

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
May 5, 2026

Ensuring Consistent Access and Availability of Menstrual Products in the Los Angeles County Jails

On February 26, 2026, the Los Angeles County’s (County) Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued its “Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department” (LASD) report, focusing on the October through December 2025 period. The report identified incredibly problematic examples of the lack of consistent availability of menstrual products in the County jails, as well as uncomfortable and intrusive searches on incarcerated people who menstruate.

Though LASD provides menstrual products, either placed in clear plastic bags tied to stair railings in high observation housing units or placed in a box in the common area in medium observation housing units, there are occasions in which incarcerated people cannot access these products. When this happens, the incarcerated person must either request the products from a trustee, or an incarcerated worker, or the products are unavailable, due to these products being used to clean their cells, cushion toilet seats, or cover air vents. There were concerns around hoarding of menstrual products, however, it was largely due to the unavailability of the items when needed.

In 2025, LASD began to pilot the use of menstrual cups for incarcerated people on top of the availability of pads, tampons, and panty liners. Unfortunately, there were

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complaints about the inconsistent application of the search policy for individuals who are using menstrual cups. For example, under the revised CRDF Unit Order #6-01-00, “custody personnel must allow menstrual cup users access to a toilet prior to being searched in the reception area.” This allows the individual to be given the opportunity to discard the menstrual cup contents properly in the toilet, rinse the cup, and wrap in a paper towel for later use. Once this is done, the individual goes through the B-Scanner and upon completion, will either be provided a menstrual product or use their menstrual cup, and sanitize their hands.

The complaints the OIG are receiving is that individuals who are using menstrual cups are directed by custody staff to remove their cup in the search area resulting in contamination of the area, invasion of privacy, and loss of dignity.

Consistent access and full availability of all menstrual products should not be a challenge to anyone who menstruates, including people who are incarcerated. Though some progress has been made, there needs to be assurances that we do not regress but continue to create an environment in which each incarcerated person is accorded dignity.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors request the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department (LASD) to:

1. Ensure consistent access and availability of all menstrual products in common areas, in addition to resuming cell-to-cell distribution of menstrual products.
2. Re-train and re-brief custody personnel on the revised CRDF Unit Order #6-01-00 on searches.
3. Monitor performance and implement accountability for noncompliance.

I, FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Inspector General, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, and the Sybil Brand Commission to

continue monitoring for the accessibility and availability of menstrual products to incarcerated people and that searches are conducted in accordance to state law and LASD policy.

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