

Investing in Community: Adjusting L.A. County's Public Safety Budget Priorities

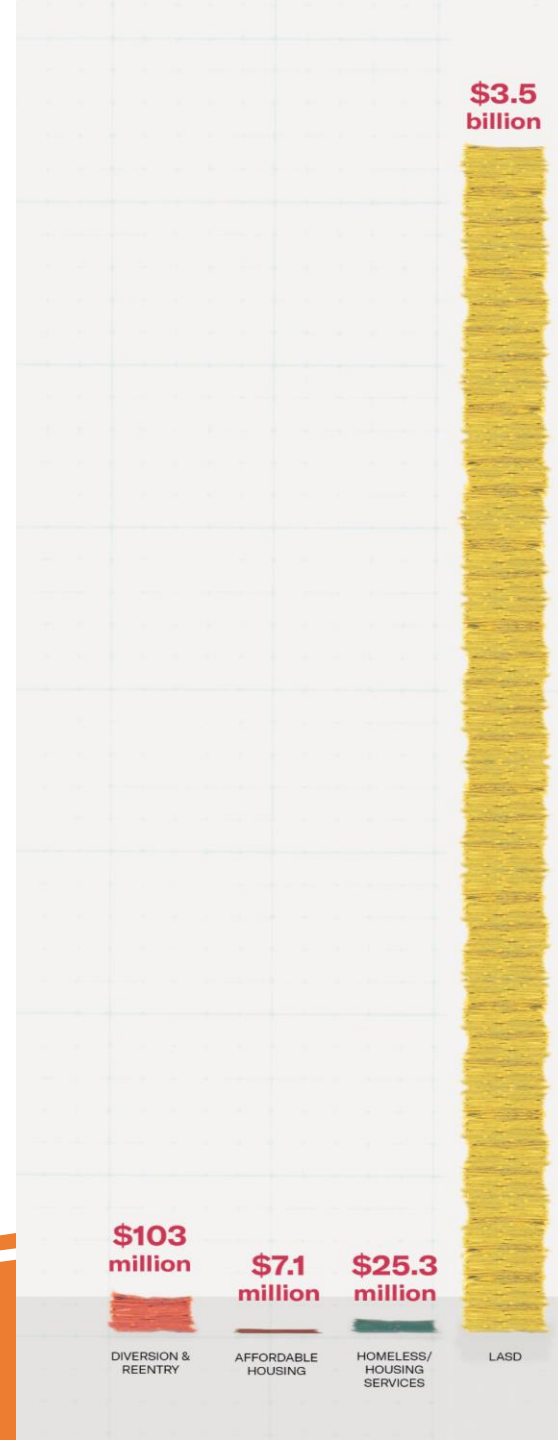


*ACLU Presentation at the L.A. County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission's
virtual conference on the LASD Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024. 3.2.2023*

LA County Budget Priorities

- County allocated **\$3.5 billion** to LASD in 2019-2020
- LASD Budget = 10% of total County budget
- In contrast, County budgeted **\$115 million** for diversion & reentry, **\$25 million** for homeless and housing services.
- County gave Sheriff's Department **over 36 times** the amount of general funds it gave to homeless and housing services.

The amount the County has allocated to LASD has only continued to rise—with the County approving an LASD budget of over \$3.8 million for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, representing a **\$1 billion increase** over the last 12 years

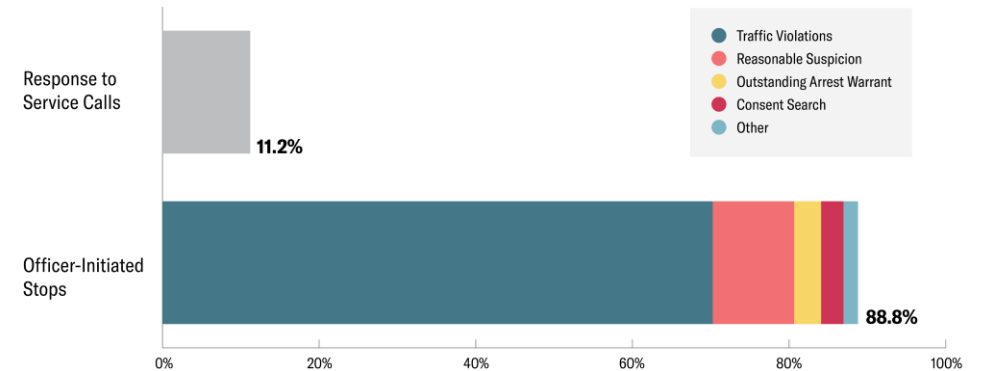


How Does LASD Spend Its Time?

- Most of deputy time in the field is spent on **deputy-initiated stops** (89%), NOT calls for service (11%).
- VAST majority of deputy-initiated stops are for **traffic violations** (84%)
 - 35% for technical and non-moving violations
 - 97% of traffic stops recover NO contraband
 - Less than ½ of 1% of stops recover weapons
- Traffic stops account for **79% of time** spent conducting deputy-initiated stops

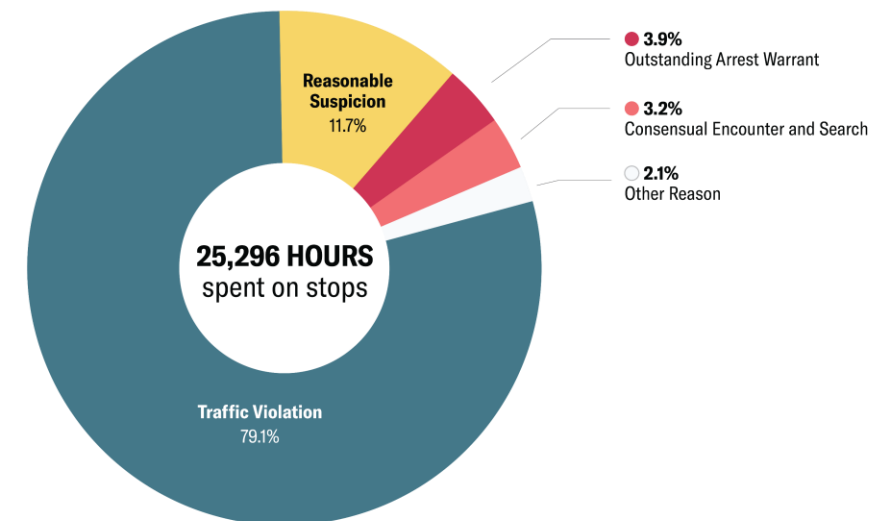
LASD's primary function is a **massive traffic enforcement** enterprise.

Figure 2. Percent Time Spent on Stops by Response to Service Calls



Data Source: AB 953 data requested by the ACLU of Southern California (2019). Data Note: Analysis by stop incident. Stops with stop times that represented outlier values in the data are capped to an upper threshold controlling for stop reason, race, and whether the stop was in response to a service call.

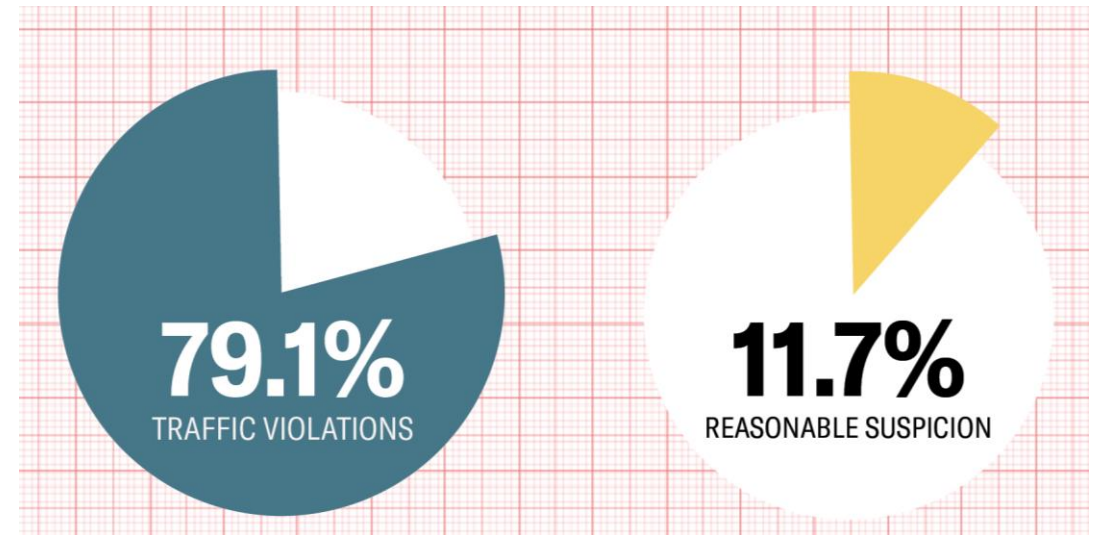
Figure 3. Percent of Total Stop Time by Stop Reason



Data Source: AB 953 data requested by the ACLU of Southern California (2019). Data Note: Analysis by stop incident. Reasons for stop that make up less than one percent of total stop time are aggregated into 'Other Reason'. Stop incidents that include two or more reasons for the stop are aggregated into the 'Two or More Reasons' Category with the exception of stops with two or more reasons that only included traffic violations, consensual encounter and search, and reasonable suspicion. These stops are shown in their own category. Excludes request for service calls. Stops with stop times that represented outlier values in the data are capped to an upper threshold by stop reason and race.

How Does LASD Spend Its Time?

- Only ~**12%** of stops involve reasonable suspicion of **suspected criminal activity**
 - 21% are suspected **infractions**
 - Violations that cannot result in jail time (e.g. jaywalking or sitting in public place)
 - 55% are suspected **misdemeanors**
 - Trespassing and loitering are most common offenses
 - 24% are suspected **felonies**
- **Overall only 2% of ALL LASD STOPS involve suspected felonies**
- Only 35% of RS stops result in arrest; 20% result in no action, not even warning.



Most **deputy-initiated stops** are for non-serious reasons, *i.e.* pretextual stops.

How Does LASD Spend Our Money?

- \$3.5 billion on Sheriff Department
- **\$1.1 Billion** on patrol
 - Primarily salaries and benefits for deputies
- Rough (low) estimate of how much money LASD's massive traffic enforcement program costs:
 - 79% of time spent on traffic stops
 - 79% of Patrol Division budget = **\$776.6 million**
 - Doesn't include the collateral costs within LASD
 - Non-patrol unit admin, booking, investigation
 - Doesn't include the collateral county costs
 - District Attorney time
 - Public Defender time
 - Jail related expenses (\$1.4B)
 - Litigation - **\$53m** in judgments arising out of patrol + \$12.8m defense (2019); **\$73.2m total** in FY22-22
- Compare to total investment in Diversion and Reentry: \$103 million – **less than investment to recover 15 guns**



How Does LASD Take Our Money?

- Profiteering off Detained Individuals & Their Families
 - LASD charges > **100% markup** on food, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, tampons
 - Interrupting the processes most likely to decrease recidivism
 - **Over \$25m in profits** from detained individuals and families
 - **100%** of profits go back to LASD: \$16.2m employee benefits & salaries; \$8.2m jail facilities



“a mounting expense that my family had to bear just to have a short 10-15 minute conversation”

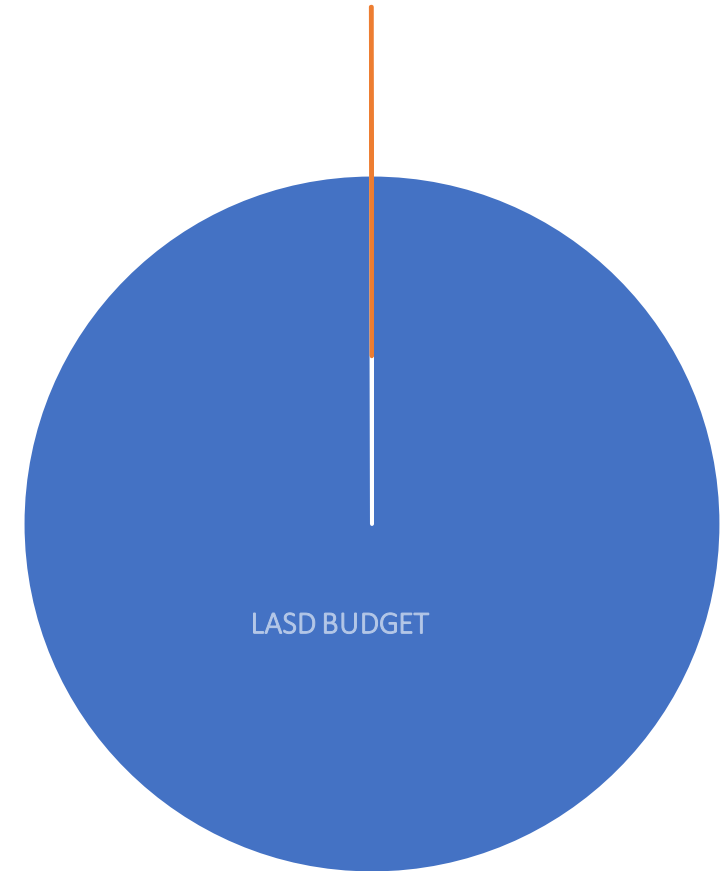
“an increasing level of separation and loneliness due to the inability to call my family members”

How Does LASD Take Our Money?

Failure to Implement Directives to Align With Community Priorities

- **September 2019:** In presentation to Civilian Oversight Commission, OIG recommends “Identify[ing] ways to significantly **reduce commissary and telephone costs**”
- **May 2021:** Board of Supervisors unanimously **approves motion** to “remove financial burdens on families by providing free phone calls and eliminating markups on commissary”
- **August 2021:** CEO estimates it would cost **~0.5% of LASD budget** (~0.04% of County budget) to stop profiteering and remove the financial burdens on families
- **2021 to the Present:** Families of incarcerated people continue to pay phone fees & commissary markups for LASD profit, nearly **two years after Board motion**
 - LASD continues to renew “revenue-generating” contracts
 - LASD commissary prices continue to sky rocket

Nothing in LASD’s FY 23-24 budget proposal reflects implementation of Board motion



■ Cost of implementing motion to remove financial burdens from families

LASD Budget Asks

~~More Custody **Staff** (\$2.6m)
More **Overtime** for Custody Staff (\$15m)
New Custody **Staff Equipment** (\$65m)
Tasers (\$35.2m)~~

~~Academy & Recruitment Funding to **Fill Vacancies** (\$33.5m)
New **Patrol Equipment** (\$34.6m)
LASD **Employee Benefits** (\$14m)~~

~~**Homeless Outreach** Team (HOST)
Expansion (\$10.2m)
Mental Evaluation Team (MET)
Expansion (\$2m)~~



Community Priorities

Decarceration: Transfer operations costs of MCJ to **ATI-informed community-based** services.*
End **phone fees** and **commissary markups**.

Preventative, community-based safety supports:
Shift funding from LASD Patrol to **peacekeepers**, **intervention workers**, community **health workers**, **youth development**.*
Invest in **street safety design** and **infrastructure**, including and **public transit**.*

Permanent supportive **housing**
Alternative Crisis Response (ACR):

- **Community-based** crisis response teams
- Psychiatric **Mobile Response** Teams
- Dispatch/**diversion tech & infrastructure**

Community-based **behavioral health treatment** through ODR & County health agencies, community-based organizations

How Do WE Want to Spend Our Money?

- **DO**

- Fund implementation of ATI
 - Invest in supportive housing
 - Invest in mental health and substance dependence services
 - Invest fully in Youth Justice Reimagined and Department of Youth Development
 - Invest fully and continuously in independent pretrial services agency
- End LASD profiteering off detained people and their families
 - Implement motion ending commissary mark-ups and phone fees

- **DO NOT**

- Continue to fund \$776B+ traffic/pretext stop program
- Increase LASD staffing or sanctioned overtime
- Provide new weapons
- Expand LASD's performance of duties for which it is not the best provider (e.g. childcare/youth programming; homeless outreach; mental health outreach)

