



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



January 18, 2022

Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer  
Chief Executive Office  
County of Los Angeles  
713 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Ms. Davenport:

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 RECOMMENDED BUDGET REQUEST

Submitted for your review is the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department's (Department) Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Recommended Budget Request (see attached). The Department's budget submission for FY 2022-23 reflects a dozen critical unmet needs totaling an increase of \$573.3 million in net County cost (NCC) and an increase of 1,629.0 budgeted positions.

Though these numbers may appear daunting, this request is submitted on the heels of a Department budget cut of \$145 million and the elimination of 1,281.0 budgeted positions in FY 2020-21, which severely impacted service delivery compliance levels in Patrol, Custody, and throughout all public safety operations over the course of FY 2021-22. Of the 1,281.0 deleted positions, 1,005.0 were taken from Custody – which in reality could not be implemented as jail space could not be reduced due to a host of factors including overcrowding, COVID-19 protocols, and the lack of sufficient County alternatives to incarceration. To this end, funding of Custody personnel to maintain compliance with settlement agreement requirements and the restoration of numerous curtailed key positions top the list of Department priorities.

Despite the Department's efforts to reduce its overtime expenditures by \$100 million and close the past fiscal year with a substantial budget surplus, which directly contributed to the County's growing fund balance, the Sheriff's

211 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

*A Tradition of Service*  
— Since 1850 —



Department remains as the only County Department still subjected to a multi-year hiring freeze. As a consequence of this prolonged hiring freeze, personnel vacancies have increased resulting in an unavoidable increase in overtime expenditures. Mounting vacancies coupled with staffing impairments have forced sworn and civilian Sheriff's Department members to work exceptional amounts of overtime and has required many detective and administrative personnel to work additional assignments outside of their regular assignments in order to maintain obligated service levels.

Your office spuriously claims that such continued oversight and micromanagement is necessary due to the Department's successful mitigation efforts being one-time in nature and not sustainable on an ongoing basis. What has certainly proven to be not sustainable is the Department's capability to annually take on consent decree/settlement mandated-related responsibilities, particularly in Custody, *and* absorb unfunded cost increases such as rising workers' compensation medical expenses.

Just and proper funding from the County is long overdue as opposed to forced nonsensical and irresponsible public safety service level reductions detrimental to the well-being of our justice-involved population, justice-involved service providers, Custody assigned Department employees, and the maintenance of quality of life in our communities throughout our vast County of Los Angeles.

In addition to requests to fund necessary front line Custody settlement agreement-related Custody personnel, hire new deputies and supportive civilian staff, allocate appropriation for unavoidable and uncontrollable cost increases, and re-establish curtailed essential positions, the Department's budget request further highlights program funding for Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements, youth programs, homeless outreach, mental evaluation teams, the eradication of illegal cannabis operations, and the return of the confiscated \$143.7 million in daily operational funds. The totality of the Department's numerous other unmet needs are also included for reference.

Your office persists the reallocation of these operational funds and the lifting of the hiring freeze are predicated on the submission of a Board of Supervisors/Chief Executive Office-approved mitigation plan from the Department. At this point a mitigation plan should be a moot issue given that the Department ended FY 2020-21 with an Auditor-Controller reported gross surplus of \$182.1 million. Your office's narrative is that this gross surplus amount should be adjusted downward to a net surplus of \$22.2 million, after

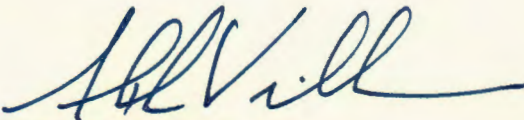
accounting for the supplanting of \$144.2 million from excess Proposition 172 (Prop 172) Public Safety Half-Cent Sales Tax Augmentation Funds.

A real and just mitigation plan requires serious consideration of the programs requested in this budget submission and the subsequent allocation of additional resources/funding to the Department either in the form of net County cost, Assembly Bill 109 surplus funds as identified in the recent State audit, growing Prop 172 *Augmentation* funds, or some combination thereof.

In light of the Auditor-Controller reported FY 2021-22 closing County general fund balance of \$2.4 billion, I urge your office to give serious consideration to the needs of the Sheriff's Department as detailed in the attached FY 2022-23 Recommended Budget Request, and I look forward to our scheduled annual Budget Hearing to further discuss how best to meet the challenges of providing an appropriate level of public safety services to the residents of the County of Los Angeles.

Should you have any questions, please contact Undersheriff Timothy K. Murakami at (213) 229-3008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Villanueva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

ALEX VILLANUEVA  
SHERIFF



SV:TM:CM:gj/dw

(Administrative Services Division/Financial Programs Bureau, Budget Services)

c: Timothy K. Murakami, Undersheriff  
Bruce D. Chase, Assistant Sheriff  
Brendan J. Corbett, Assistant Sheriff  
Robin A. Limon, Assistant Sheriff  
Conrad Meredith, Division Director, Administrative Services Division (ASD)  
Georgina R. Glaviano, Constitutional Policing Advisor, Office of the Sheriff  
Glen C. Joe, Assistant Division Director, ASD  
Robert J. Lewis, Commander, Personnel Command  
Richard F. Martinez, Assistant Division Director, ASD  
Dana A. Chemnitzer, Captain, Personnel Administration Bureau  
Lorena Rodriguez, Acting Captain, Sheriff's Information Bureau  
John Satterfield, Acting Chief of Staff, Office of the Sheriff  
Supervisor Hilda Solis, First District  
Supervisor Holly Mitchell, Chair, Second District  
Supervisor Shelia Kuehl, Third District  
Supervisor Janice Hahn, Fourth District  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Fifth District  
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Sheila Williams, Senior Manager, Chief Executive Office (CEO)  
Rene Phillips, Manager, CEO  
Jocelyn Ventilacion, Principal Analyst, CEO  
Anna Petrosyan, Analyst, CEO  
Rodrigo A. Castro-Silva, County Counsel  
Cynthia D. Evans, Assistant Director, Financial Programs Bureau  
Ann Pua, ASM III, Budget Services Unit  
Tammy Truong, ASMII, Budget Services Unit  
Vanessa C. Chow, Sergeant, ASD  
Kristine D. Corrales, Deputy ASD