



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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INSPECTOR GENERAL

June 11, 2025

TO: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn

FROM: Max Huntsman
Inspector General

SUBJECT: **INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
REGULAR ROLLOUTS TO DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS AND
IN-CUSTODY DEATHS**

The Office of Inspector General is suspending regular rollouts to the scenes of deputy-involved shootings and in-custody deaths. Our protocol will change such that notifications for deputy-involved shootings will be made to the Chief Deputy, Inspector General and for in-custody deaths to the Assistant Inspector General for the Custody team. These supervisors will decide on a case-by-case basis if we will respond to the scene. The reasons for this change are detailed here.

Denial of Access to Scenes

We recently reported on being denied access to the scene of a deputy-involved shooting in our report [*Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department – January to March 2025*](#). In response to our inquiry regarding the denial of access, the acting captain of the Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau responded that investigators were concerned about the preservation of evidence due to the size and layout of the scene. Our report noted that access had been granted to the District Attorney representatives and the Sheriff's Department responded to our validation draft of the report by noting:

Access to the residence at the shooting scene was restricted due to concerns about evidence preservation in the tight and complex layout. As a result, the Office of Inspector General, Internal Affairs Bureau, and other LASD units were denied entry. However, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office was allowed access due to its independent investigative role. JSID's presence was essential for conducting an impartial review of the evidence, as they later determine whether the deputy's use of force was legally justified. Accordingly, their access was necessary and immediate to ensure an independent prosecutorial review, which differs in scope and purpose from internal oversight or administrative investigations.

As footnoted in our final report, this explanation is more disturbing than the exclusion, as it demonstrates careful disregard for state law providing for Inspectors General to conduct independent investigations and requiring local law enforcement to cooperate in those investigations. See Government Code sections 25303 and 25303.7 and Penal Code section 13510.8(b)(8)). While denial of access to crime scenes is not common, this is not the first time that access was denied.

Delays in Responding to Office of Inspector General Requests

While the Sheriff's Department has implemented policies for cooperation with the Office of Inspector General, in practice the Department does not fully cooperate. Office of Inspector General requests are regularly routed to the Office of Constitutional Policing for a decision as to what information will be provided to us and the timeframe in which it will be provided. There are often lengthy delays in providing information, including failures to provide all the requested information. This effectively limits our access to information by impeding the process and circumvents state law and the Department's own policy.¹

Critical Incident Review, Death Review, and Video Evidence

Additionally, our staff receive limited information while at the scene of deputy-involved shootings and rollouts and the same information is available at the Critical Incident Reviews for deputy-involved shootings and deaths in the field, and at the 24-hour death review for in-custody deaths. The availability of body-worn camera video, when the

¹ See Manual of Policy and Procedures 3-01/050.82, Custody Division Manual 5-10/035.00, and Internal Affairs Bureau Unit Orders #8, 25.

cameras are activated in accordance with policy, provides us with significantly more evidence than was available when we first initiated our rollout response to these scenes. The introduction of body-worn cameras in the custodial setting, will enhance our ability to review responses to medical emergencies and suicides in custody. CCTV video is also currently available for some of the in-custody deaths.

Curtailments

Finally, as far as the timing of this decision, this change is being implemented now due to the curtailment of Office of Inspector General staff. Not only do the curtailments mean fewer employees are available to respond to these scenes, we provide compensatory time to staff for responding to scenes after working hours and for being on-call for weekends and holidays. This additional time off for our staff impacts our ability to oversee the Sheriff's and Probation Departments and report our findings.

Sincerely,



Max Huntsman
Inspector General

c: Robert G. Luna, Sheriff
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Edward Yen, Executive Officer
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
Sharmaine Mosely, Executive Director, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission