



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF PREVENTION SERVICES TASK FORCE**

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
IN ADVANCE OF AUGUST 25 MEETING

Contact information for the below correspondence has been redacted for privacy.
If you are a Task Force, table member, or member of the public who would like to request this information, please contact Mark Lee at mlee@ceo.lacounty.gov

From: Rhonda Layton-Jones

Subject: Comment

Date: 6/30/23 4:16 PM

As an older individual with lived experiences with mental health, SUD, homelessness, family members with developmental delays, and raising a child in the foster care system, now being employed for this system for over 15 years, I have first-hand experience and knowledge of how discrimination affects individuals from inside and outside of the system.

And there are solutions if the County is willing to place individuals with lived experiences on more boards with first-hand knowledge of systems discrimination. We have great ideals, are solution-focused, and can contribute to the objectives on the table if given the mic. I have plans and have started a non-profit to implement them. However, the system makes it difficult for individuals who have ideals that could house individuals permanently but need assistance.

There are many avenues to be taken that could elevate the situation if the government utilized the funds more effectively. Stop throwing good money after bad. You continue to fund corporations to build housing for low income, but most are empty because low-income individuals can not qualify when they are required to make 2-4 times the rent to move in. They stay empty because the organizations/corporations need to be held accountable for not renting to those they were built to accommodate.

From: Ms. Latia Suttle

Subject: Site Visit Oceanside CA August 11, 2023

Date: 8/11/2023 11:41 PM

In reference to the site visit I think there should be an inquiry into how do veterans qualify for services through HHSA. Is it required that they ask the veteran for their income information? If so what income level qualifies to receive the services?

I think this should be questioned because here in LA County there is a VALOR Guide with over 150 pages of resources for veterans. Each organization listed is required to ask veterans for their income information before proceeding. Here in LA County VA Compensation is counted as income and if it's over the income poverty guidelines this disqualifies veterans from receiving services.

I have written a bill proposal to exempt VA Compensation from being counted as income. There are over 10,000 homeless veterans in California.

Here is a recent news clip released just this week about a deported veteran which deportation is also an issue some veterans face. Nobody knows how to help with so many additional challenges deported veterans face. David in the attached video served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force before being deported.

David was one of many black deported veterans. I personally know David and he currently resides in San Diego County and is **homeless**.



From: Leticia Contreras

Subject: Fwd: Please read thank you

Date: 8/20/23 11:53 PM

the date of August 20th 2021 location la Mirada and leffingwell LASD Norwalk station file number 0 4 9 5 officer benza I believe and arresting officer benza and the other officer was b e n d e z u that was his partner badge number 62747 7 I believe and I was asked do you know why I pulled you over I answered yes sir because of my expired tags he asked her license and registration I told him I do have a license but don't have the paperwork in my car it's at home then he asked me if I was on probation or parole I stated no sir he didn't ask me if I was arrested before and I answered yes a long time ago about 10 years ago he told me to step out the car and immediately put me in handcuffs I stayed at why are you doing this to me am I under arrest what did I do wrong he said are you have expired tags and so I laughed and I said I told him what I can be arrested for that and he said yes but I'm not but you're not being arrested you're being detained and again I said for what he then cussed at me and told I told him you don't need to talk to me like that sir he then asked me do you have anything on you any paraphernalia I was like what no he said what's in the car you have anything in the car I said no and I don't oh and then he told his partner to search and I said I don't give you permission to do that I have not done anything wrong and I'm not a criminal you can't

search but still continue to do so he searched my purse and belongings in the car and trunk mind you I'm still handcuffed he asked me you have anything any warrants out for your arrest I said no sir I don't after the search he told his partner to run my name while ask me who my son was where where's my man from all the relevant to a traffic ticket and also training his partner at the same time telling him step-by-step what he needs to do I told the officer please can you call my son's job at Marshalls and let them know that I won't be there to pick up my son he's expecting me to pick them up right now and he said no will come figure that out after you're being detained he then asked me about my son what's his name where is he from what school he goes to and where he works why why is he asking me these questions then he told me he's going to tow my fucken then i started crying because I just got in it back the day before he is that right he can tow it cuz it's been six months that's what he said I told him please I I just got in my job and this will put me so behind he said well if you don't have any warrants then I will let you take it home but if I f***** see you again I will f***** told me while still handcuffed I was already in pain from them being on so tight I step and standing there by him by then he noticed how uncomfortable I was but still did nothing left me in handcuffs his partner is done looking me up and tells him okay she's good or clear but if you want to take a look so now they switch he gets into his truck and looks me up the other officer was much more polite and spoke to me like a human being I told his partner that why did he jump out his car like that on me the other officer said well if you noticed I was out first I told him why I didn't even see you he jumped out like a raging bull as if I was running from him I told him that I also told him that the other officer is rude then after he looked me up he gets on his truck and says okay she's good writer up for expired registration and no proof of insurance mean while telling him how to properly fill out the citation still training him and I'm still in handcuffs mind you the officer knows that I have not lied about anything I had nothing on me in my purse in the car in the trunk I had no warrants and still he left me standing in handcuffs by this time I'm humiliated belittled feared embarrassed because this is the shopping center I shop at weekly every week I was embarrassed but felt disrespected discriminated against and wondering what gives him the right to treat people or women like that I was not a parolee a druggie running from the law or even a threat to the officers and yet still after sighting me he told me I'm going to take the handcuffs off of you when I do I want you to slowly place each hand on the hood I was thinking to myself why I felt scared to say anything and so I did exactly what he asked me to do I place one hand on the hood and the next one and he exchanged some words with me and told me here's your citation and also said go get your son if I see you again I will f***** tell that car I better not see you .. he then continued to tell me next time don't have such a f***** attitude I was thinking why because I said he can't talk to me like that but I was like yes sir thank you thank you for not towing my car but deep inside I was so upset embarrassed but everyone is watching looking as if I really had done something wrong is this the protocol for pulling someone over for expired tags this how you want him training other officers is this how he protects I don't understand how he can treat people like this by 100% agree to being pulled over and why I was pulled over but the way he went about everything else in the way he treated

me was very unfair and very discriminating I have sat with this ugly feeling that's eating at me now I just can't let this go maybe he needs more training or what if he continues to do this to other women it's not right and needs to be brought to his attention and your

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Leticia Contreras

END OF PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE