



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



June 30, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE SHERIFF TO ISSUE NON-POLICING,
CEREMONIAL-USE ONLY BADGES TO PARTICIPANTS OF
THE HONORARY RECRUIT PROGRAM
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department (Department) is seeking the Board of Supervisors' (Board) approval to issue non-policing, ceremonial use-only badges to Special Olympic Athletes who participate in the Department's Honorary Recruit Program (Program). The Program will allow Special Olympic athletes the opportunity to participate in one of the Department's scheduled certified Peace Officer Standard and Training Academy (Academy) classes as an honorary recruit. The honorary recruit will participate in only select, modified modules. Athletes who successfully complete the Program will be issued an honorary ceremonial use-only badge.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Authorize the Sheriff, or his designee, to issue non-patrol, ceremonial use-only badges, to Special Olympic athletes who successfully complete the modified modules of the Academy, in support of the Special Olympics of Southern California.

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2. Authorize the County contracted vendor, Entenmann Rovan's, also known as Abby Manufacturing, to modify the current Deputy Sheriff badge to design and manufacture the Honorary Recruit Badge for the duration of the Program.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Department has implemented the Program, in partnership with the Special Olympics of Southern California to show support for the community and promote awareness of persons with disabilities and disadvantaged persons. The Department will welcome two Special Olympic athletes per year to participate in select Academy training events as honorary recruits.

The Program gives Special Olympics athletes a unique opportunity to experience and learn about the rigorous training that Southern California Peace Officers accomplish to begin their career. The Program also allows academy recruits to build meaningful relationships with members of the communities they will serve.

The honorary recruit will participate in an Academy class colors run, family night, final inspection, and will receive recognition during the Academy class graduation.

Upon graduation, Special Olympic athletes who complete the modified modules will be issued an Honorary Recruit Badge. The badge will have the modified inscription of "Honorary Recruit" on the front, and "Ceremonial Use Only" on the back. The badge will resemble badges worn by Deputy Sheriffs but will hold no policing powers. The badges are intended to empower and encourage participants.

After the pinning ceremony, the badge will be retrieved from the Honorary Participant and stored in a safe within Training Bureau's secured facilities, until it is utilized again for the next Honorary Recruit.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action supports the County's Strategic Plan's North Star 3: Realize tomorrow's government today; Focus Area Goal G: Internal Controls and Processes: Strengthen our internal controls and process while being cognizant of efficiency to continue good stewardship of the public trust and fiscal responsibility.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Approval of the recommended action will have minimal fiscal impact. There will be a one-time production cost of \$70.05, inclusive of taxes, to manufacture the badge, which will be expensed from the Department's current sworn badge funding.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to the County of Los Angeles Code of Ordinance, section 5.64.130, the Board may allow the issuance of badges, by order of the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors and allow authorized persons to wear County badges. Further, under the County of Los Angeles Code of Ordinance, section 5.64.300, the Department retains the right to confiscate or revoke the badge, or terminate the Program at any time when it is found to be in another person's possession or involved in illegitimate use.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES OR PROJECTS

The Program has no adverse impact on current services

CONCLUSION

The current Department badge is recognized worldwide and is a symbol of prestige and honor. This prestige was born of the professional growth and history of the Department's accomplishments. This honorary badge will promote community directives and efforts to close cultural gaps and provide resources for disadvantaged populations. Upon Board approval, please return a certified copy of the adopted Board Letter to the Department's Employee Service Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Luna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF