



FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS WATCH COMMANDER CHECKLIST

California law and Board of Supervisors policy generally prohibit Department personnel from participating in civil or criminal federal immigration enforcement operations. (See [Gov't Code § 7284.6](#); [September 1, 2020, Board Motion](#)). Federal authorities, including ICE, accordingly, are required to fully staff their own immigration enforcement operations, not rely on Department personnel to assist, and instead should view the use of Department personnel as a resource of last resort for safety, protection and to preserve order.

Nonetheless, Department personnel may, pursuant to their duties under California law, act to preserve order and to protect the lives and safety of community members, and of federal law enforcement officers engaged in enforcement activities. This includes enforcing California criminal law should it become necessary, including laws related to public safety and public order (e.g., preventing and addressing acts of violence, unlawful assembly, and vandalism).

This checklist is to help ensure Department Personnel operate within the mandates of State and local law and fulfill the mission of the Department when assisting with federal law enforcement operations.

This checklist only applies to operations the Department becomes aware of that federal law enforcement officers have pre-planned.

This checklist does NOT apply to requests for emergency help from federal law enforcement. Department personnel will promptly respond if a federal law enforcement officer seems to be in danger and calls for help.

1. Criminal, Non-Immigration Felony Arrest Warrants or Probable Cause Arrests

- ☐ Document the nature of the warrant and the specific request in the watch commander's log. The Department is not to participate in the execution of federal immigration arrest warrants or probable cause arrests based on federal immigration violations (e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1326). What Department personnel may do, however, is enforce state law, including laws related to preserving order and public safety, including safety for community members and federal law enforcement officers, such as by providing a security perimeter, or crowd/traffic control).
- ☐ Identify the lead federal agency (e.g., FBI, HSI, ICE, local task force) and their specific role.

- ☐ Identify the specific crime(s) that the lead federal agency is investigating or enforcing. Department personnel are only to participate in pre-planned operations if a **serious or violent felony** is involved.



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- ☐ Ask directly: ***'Is this operation in any way related to civil or criminal immigration enforcement?'***
- ☐ Yes (Department personnel **may not participate** in immigration enforcement. What Department personnel may do, however, is enforce state law, including laws related to preserving order and public safety, including safety for community members and federal law enforcement officers, such as by providing a security perimeter, or crowd/traffic control).
- ☐ No (LASD personnel **may participate** and otherwise offer support).
- ☐ Receive written confirmation that federal authorities are not engaging in civil or criminal immigration enforcement as part of their operation. Receiving verbal confirmation on a recorded phone line or a body worn camera recording where both sides of the conversation can be heard is sufficient if written confirmation is not available. If applicable, attach written confirmation to this checklist.

2. Perimeter Support – Reminders

- ☐ A perimeter is a secure outer boundary established to prevent unauthorized entry into a target area and to ensure scene safety for all involved personnel and the public.



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- ☐ Instruct all Department personnel involved:
 - ☐ No entry or tactical involvement.
 - ☐ No investigating, questioning, detaining, or arresting suspects on federal criminal or civil immigration charges.
 - ☐ They are only providing perimeter security and enforcing State law relating to public safety and public order (e.g., preventing or addressing acts of violence, unlawful assembly, and vandalism).
- ☐ Department personnel are to be on scene for the least amount of time possible.

3. Consider Remote Staging

- ☐ **Remote Staging** is positioning deputies near the target area but out of sight.
- ☐ This option may be appropriate if there is no immediate need for enforcement of State law related to public safety and public order.
- ☐ Ensure LASD personnel are staged closely enough to the target area to be promptly available to ensure public safety and order and to respond to requests for help, including from federal law enforcement officers and others facing safety threats.

4. Consider the Location of the Operation, Tactical Principles and Supervision

- ☐ Assess the location to determine if the pre-planned operation will take place in or near a sensitive location (e.g., near schools, parks, houses of worship) and staff accordingly.
- ☐ Remind involved Department personnel of the core tactical principles found in [MPP 3-10/150.00](#).
- ☐ A field sergeant shall be dispatched to the operation scene to oversee the involvement of all LASD personnel.

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5. Public Perception Considerations

- ☐ Be mindful that the public may misinterpret the Department's role and erroneously believe that the Department's engagement with federal authorities means the Department is engaged in immigration enforcement. This is not the case, and all LASD personnel involved should be advised of this fact. The Department's mission is to enforce State law, including laws relating to public safety and public order.
- ☐ You may be called upon to prepare a short public-facing statement regarding the Department's role if there is community or media attention.
- ☐ You are to use existing reporting protocols before submitting any public-facing messages to City officials or your justice deputies.

6. Documentation & Accountability

- ☐ Document in detail all communications with the requesting agency.
- ☐ Watch Commander's Log:
 - ☐ Assigned Department personnel and unit numbers
 - ☐ Time Department personnel arrive on scene
 - ☐ Activities conducted
 - ☐ Time Department personnel depart the scene
- ☐ Complete an after-action summary in a Chief's memo, per [MPP section 4-01/100.25](#) – Important Cases and Incidents, noting:
 - ☐ The purpose of the operation
 - ☐ Any community issues or interactions