sexual assault and rape may not be a priority for the current federal administration, however, it is for the County of Los Angeles (County). In recent news, the federal administration cut all funding to the National Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Resource Center (PRC)<sup>1</sup>. The PRC provides technical assistance as well as resources to ensure all carceral institutions are compliant with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 and the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape (PREA Standards), with the sole aim of protecting people in its care.

In the County, this funding decision has the potential to place the over 14,000 incarcerated adults and over 500 incarcerated youth<sup>2</sup> in a precarious situation, especially as it relates to their personal safety and vulnerability.

To ensure that the County doesn't regress on any of its work related to PREA compliance, there needs to be a committed effort to work with the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention and community-based organizations like Just

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<sup>1</sup> <https://theappeal.org/trump-doj-defunds-national-prison-rape-resource-center/>

<sup>2</sup> April 23, 2025 Daily Population Report

**MOTION**

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Detention International (JDI)<sup>3</sup>. JDI has provided the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) with technical assistance and helped lay a foundation of safety and compliance upon the adoption of the PREA Standards in 2012.

Though PREA has not been overturned, the drastic cuts to funding signals that people who are incarcerated will possibly face dangerous situations with very little recourse and they'll be open to retaliation, harm, and further victimization should they seek assistance if local action isn't taken.

There is particular concern for transgender individuals who are incarcerated as this federal administration is specifically targeting them through Section 4 of the Presidential Executive Order, "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government" which includes amending standard 115.41 of PREA.<sup>4</sup> There are multiple studies and anecdotal accounts that "transgender people behind bars are at high risk for sexual abuse."<sup>5</sup>

There must be instances in which the County continues to hold facilities it oversees in compliance with laws and standards that aim to protect the most vulnerable against sexual assaults and abuse, like PREA, even if funding gets cut or the enactment is amended, overturned, or revoked, such as this.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Request the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) and direct the Probation Department, regardless of the future of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), to:
  - a. Continue to uphold its standards of compliance to keep incarcerated adults and

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<sup>3</sup> [https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Transparency\\_Civilian\\_PREA\\_Report\\_Update\\_4-18-2024.pdf](https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Transparency_Civilian_PREA_Report_Update_4-18-2024.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism And Restoring Biological Truth To The Federal Government – The White House](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Spring2025\\_JDINewsletter.pdf](#)

youth safe from sexual assaults and abuse.

- b. Report back, in writing, similar to the LASD's June 12, 2024 report back<sup>6</sup>, in 30 days and with subsequent semiannual updates after the initial report back, to the Board, on:
  - i. The status and progress of the implementation of PREA related policies and procedures until completion; and
  - ii. For Probation, updates on addressing the concerns listed in the Probation Oversight Commission's August 12, 2024 report back<sup>7</sup> as it relates to internal investigators' appropriately responding to allegations of PREA violations; effectiveness of current PREA policies and trainings; and youth who are being interviewed and participating in investigations without notice to their counsel or legal guardians.
  - iii. For LASD, updates on staffing the Office of PREA Compliance (OPC); live scanning of the remaining 3,659 LASD employees per PREA standard 115.17; funding a hotline for incarcerated people to connect to a trained sexual trauma counselor; among other proposed steps<sup>8</sup>.

I, **FURTHER, MOVE**, that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Request the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) and direct the Probation Department to work with the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission and the Probation Oversight Commission to:
  - a. Host a joint town hall with community-based organizations such as Just

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<sup>6</sup> <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/189768.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Id.

<sup>8</sup> Id.

- Detention International, Peace Over Violence, Young Women's Freedom Center, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, and others, with specific focus on people who have lived experience with the carceral system and are survivors of sexual assault, to solicit feedback on how to best support creating safer reporting spaces and practices and accountability in LASD and Probation facilities within 90 days; and
- b. Provide the Board with a report back, in writing, 60 days after the conclusion of the town hall, and include:
    - i. A summary and recommendations, and
    - ii. With the LASD and Probation Department, develop and implement a plan to incorporate the recommendations to be shared with the Board in the subsequent semiannual report back as noted in Directive 1, subsection b.
  - c. Work with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to report to the Board on an analysis of any impact to LASD and the Probation Department and their PREA compliance efforts due to funding cuts, in writing and included in the report back noted in Directive 2, subsection b.
2. Direct the Office of Inspector General, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, and the Probation Oversight Commission to continue to monitor and report back in its respective reports to the Board as a standing item, any issues or instances related to obstacles to reporting, delays in investigations, and lack of accountability and transparency in any processes, protocols, or policies, as it relates to protections and safety against sexual assaults and abuse, in any form.

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