



## County of Los Angeles CIVIL GRAND JURY

222 South Hill Street • Sixth Floor • Suite 670 • Los Angeles, California 90012  
Telephone (213) 893-0411 • Fax (213) 893-0425  
www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us

March 6, 2025

Honorable Sergio C. Tapia II  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
111 North Hill Street, Room 204  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Judge Tapia:

Pursuant to California Penal Code 933 and 933.05, public agencies of Los Angeles County and all elected officials are required to respond to recommendations documented in the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury final report, published on June 30, 2024.

The 2024-2025 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury received these responses, except for the following:

1. The City of Compton has not responded to Los Angeles River, Let It Flow, Let It Flow, Let It Flow (Not!) (recommendation 6.1, 6..2, 6.4, 6.5)
2. The City of Compton Fire Department has not responded to Earthquake Safety Readiness (recommendation 15.6)
3. The City of Lancaster has not responded to Earthquake Safety and Readiness (recommendation 15.6)
4. The City of Montebello Fire Department has not responded to Earthquake Safety and Readiness (recommendation 15.6)
5. The City of Monterey Park Fire Department has not responded to Earthquake Safety and Readiness (recommendation 15.6)
6. The City of Pasadena Fire Department has not responded to Earthquake Safety and Readiness (recommendation 15.6)
7. The City of West Covina has not responded to Earthquake Safety and Readiness (recommendation 15.6)
8. South Pasadena Fire Department has not responded to Earthquake Safety and Readiness (recommendation 15.6)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Wayne Metcalf".

M. Wayne Metcalf, Chairperson, Continuity Committee  
2024-2025 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor H. Lesley".

Victor H. Lesley, Foreperson  
2024-2025 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

**DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (DNA)**

Department of Children and Family Service Reuniting  
Orphan-Abandoned Children with Unknown Relatives



**2023 – 2024**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

# **RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

## **2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (DNA): DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE REUNITING ORPHAN-ABANDONED CHILDREN WITH UNKNOWN RELATIVES**

### **SUMMARY**

"This report is concerned with the limits of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Family Finding program; connecting orphaned children, aged eighteen and under, lost in the system, to potential biological relatives. The Committee looked diligently into the realistic outcomes involved with using genetic matching, or DNA testing, to place a foster child under DCFS care into the home of blood relatives and reviewed potential response outcomes from certain families, once contacted. The Committee reviewed the current procedure for Family Finding and evaluated the possibility of collecting a child's DNA when all other avenues for reconnection have failed, as well as an evaluation of why the adoption of this program might have pushback."<sup>1</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.1**

Board of Supervisors (BOS) direct DCFS to review data collection procedures when processing children new to the system to include orphan status, allowing DCFS to establish whether or not a child is a true orphan or if there are known relatives for placement.

### **RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented, because it is not warranted or reasonable. DCFS as with all other child welfare serving counties in the State, uses the State of California's Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) database system to track all aspects of child welfare casework. This database captures information on all children being served by DCFS, including children who have been legally freed by Dependency Court.

In addressing children who are legally freed, DCFS avoids the use of the word "orphan." Legally freed refers to a child whose parental rights have been terminated by Dependency Court, and the State of California has acknowledged the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Court Order through the processing of the State Form AD4333 (Acknowledgement and Confirmation of Receipt of Relinquishment Documents).

Similarly, DCFS tracks Relinquished Children through the same CWS/CMS system; specifically, in the "Client Management Section" of each case, which includes "Existing Family Information" related to how Parental Rights were terminated, whether by Court Order or through Voluntary Relinquishment.

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<sup>1</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA): Department of Children and Family Service Reuniting Orphan-Abandoned Children with Unknown Relatives, p. 20.

Safely Surrendered Babies (SSB) are tracked through the coordinated use of an internal manual tracking system by DCFS' Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP) and the Adoption Division's Matching Coordination Unit. The Safely Surrendered Baby law (California Health and Safety Code section 1255.7) provides a safe alternative for the surrender of a newborn baby in specified circumstances. Under the Safely Surrendered Baby law, a parent or person with lawful custody can safely surrender a baby confidentially, and without fear of prosecution, within 72 hours of birth.

Additionally, DCFS developed the Upfront Family Finding (UFF) Program in keeping its focus on children placed in non-relative care at the time of detention. UFF's approach includes a deliberate effort on increasing relative placements, engaging relatives in providing non-placement supports, and partnering with CBOs to provide additional supports to relatives. As part of the UFF program, dedicated staff conduct active searches for family members using search engines like CLEAR, which aggregates public records pulled from sources such as phone companies, utility companies, motor vehicle registrations, real-time incarceration information, and consumer credit bureaus, to quickly locate possible connections/associates to the person in question. In addition to using CLEAR results, UFF social workers also conduct interviews with age-appropriate children, parents, and known relatives/Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs) to explore their ability and willingness to provide various forms of support to the child(ren) and their family. Further, UFF social workers conduct thorough reviews of current and previous case records to identify possible family supports.

DCFS piloted UFF in two regional offices in October 2016, and, after an evaluation completed by Child Trends in 2018, added UFF to eight additional offices. By July 2023, UFF expanded its operation at all DCFS regional offices. During 2023, initial placement data tracked by the Family Finding and Engagement Program showed 80% of children detained were placed with a relative/NREFM or released to the Non-Offending Parent by regional staff. Of children placed in out-of-home care, 57% were placed with kin (relative or NREFM). Since inception, the UFF has located 42,429 maternal relatives, 28,591 paternal relatives, and 5,225 NREFMs (as of March 13, 2024). At the end of receiving UFF services, 23% maternal relatives, 14% paternal relatives and 6% NREFMs were in the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process. From inception to March 2024, 6,004 children have been provided UFF services. This rate is consistent with UFF data previously collected and reported by the Office of Child Protection.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2**

BOS and DCFS work with Court to expand authority to include genetic DNA testing when a true orphan has been identified. This will allow judges to expedite the testing process and potential placement.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. The recommendation will not be implemented, because it is not warranted or reasonable. The County, through DCFS, is not in agreement with this finding and does not support facilitating DNA testing of children in foster care.

## *Legal Concerns*

Children, like adults, have a constitutional right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures, as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. Invasions of the body, including nonconsensual extractions of bodily material for DNA profiling, are searches entitled to Constitutional protections and DNA may not be collected from a person absent consent of the person from whom the DNA is to be taken, a court-ordered warrant based on probable cause, or an exception to the warrant requirement. Children, given their age of minority, are not legally allowed to consent to such collection, thus, consent by the parents (or individual who has the power to consent for the child) or a court order authorizing the collection of the DNA must be obtained.

In most instances when a child is removed from the home, especially during the reunification phase of the court proceeding, the child's parent(s) will retain the right to make medical decisions and decisions about DNA sampling. In other instances, where it is in the child's best interest to have a substitute medical decision maker, the juvenile court may appoint someone other than a parent to serve as the holder of the child's rights. That person or entity may be imbued with the authority to give, or withhold, consent regarding medical decisions, which would include DNA sampling. In either case, if petitioned by a party to the proceedings to provide DNA sampling, the Juvenile Court can make the decision to authorize or deny a request for DNA sampling, which would require all parties to be provided notice and the opportunity to be heard to ensure due process is provided.

When assessing the feasibility of extending DNA sampling to all children who enter child welfare, it is also critical to consider that DNA sampling could subvert public policy and increase risk to some children. There are instances where DNA sampling is unnecessary, such as when a child remains in the home of a parent, or where a Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFM) has been identified as the preferred placement option, or when viable relative placement options have already been identified. It is also worth remembering that relatedness in the legal sense is narrower than relatedness in the biological sense.

## *Equity Issues*

When considering the moral, ethical, and equity issues surrounding the DNA sampling of foster youth, it is necessary to address ethical issues of informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, and disproportionality. Children and adults share the right to privacy, which includes the right to make an informed, independent decision about whether to have DNA extracted from their bodies, and whether and to whom their genetic test results may be shared. Systematic DNA testing of all youth entering the child welfare system would do nothing to reduce racial disproportionality and the concurring disparities, but rather cultivates institutionalized racism and problematic practices that contribute to greater inequity.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (DNA): DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE REUNITING ORPHAN-ABANDONED CHILDREN WITH UNKNOWN RELATIVES

### SUMMARY

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Disagree. The recommendation will not be implemented, because it is not warranted or reasonable. The County, through DCFS, is not in agreement with this finding and does not support facilitating DNA testing of children in foster care.

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**MICROMOBILITY DEVICES**  
**“PAY NOW OR PAY LATER”**



**2023 – 2024**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS; SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MICROMOBILITY DEVICES: "PAY NOW OR PAY LATER"

### SUMMARY

"This report reviews and evaluates the efficacy and facilitation of ubiquitous micromobility machines. The Committee looked at whether the County was doing what is necessary to ensure that all of its citizens have a safe and positive experience while using micromobility devices (i.e., electric scooters (e-scooters) and electric bicycles (e-bikes), etc.). The Committee's objective was to look at how vendors were permitted to operate within the City of Los Angeles, what the California Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) laws were that pertain to operating these devices, the use of private e-bikes and e-scooters, State legislation, community reactions, and injuries and/or deaths caused by the careless riding of these instruments."<sup>2</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.1**

Ensure LAPD, LBPD, other local municipal law enforcement agencies and campus police agencies and other local law enforcement agencies enforce electric scooters prohibition against riding on sidewalk, helmet requirements, and speed limits.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. Los Angeles County Code Section 15.76.080 prohibits operation of bicycle or any vehicle on any sidewalk except at a permanent or temporary driveway, unless otherwise specified by posted notices, which was amended in 2023 to permit some bicycle riding on sidewalks. The County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department enforces the Code based upon its resources and competing public safety priorities.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.2**

Municipal governments should update permit agreements to require electric scooter manufacturers to offer liability insurance.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. The County, including its BOS and Chief Executive Office (CEO), does not currently license or permit any shared micromobility device companies within the unincorporated areas under the scope of its jurisdiction. The County, therefore, does not have a permit system for micromobility devices and shared mobility devices, in the same way that incorporated cities like the City of Los Angeles and other municipal governments mentioned in this report do. The County only has jurisdiction over the unincorporated areas of the County and does not have jurisdiction over

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<sup>2</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Micromobility Devices: "Pay Now or Pay Later", p. 33.

incorporated cities when it comes to the permitting of such micromobility devices. However, the feasibility of this sort of permit system has been studied in the past.

An On-Demand Personal Mobility Devices Pilot Program was developed and originally implemented within the unincorporated County communities from May 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. Three companies applied to participate in the program; however, no applicants completed the process. As a result, the program was extended to June 30, 2021, but no permits were issued.

If the County implemented such a permit system in the future, the County would require a shared micromobility company to indemnify it, and as a matter of public policy would support the requirement for scooter companies to purchase commercial general liability insurance coverage, with the County listed as an Additional Insured. This would provide an alternate recovery source in the event of rider accidents, including but not limited to severe liability cases which result in traumatic brain injury, paralysis, broken bones, or death. This would also allow the County to recover for defense costs against the scooter company, if/when named as a joint party in a lawsuit.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.3**

**Local Agencies should create local ordinances to make mandatory the use of helmets while riding any of the e-bikes or e-scooters.**

**RESPONSE**

Agree. The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. On November 20, 2018, the BOS directed the CEO to work with County departments to study the impact of e-scooters and e-bikes in other jurisdictions, identify potential public safety issues, and report back with a list of recommendations on how to move forward with a potential regulation of these technologies. The report recommended that the BOS request all shared mobility companies cease operations in the unincorporated communities except for Marina del Rey and that the County develop a pilot permitting program with an accompanying set of regulations to allow the safe operation and storage of these devices on County roadways.

As noted in the response above, an On-Demand Personal Mobility Devices Pilot Program was developed and implemented within the unincorporated County communities, but no permits were issued.

The County does not currently have an ordinance to manage On-Demand EV Scooters. However, the use of helmets was discussed at length while the pilot program was being developed. Helmet usage is a positive safety measure for inclusion, should a new County ordinance be proposed.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.4**

Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPB, Community College Campus Police) should create a campaign to educate pedestrians and operators to use safety equipment, e.g., helmets.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. The Sheriff's Department is not opposed to a public campaign like this one, but it believes such a public awareness campaign is better suited to other agencies who have the resources and skill set to develop an effective campaign. As such, the recommendation will not be implemented.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.5**

Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPB, and Community College Campus Police) should create e-bike and e-scooter User Education Course (similar to driver education for autos).

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented as it is outside of the scope of the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department as an enforcement agency. The County and its Sheriff's Department are supportive of disseminating and advertising related resources that have been developed by appropriate and relevant outside agencies.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.6**

Municipal governments should update permit agreements to require electric scooter and electric bike manufacturers to add some type of warning signal on their devices such as a horn or buzzer.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. As noted above, the County does not currently license or permit any shared micromobility device companies. A requirement that electric scooter and electric bike manufacturers add some type of warning signal on their devices such as a horn or buzzer is more appropriate and feasible for legislation at the State level. The County, however, generally supports the addition of any/all safety signaling to help alert the public to the presence of a motorized mobility scooter, so that others in the vicinity can be made aware of their location and potentially assist in the avoidance of a collision.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7**

BOS, CEO, and Los Angeles City Mayor and City Council, and other major local city governments should support the passage of AB 381.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. However, it should be noted that SB 381 was signed by the Governor on October 13, 2023, and became effective January 1, 2024, so no further action by the County is needed. Additionally, it appears as though this recommendation includes a typo; AB 381 ("Teacher credentialing: services credential with a specialization in health: occupational and physical therapists.") deals with credentialing within unrelated subject matter areas, whereas SB 381 ("Electric bicycles: study") deals with the study of electric bicycles and their safety, as referenced earlier in this investigative report.

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

CALIFORNIA



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

Matthew W. Szabo  
CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

ASSISTANT  
CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

PATRICIA J. HUBER  
MALAIKA BILLUPS  
BEN CEJA  
YOLANDA CHAVEZ  
EDWIN GIPSON II

October 30, 2024

0220-06259-0003

Samantha P. Jessner  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: MICROMOBILITY DEVICES**  
**Report by the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury**

Dear Honorable Judge Jessner:

The City of Los Angeles acknowledges receipt of the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report regarding Micromobility Devices, its findings, and recommendations. The City respectfully submits Attachment A as the City's formal response. The City's responses were prepared with assistance of knowledgeable staff working in the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matthew W. Szabo".

Matthew W. Szabo  
City Administrative Officer

MWS:PJH:AT:11250049

Attachment A: 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Recommendations for Micromobility Devices

## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

Subject: 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Recommendations for Micromobility Devices

**Recommendation 2.1** - Ensure LAPD, LBPD, other local municipal law enforcement agencies and campus police agencies and other local law enforcement agencies enforce electric scooters prohibition against riding on sidewalk, helmet requirements, and speed limits.

**LAPD Response:** *Implemented.* The officers of the Los Angeles Police Department enforce all traffic laws, to include those regarding electric scooters, when appropriate and necessary in support of public safety.

**Recommendation 2.2** - Municipal governments should update permit agreements to require electric scooter manufacturers to offer liability insurance.

**DOT Response:** Operators in Los Angeles are already required to have liability insurance. Currently, requirement is \$5M General Liability and \$5 Umbrella Insurance

**Recommendation 2.3** - Local Agencies should create local ordinances to make mandatory the use of helmets while riding any of the e-bikes or e-scooters.

**DOT Response:** California Vehicle Code Section 21235 requires the operator of a motorized scooter to wear a helmet only if the operator is under 18 years of age. This exempts adults from wearing helmets and per Local Regulation only those that are over 18 with a valid driver's license can ride scooters, so there is currently no helmet requirement, although they are strongly recommended. Requiring adults to wear a helmet requires a change in state law.

**Recommendation 2.4** - Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, and Community College Campus Police) should create a campaign to educate pedestrians and operators to use safety equipment, e.g., helmets.

**LAPD Response:** *Further Analysis Required.* The Department will explore the creation of a campaign to educate pedestrians and micromobility device operators on micromobility-related safety topics. It should be noted that the Los Angeles County Board of Consumer Affairs has an excellent interactive page regarding safe riding of electric scooters and bicycles in Los Angeles County already available to the public on their website.

**Recommendation 2.5** - Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, and Community College Campus Police) should create e-bike and e-scooter User Education Course (similar to driver education for autos).

**LAPD Response:** *Further Analysis Required.* The Department will explore the creation of an e-bike and e-scooter User Education Course. It should be noted that driver education courses are typically offered through other organizations such as the California Department of Motor Vehicles and the Automobile Club of Southern California. These organizations have structures already in place for teaching community members about

adherence to the vehicle code and driver safety.

**Recommendation 2.6** - Municipal governments should update permit agreements to require electric scooter and electric bike manufacturers to add some type of warning signal on their devices such as a horn or a buzzer.

**DOT Response:** Currently, not required but most scooters already have a horn installed. Staff will review and analyze this issue.

**Recommendation 2.7-** LA County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County CEO, and Los Angeles City Mayor and City Council, and other major local city governments should support the passage of AD 381.

**DOT Response:** SB 381 was approved by the Governor on October 13, 2023. This bill requires the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University to conduct a study on electric bicycles to inform efforts to improve safety.

# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

**DOMINIC H. CHOI**  
Chief of Police



**KAREN BASS**  
Mayor

P.O. Box 30158  
Los Angeles, CA 90030  
Telephone: (213) 486-8740  
TTY: (877) 275-5273  
Ref #: 1.2

August 21, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Presiding Judge,

Please find the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD or Department) response to the Los Angeles County Superior Court's Civil Grand Jury report titled, "*MicroMobility Devices: Pay Now or Pay Later.*" The Department has reviewed the report and supporting materials in their entirety and, pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, responds to the Civil Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations. The Department welcomes and appreciates the opportunity to engage in this timely and important conversation.

## **Findings**

***Finding 2.1:*** "*Serious injuries and fatalities connected with micromobility devices are steadily rising.*"

***Response:*** *Agree.*

***Finding 2.2:*** "*Some communities are rejecting vendors.*"

***Response:*** *Partially Disagree.* With the proliferation of micromobility companies across the country, some municipalities have taken to temporary or permanent bans on such devices so that a permitting process can be established to better regulate the growing number of scooters. In 2018, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved the first set of rules for the companies that provide such devices. The onus for these decisions rests with each respective municipality. Anecdotally, it appears that while some municipalities have not fully embraced the technology, bans are often temporary in order to establish appropriate regulations or legislation.



***Finding 2.3:*** “Some electric scooter manufacturers offer liability insurance, and some do not.”

***Response:*** Agree.

***Finding 2.4:*** “There is limited enforcement on violators riding on sidewalks, going in the wrong direction on streets, or exceeding the electric scooter speed limits.”

***Response:*** Disagree. The California Vehicle Code lists various sections which govern the operation of micromobility devices, meaning that enforcement falls under the purview of officers just as any other vehicle code violation committed by a motor vehicle. Additionally, because of how small and agile micromobility devices are, officers in vehicles have more obstacles to overcome when attempting to make contact with the operators of micromobility devices that are traveling on sidewalks and can easily change direction

***Finding 2.5:*** “There is no warning to pedestrians when an individual riding an e-scooter or e-bike is approaching people on the sidewalk”

***Response:*** Disagree. The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has specific regulations that apply to electric scooters which states that electric scooters must have a horn or other warning device that is audible from a distance of at least 200 feet. It is incumbent upon the operator to utilize the warning device as they deem necessary.

***Finding 2.6:*** “Costs associated with micromobility device-related injuries create an economic burden on cities and businesses.”

***Response:*** Disagree. There is no research or study cited for this finding. Therefore, the Department has no factual background on which to support an agreement to this conclusion. .

***Finding 2.7:*** “Most riders of e-bikes and e-scooters are not wearing helmets.”

***Response:*** Agree.

***Finding 2.8:*** “There is no official (internet, television, periodicals, social media, etc.) campaign associated with electric scooter or electric bike safety for operations and pedestrians provided by (add who you think should be providing this).”

***Response:*** Disagree. The Los Angeles County Board of Consumer Affairs has an excellent interactive page regarding safe riding of electric scooters and bicycles in Los Angeles County already available to the public on their website.

***Finding 2.9:*** “There is inconsistency among the primary sellers of electric scooters as to the availability of liability insurance.”

***Response:*** Disagree. There is no factual support cited for this finding. Therefore, the Department has no factual background on which to support an agreement to this conclusion.

***Finding 2.10:*** “Senate Bill 381 requires the Mineta Transportation Institute to study injuries caused by e-bikes and how to improve rider safety.”

***Response:*** *Partially agree.* Senate Bill 381 directs the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University to “conduct a study on electric bicycles to inform efforts to improve the safety of all users of the transportation system, and submit a report of the findings from the study to the Legislature.”

### **Recommendations**

***Recommendation 2.1:*** “Ensure the LAPD, LBPD, other local municipal law enforcement agencies and campus police agencies and other local law enforcement agencies enforce electric scooters prohibition against riding on sidewalk, helmet requirements, and speed limits.”

***Response:*** *Implemented.* The officers of the Los Angeles Police Department enforce all traffic laws, including those regarding electric scooters, when appropriate and necessary in support of public safety.

***Recommendation 2.4:*** “Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, Community College Campus Police) should create a campaign to educate pedestrians and operators to use safety equipment, e.g. helmets.”

***Response:*** *Further Analysis Required.* The Department will explore the creation of a campaign to educate pedestrians and micromobility device operators on micromobility-related safety topics. The Department anticipates a timeline of three months from the submission of this report to conduct research and render a decision. It should be noted that the Los Angeles County Board of Consumer Affairs has an excellent interactive page regarding safe riding of electric scooters and bicycles in Los Angeles County already available to the public on their website.

***Recommendation 2.5:*** “Law Enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, and Community College Campus Police) should create e-bike and e-scooter Use Education Course (similar to driver education for autos).”

***Response:*** *Further Analysis Required.* The Department will explore the creation of an e-bike and e-scooter User Education Course. The Department anticipates a timeline of three months from the submission of this report to conduct research and render a decision. It should be noted that driver education courses are typically offered through other organizations such as the California Department of Motor Vehicles and the Automobile Club of Southern California. These organizations have structures already in place for teaching community members about adherence to the vehicle code and driver safety.

Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California

Page 4

1.2

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Chief of Staff at (213) 468-8760.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Choi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DOMINIC H. CHOI  
Chief of Police



## OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 9th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 570-2200  
Facsimile: (562) 436-1579

DAWN A. MCINTOSH  
City Attorney

September 17, 2024

GARY J. ANDERSON  
Assistant City Attorney

7

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Long Beach  
California

### RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to authorize the City Attorney to prepare and send a response on behalf of the City Council to the Recommendations made by the Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury investigative report regarding Micromobility Devices. (Citywide)

### DISCUSSION

On July 18, 2024, the City Attorney's Office received a copy of the final report prepared by the Civil Grand Jury of the County of Los Angeles ("Grand Jury") for 2023 – 2024. One of the investigative reports comprising the final report is titled "Micromobility Devices, 'Pay No or Pay Later.'"

At the end of this investigative report, the Civil Grand Jury lists seven recommendations, three of which are relevant to the City of Long Beach:

- R2.1 Ensure LAPD, LBPB, other local municipal law enforcement agencies and campus police agencies and other local law enforcement agencies enforce electric scooters prohibition against riding on sidewalk, helmet requirements, and speed limits.
- R2.4 Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPB, Community College Campus Police) should create a campaign to educate pedestrians and operators to use safety equipment, e.g., helmets.
- R2.5 Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPB, and Community College Campus Police) should create e-bike and e-scooter User Education Course (similar to driver education for autos).

The report states that responses are required from the Long Beach Police Department (LBPB) and the City Council, City of Long Beach to recommendations "R2.1, R2.4, R2.5." Pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, a person or entity to whom a recommendation is directed must respond to that recommendation.

The LBPD drafted and provided a response to the Civil Grand Jury on August 26, 2024. As is clear from the wording of the recommendations, the City Council need not provide a response that is substantively different from the response provided by the LBPD. Instead, the City Attorney's Office recommends that the Council authorize the City Attorney to prepare and send a letter agreeing with and supporting the LBPD's response to the recommendations in Civil Grand Jury's report regarding micromobility devices..

**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn McIntosh, City Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Ben-Shmuel', written in a cursive style.

By: Eliezer Ben-Shmuel  
Deputy City Attorney

ATTACHMENTS: A – City Council Response  
B – LBPD Response Letter

August 26, 2024

Samantha P. Jessner, Presiding Judge  
Los Angeles County Superior Court  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
Los Angeles County Grand Jury  
210 West Temple Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Presiding Judge Jessner,

The Long Beach Police Department received a request from the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury to provide a response to the recommendations published in the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report regarding micromobility devices. Please find below LBPD's response to the Micromobility Device Committee's recommendations.

**MDC Recommendation:** Ensure LBPD...enforces electric scooters prohibition against riding on sidewalks, helmet requirements, and speed limits.

- Response: LBPD enforces these prohibitions when resources permit and appropriate.

**MDC Recommendation:** Create a campaign to educate pedestrians and operators to use safety equipment (e.g. helmets).

- Response: The Police Department can partner with the Long Beach Public Works Department, who is the lead on e-bike safety in Long Beach. The Department will cross-promote any content produced from LB Public Works to promote safety tips. These safety messages can be promoted across city councilmember newsletters, City of Long Beach newsletter, and via the Neighborhood Resource Center.

**MDC Recommendation:** Create e-bike and e-scooter user education course (similar to driver education for autos).

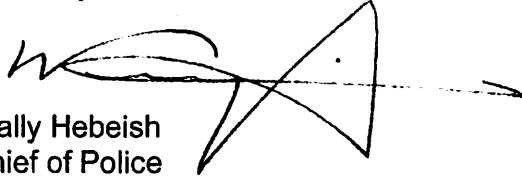
- Response: This falls outside of the Police Department purview. In August 2023, the California Highway Patrol developed an e-bike safety program: Electric Bicycle Safety and Training - Overview | Rise 360. The Department will promote this

course through its social media platform. Should additional training be required, the Department encourages Los Angeles County Courts to partner with other entities within the city or county who would be more equipped to educate the public on e-bike and e-scooter education courses (i.e. Public Works or Health Departments).

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact my chief of staff, Commander Michael Solomita at (562) 570-7301.

Sincerely,

Wally Hebeish  
Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wally Hebeish', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

WH.RMJ.rbw  
LAC Civil Grand Jury Report Micromobility Devices



## OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 9th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 570-2200  
Facsimile: (562) 436-1579

DAWN A. MCINTOSH  
City Attorney

July 9, 2024

GARY J. ANDERSON  
Assistant City Attorney

### SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Irene Shandell-Taylor, Foreperson  
2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Courthouse  
Superior Court of Los Angeles County  
210 West Temple Street  
Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### **RE: 2023 - 2024 Grand Jury Report: Recommendations Regarding Micromobility Devices**

Dear Foreperson Shandell-Taylor,

I write on behalf of the City of Long Beach to obtain clarification regarding the recommendations contained in the Grand Jury's Final Report for 2023-2024 (GJFR) regarding Micromobility Devices. More specifically, I write pursuant to Penal Code section 933(a) which provides, in relevant part, that "[f]or 45 days after the end of the [grand jury's] term, the foreperson and his or her designees shall, upon reasonable notice, be available to clarify the recommendations of the report."

On June 28, 2024, the Civil Grand Jury publicized the GJFR consisting of fourteen Investigative Committee Reports and nine Stand Committee Reports. The second Investigative Committee Report is titled "Micromobility Devices, 'Pay Now or Pay Later'". (GJFR, p. 31.)

At the end of this report, the Civil Grand Jury lists ten findings and seven recommendations. (GJFR, p. 47.) The report then lists required responses from, among other entities, The Long Beach Police Department (LBPd) and the City Council, City of Long Beach. (GJFR, p. 49.) More specifically, both the LBPd and the City Council are required to respond to Recommendations R2.1, R2.4 and R2.5. (Id.)

However, after reviewing the recommendations, the City of Long Beach believes that the report may have erred in requiring the Long Beach City Council to respond to these recommendations. More specifically, Recommendations R2.1, R2.4 and R2.5 concern LBPd enforcement of existing traffic and helmet laws, creation of an education campaign, and creation of an operator's course, respectively. While the LBPd is working on their response, none of these recommendations require action or a response from the City Council.



By contrast, Recommendations R2.2, R2.3, R2.6 and R2.7 are all directed at “municipal governments” and require action that only the City Council is authorized to take, such as updating agreements with vendors, passing local ordinances and supporting passage of legislation. Furthermore, both the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles City Council are required to respond to these four recommendation, but not to recommendations 2.1, 2.4 and 2.5.

Given the forgoing, pursuant to Penal Code section 933(a), the City of Long Beach asks you clarify whether the Long Beach City Council is required to respond to Recommendations R2.1, R2.4 and R2.5 or, instead, should respond to Recommendations R2.2, R2.3, R2.6 and R.2.7.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance with respect to this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn McIntosh, City Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Ben-Shmuel', written over a horizontal line.

By: Eliezer Ben-Shmuel  
Deputy City Attorney



**OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 9th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 570-2200  
Facsimile: (562) 436-1579

**DAWN A. MCINTOSH**  
City Attorney

September 17, 2024

**GARY J. ANDERSON**  
Assistant City Attorney

Samantha P. Jessner, Presiding Judge  
Los Angeles County Superior Court  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
Los Angeles County Grand Jury  
210 West Temple Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: RESPONSE TO MICROMOBILITY DEVICES REPORT 2023-2024**

Dear Presiding Judge Jessner,

The City of Long Beach has received the investigative report "Micromobility Devices, 'Pay No or Pay Later'" that was a part of the Los Angeles County Grand Jury's Final Report for 2023 – 2024. The report required the City Council for the City of Long Beach and the Long Beach Police Department to respond to the following recommendations:

- R2.1 Ensure LAPD, LBPD, other local municipal law enforcement agencies and campus police agencies and other local law enforcement agencies enforce electric scooters prohibition against riding on sidewalk, helmet requirements, and speed limits.
- R2.4 Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, Community College Campus Police) should create a campaign to educate pedestrians and operators to use safety equipment, e.g., helmets.
- R2.5 Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, and Community College Campus Police) should create e-bike and e-scooter User Education Course (similar to driver education for autos).

The Long Beach Police Department responded to these recommendations on August 26, 2024. The City Council for the City of Long Beach agrees with and supports the response provided by the Long Beach Police Department to each of these recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn McIntosh, City Attorney

By: Eliezer Ben-Shmuel  
Deputy City Attorney

Attachment: LBPD Letter to Civil Grand Jury



**CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA**

Office of the Mayor

613 E. Broadway, Suite 200  
Glendale, CA 91206-4308  
Tel. (818) 548-4844 Fax (818) 547-6740  
glendaleca.gov

December 11, 2024

Via U.S. Mail and Email

Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury  
222 S. Hill St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 670  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: City of Glendale Response to the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Grand Jury Report entitled "Micromobility Devices: Pay Now or Pay Later"**

To Whom it May Concern:

On June 17, 2024, the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury requested the City of Glendale respond to certain recommendations made in its report on Micromobility Devices.

The specific recommendations in the Report and the City of Glendale official responses are set forth below.

**Recommendation R2.1:** Ensure LAPD, LBPD, other local municipal law enforcement agencies and campus police agencies and other local law enforcement agencies enforce electric scooters prohibition against riding on sidewalk, helmet requirements, and speed limits.

**Response:** The police department currently enforces laws pertaining micromobility devices. The recommendation has been implemented. Officers issue citations for violations of law.

**Recommendation R2.4:** Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, Community College Campus Police) should create a campaign to educate pedestrians and operators to use safety equipment, e.g., helmets.

**Response:** The police department will collaborate with other City of Glendale departments to create a campaign to educate the community regarding safety equipment for micromobility devices. The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Implementation is anticipated by April 15, 2025.

**Recommendation R2.5:** Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, and Community College Campus Police) should create e-bike and e-scooter User Education Course (like driver education for autos).



**CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA**

Office of the Mayor

613 E. Broadway, Suite 200  
Glendale, CA 91206-4308  
Tel. (818) 548-4844 Fax (818) 547-6740  
glendaleca.gov

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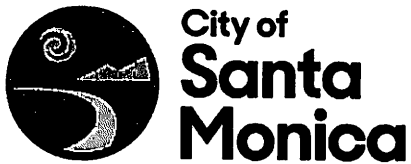
**Response:** An e-bike and e-scooter "User Education Course" would be beneficial for our community. We have several e-bike instructors/riders at the police department and will utilize their experience to create a course for the community. The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Implementation is anticipated by July 5, 2025 and dependent on staffing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elen Asatryan", is written over a horizontal line.

Elen Asatryan  
Mayor

cc: Glendale City Council  
Roubik Golanian, City Manager  
Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney  
Manuel Cid, Chief of Police



RECEIVED OCT 03 2024

-JC

## Office of the City Manager

September 18, 2024

### Presiding Judge

#### Los Angeles County Superior Court

Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
Los Angeles County Grand Jury  
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Response to 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury report "Micromobility Devices: Pay Now or Pay Later"

Dear Presiding Judge:

Pursuant to the requirements of California Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05, the City of Santa Monica herein formally responds to the assigned recommendations (R2.1, R2.4, and R2.5) as requested by the report produced by the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury entitled "Micromobility Devices: Pay Now or Pay Later."

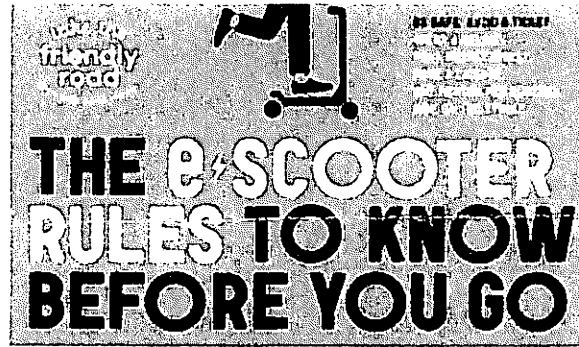
#### **R2.1: Ensure LAPD, LBP, other local municipal law enforcement agencies and campus police agencies and other local law enforcement agencies enforce electric scooters prohibition against riding on sidewalk, helmet requirements, and speed limits.**

City response: The City agrees with this finding and enforces these laws. In the City of Santa Monica, there are both privately owned scooters as well as those available for rent by the public as part of the City's Shared Use Mobility (SUM) program. Under state and local law, neither type of scooter is permitted to operate on the sidewalk in Santa Monica, and the speed limit for all electric scooters in California is 15 MPH per CVC 22411. Further, electric scooters available for rent as part of the City's SUM program are required to be governed to a maximum speed of 15 MPH. In California, helmets are required for users under 18 years of age and recommended for all. The City of Santa Monica enforces these rules of the road. Additionally, companies participating in the City's SUM program are required to geo-fence sensitive areas in the City, such as Ocean Front Walk, so that their devices will not operate on them.

#### **R2.4: Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBP, Community College Campus Police) should create a campaign to educate pedestrians and operators to use safety equipment, e.g., helmets.**

City response: The City agrees with this finding and has implemented an ongoing safety campaign. In the City of Santa Monica's case, rather than a law enforcement agency

being the lead of our campaign, the Department of Transportation has led this effort, with input from other departments including the Santa Monica Police Department. The campaign is called *Take the Friendly Road* and encourages safe transportation behaviors, including for electric scooter users. The public service announcements below are posted on social media from time to time, as well as in other locations in the community, including on the sides of the Big Blue Bus as well as on the digital screens inside the Big Blue Bus.



**R2.5: Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPB, and Community College Campus Police) should create e-bike and e-scooter User Education Course (similar to driver education for autos).**

City response: The City agrees that e-bike and e-scooter User Education Courses would be beneficial and further analysis is needed prior to establishing a new ongoing program with staffing and financial implications. With the City operating at reduced staffing levels since 2020, and into the foreseeable future, it is not feasible to launch a new community program at this time. Further, in California, the private sector fills the need for driver education, with private schools teaching new drivers the rules of the road and it is uncertain why local agencies would be best suited to provide this type of service in this instance. Nevertheless, the City of Santa Monica is invested in the safety of all roadway users and offers the Bike Campus, which is an area near the beach with roadway markings that mirror those found on local streets. The area is available for the public to use as a place to practice without the presence of motor vehicles. Additionally, a local nonprofit (Sustainable Streets) offers a class that utilizes this space to teach adults 18 and over how to ride a bicycle. Further, they also offer a course called Confident City Cycling

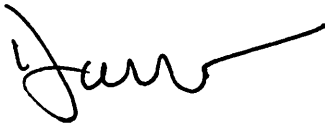
which "help[s] riders build confidence for riding a bicycle on city streets to any destination."

Additionally, the permittees in the City's SUM program are required to include safety education messages in their apps, with detailed information on safety, riding rules, and riding etiquette required to be displayed to users at time of sign-up, and additional in-app safety messaging required for ongoing users.

The City will continue to look for opportunities to educate the public about safe e-bike and e-scooter use.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the Grand Jury's recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David White", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David White  
City Manager

cc: Douglas Sloan, City Attorney  
Anuj Gupta, Director of Department of Transportation  
Ramon Batista, Police Chief



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

23920 Valencia Boulevard • Santa Clarita, California 91355-2196  
Phone: (661) 259-2489 • FAX: (661) 259-8125  
[www.santa-clarita.com](http://www.santa-clarita.com)

August 11, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shorridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Cameron Smyth  
Mayor

Dear Presiding Judge:

SUBJECT: Response to the Micro-mobility Devices Report by the 2023-24 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

I am writing to respond to the 2023-24 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury report entitled "Pay Now or Pay Later," related to micro-mobility devices. As requested, below is the City of Santa Clarita's (City) response to R2.1, R2.4, and R2.5.

The City and the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station have quarterly traffic safety meetings to discuss trends and enforcement needs within the community. The growing popularity of micro-mobility devices and the safety risk they potentially pose are often a topic of discussion. The 2023-24 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury's recommendations (R2.1, R2.4, R2.5) align with the City's concerns surrounding micro-mobility safety.

For these reasons, I agree with the 2023-24 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommendations R2.1, R2.4, and R2.5 regarding micro-mobility devices. Should you or your staff require any further information regarding my response, please feel free to contact Intergovernmental Relations Officer, Masis Hagobian, at (661) 286-4057 or [mhagobian@santaclarita.gov](mailto:mhagobian@santaclarita.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Smyth".

Cameron Smyth  
Mayor

CS:MH:sk  
sms masis: letters Civil Grand Jury - Micro-mobility

cc: Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager  
Frank Oviedo, Assistant City Manager  
Joseph Montes, City Attorney  
Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Officer







LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
CITY / EAST / HARBOR / MISSION / PIERCE / SOUTHWEST / TRADE-TECHNICAL / VALLEY / WEST

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

February 20, 2025

Presiding Judge  
Los Angeles County Superior Court  
Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury  
Clara Shortridge Foltz criminal Justice Center  
210 West Temple Street  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Subject: Response to Civil Grand Jury Report: "Micromobility Devices, Pay Now or Pay Later"

Dear Members of the Civil Grand Jury:

We acknowledge receipt of your report dated June 17, 2024, titled: "Micromobility Devices, Pay Now or Pay Later." Thank you for your time, dedication, and effort in preparing this comprehensive report regarding safety concerns related to the increasing use of "micromobility" devices in and around our communities.

We have carefully reviewed the findings and recommendations presented. Below is our formal response as required by law:

**Finding 2.1:** Serious injuries and fatalities connected with "micromobility" devices are steadily rising.

**Response:** Los Angeles Community College District generally agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation 2.1:** Ensure LAPD, LBPD, other local municipal law enforcement agencies and campus police agencies and other local law enforcement agencies enforce electric scooters prohibition against riding on sidewalks, helmet requirements, and speed limits.

**Response:** The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented within 120-180 days.

**Finding 2.4:** There is limited enforcement on violators riding on sidewalks, going in the wrong direction on streets, or exceeding the electric scooter speed limit.

**Response:** Los Angeles Community College District generally agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation 2.4:** Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBPD, Community College Campus police) should create a campaign to educate pedestrians and operators to use safety equipment, e.g., helmets.

**RE: Response to Civil Grand Jury Report: “Micromobility Devices, Pay Now or Pay Later”**  
February 20, 2025  
Pg. 2

**Response:** The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented within 120–180 days.

**Finding 2.5:** There is no warning to pedestrians when an individual riding an e-scooter or e-bike is approaching people on the sidewalk.

**Response:** Los Angeles Community College District generally agrees with this finding.

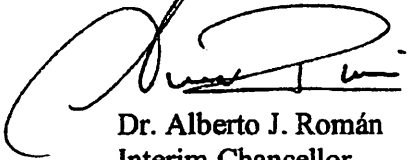
**Recommendation 2.5:** Law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LBP, Community College Campus Police) should create e-bike and e-scooter User Education Course (similar to driver education for autos).

**Response:** The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented within 6–12 Months.

We appreciate the Civil Grand Jurys’ attention to this matter and will remain committed to working toward improvements in safety and awareness associated with the use of “micromobility” devices in and around our communities.

Thank you for your continued service to the citizens of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,



Dr. Alberto J. Román  
Interim Chancellor

Los Angeles Community College District  
Office of the Chancellor  
770 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90017

**SCHOOL SAFETY**  
Equitable Safety for All



**2023 – 2024**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOL SAFETY: EQUITABLE SAFETY FOR ALL

### SUMMARY

"This report explores the safeness of various public schools within the County to determine the type of exposure and peril that were in the schools. The goal was to visit schools, speak with administrators, and review safety and emergency programs that they were following. The investigative team randomly selected schools within LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District), as well as a few schools outside of LAUSD, and met to discuss various school safety procedures."<sup>3</sup>

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 3.3

LAUSD, Culver City Unified School District and Torrance Unified School District Principals should work with the BOS, city council members and school superintendents to get approval for installation of "traffic bumps" in all areas surrounding their school thus helping to slow down traffic and prevent car accidents or injury to students.

### RESPONSE

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is outside of the scope of the jurisdiction of the County. California Streets and Highways Code Section 989 and California Government Code Sections 57329 and 57385 state that county roads transfer to a city automatically upon incorporation.

This recommendation is focused on the school districts of specific incorporated cities (the City of Los Angeles, the City of Culver City, and the City of Torrance) and since each of these instances appear to be within an incorporated city, each of those respective cities have jurisdiction over matters related to those streets around their schools, including decisions to install traffic bumps/speed bumps.

---

<sup>3</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, School Safety: Equitable Safety for All, p. 53.



**LAUSD**  
UNIFIED

**Alberto M. Carvalho**  
Superintendent

**Members of the Board**

Jackie Goldberg, President  
Scott M. Schmerelson, Vice President  
Dr. George J. McKenna III  
Dr. Rocío Rivas  
Nick Melvoin  
Kelly Gonez  
Tanya Ortiz Franklin

**Los Angeles Unified School District**

Administrative Offices  
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
Phone (213) 241-7000

August 27, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteen Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: RESPONSE TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CIVIL GRAND JURY  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON SCHOOL SAFETY: EQUITABLE SAFETY FOR ALL**

Dear Presiding Judge,

Los Angeles Unified School District (Los Angeles Unified, LAUSD, or District) appreciates the County of Los Angeles' Civil Grand Jury's (Civil Grand Jury) examination of school safety issues and the recommendations in the June 28, 2024 School Safety: Equitable Safety for All report. The safety and well-being of our students and staff remains a top priority, and we are committed to addressing the identified concerns. We believe that through collaborative efforts and continuous improvement, we can create a safer and more supportive learning environment for all members of our school community.

As required by California Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05, we are submitting our responses to the following findings and recommendations from the report that are applicable to Los Angeles Unified schools.

**3.1: Use of Cellphones in the Classroom**

- ***Finding: There is an enormous cell phone issue at middle and high schools in LA County.***
- ***Recommendation: All schools should investigate and consider purchasing and installing cellphone lockers in their classrooms as many students abuse the use of cellphones in the classrooms.***

Los Angeles Unified generally agrees with the finding and recommendation and recognizes the impacts of excessive cell phone use. Education Code section 48901.7 permits a school district to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones by

students while they are at a schoolsite, as long as a student is not prohibited from possessing or using the phone in certain enumerated circumstances. The District's existing policy (BUL-5468.0) permits students to possess cellphones and other electronic signaling devices on campus as long as they remain "off" and stored in a place, including in a locker, where it is not visible during normal school hours, or school activities.

Additionally, in alignment with the "Supporting Student Mental Health and Learning by Ensuring a Phone-Free School Day" resolution adopted by the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education, Los Angeles Unified is already working on updated cell phone and social media policies and is considering various strategies as part of this initiative. Pursuant to this Resolution, an updated policy is expected to be implemented no later than the start of the second semester of the 2024-25 school year.

### 3.2: School Facilities and Repairs

- ***Finding: Many of the schools visited by the committee observed older buildings on the campuses that require renovations and restoration. Administrators at schools would like structures such as ceiling repairs and lighting fixtures repairs accelerated.***
- ***Recommendation: LAUSD, Culver City Unified School District and Torrance Unified School District should pay close attention to reports of leaky ceilings in school buildings, which once reported will expedite the repair and other remediation.***

Los Angeles Unified agrees with the finding and recommendation, in that repairs need to be made in a timely fashion and the District is currently implementing these practices. Urgent repairs, including leaking ceilings, are prioritized, and our Facilities Maintenance and Operations team tracks response times to ensure timely repair.

With over 60 percent of our school buildings over 50 years old, Los Angeles Unified utilizes a Facilities Condition Index to help determine when a school building system or component requires replacement. As of this date, approximately 50 school roofing replacement projects are in pre-construction or under construction.

### 3.3: Traffic Safety Improvements

- ***Finding: Many of the schools visited require additional "traffic bumps" at the schools as drivers coming to the schools are speeding and careless while driving near pedestrians.***
- ***Recommendation: LAUSD, Culver City Unified School District and Torrance Unified School District Principals should work with the Board of Supervisors, city council members and school superintendents to get approval for installation of "traffic bumps" in all areas surrounding their school thus helping to slow down traffic and prevent car accidents or injury to students.***

While Los Angeles Unified strongly agrees with the finding and recommendation that "traffic humps" should be installed around more schools, we partially disagree with the

recommendation regarding the approval process. The approval and implementation process for installation of “traffic humps” near schools is a collaboration between school district officials and city and county departments, not the Board of Supervisors or City Council Members. The LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) serves as the District’s primary point of contact on traffic safety issues, including requests for the installation of traffic humps or a city crossing guard. OEHS assesses traffic safety conditions and liaisons between school principals and the corresponding city or county department. This helps avoid confusion and enables an efficient and streamlined process for prioritizing requests for traffic safety measures from school sites. Additionally, Los Angeles Unified, through its Education Compacts, is strengthening collaborative partnerships with partners from nine municipalities to further improve safety, among other things.

In the 2023-24 school year, the City of Los Angeles installed speed humps at 61 schools and posted speed limit signs in approximately 500 street segments near schools. Additionally, Los Angeles Unified worked with the City of Los Angeles to ensure the filling of over 500 crossing guard positions to support students and families as they travel to and from school. At the state level, Los Angeles Unified was a strong supporter of Assembly Bill 645 (Friedman), signed into law in October 2023, which will establish a pilot program for the City of Los Angeles to install speed cameras in certain school zones.

### **3.4: Installation of Cameras**

- ***Finding: Schools in LA County have a complicated variety of school problems: smoking cigarettes, vaping, smoking marijuana, bullying, and fighting. Many of these things occur in or near school bathrooms.***
- ***Recommendation: Install cameras near boys and girls restrooms which will help the following school problems:***
  - a. ***Observe students with vapers, cigarettes, marijuana going into and coming out of restrooms***
  - b. ***Observe any potential for a student's unwanted sexual harassment of another***
  - c. ***Observe student bullying as it happens***
  - d. ***Observe potential student drug sales at the school***
  - e. ***Observe potential students involvement in gang activity***

Los Angeles Unified agrees with the noted concerns and is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students. Los Angeles Unified focuses on comprehensive safety and well-being measures as outlined in our Every School Safe: Blueprint for Safety initiative.

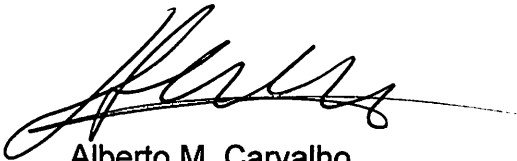
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reasonable expectation of privacy. While this footage may be monitored by school officials, it may not show students engaging in the activities noted in the recommendation.

Los Angeles Unified remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all students and staff and welcomes further collaboration. If you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Chief of Governmental Relations and Legislative Affairs, Martha Alvarez, at 213-241-8283 or [martha.alvarez1@lausd.net](mailto:martha.alvarez1@lausd.net).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the success of your students and the District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Carvalho', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alberto M. Carvalho  
Superintendent of Schools

c: Martha Alvarez





# TORRANCE

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Civil Grand Jury 2023-2024  
222 South Hill Street, Suite 670  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

September 3, 2024

To the Civil Grand Jury:

This response to Findings and Recommendations is submitted by me, Jasmine Park, Board President, on behalf of the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD). Responses are as follows.

Finding 3.1. The District agrees there is a significant issue.

Finding 3.2. It does not appear from the Report that this finding applies to TUSD.

Finding 3.3. It is not clear from the Report if this finding applies to TUSD. However, TUSD does review traffic calming measures with the City of Torrance and the Torrance Police Department.

Finding 3.4. The District agrees that all school districts likely have, to varying degrees, issues with the specified problems.

Recommendation 3.1. Given the recent passage by the California State Legislature of AB 3216 all school districts will be required to develop and adopt, by July 1, 2026, "a policy to limit or prohibit the use by its pupils of smartphones while the pupils are at a schoolsite or while the pupils are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of that school district, county office of education, or charter school."

Recommendation 3.2. The District currently pays close attention to reports of leaky roofs and makes repairs in a timely manner.

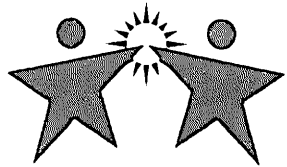
Recommendation 3.3. The District currently works in partnership with the City of Torrance and their implementation of the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program, which includes traffic calming measures.

Recommendation 3.4. The District already has camera systems that monitor student activity throughout campuses.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jasmine Park".

Jasmine Park  
Torrance Unified School District Board President



**CULVER CITY**  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Culver City Unified School District**

4034 Irving Place Culver City, CA 90232-2810  
(310) 842-4220

Brian Lucas, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

August 22, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple St., 13th Flr., Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please find attached the Culver City Unified School District's (CCUSD) response to the 2023-24 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report on "School Safety: Equitable Safety for All."

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>District's Response to Recommendation</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>R3.1</b> - All schools should investigate and consider cellphone lockers	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Implemented:</b> During the Spring of 2024, Culver City High School (CCHS) conducted a needs analysis and project planning meetings for a more robust cellphone policy on campus. Starting at the beginning of the new school year, CCHS will begin the implementation of a cell phone policy which requires students to place cell phones in a cellphone holder at the entrance of each classroom.
<b>R3.2</b> - Schools should pay attention to leaky roofs and expedite their repair	<b>Agree</b>	<b>In-Process:</b> In March of 2024, the citizens of Culver City supported our District with the passage of a \$360M school facilities bond. Roofing concerns are a major portion of the bond priorities. In June of 2024, we conducted a roofing status analysis of all campuses and will begin work and repair immediately with an anticipated end date of December 2025 for the most severely-impacted areas.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Kelly Kent Mr. Triston Ezidore Ms. Stephanie Loredo Ms. Paula Amezola Mr. Brian Guerrero Dr. Brian Lucas, Superintendent

<p><b>R3.3 - With with City on the installation of "traffic bumps" to slow down traffic and prevent car accidents</b></p>	<p><b>Partially Agree -</b> The specific recommendation of "traffic bumps" may not be the best or only traffic mitigation strategy for a given street. CCUSD firmly agrees with the intent of the recommendation, but traffic engineering specialists may have other strategies besides "traffic bumps."</p>	<p><b>In-Process:</b> The CCUSD and the City of Culver City enjoy a strong partnership. Over the last several years, the City has conducted pedestrian and vehicle studies on streets and neighborhoods surrounding our schools and have implemented pedestrian safety mechanisms such as increased crosswalk signage and striping, sidewalk modifications, permanent traffic cone placements, and traffic signal installation &amp; adjustments. The City also supports the provision of 18 crossing guards across the City at school ingress and egress times. The City is also implementing additional traffic studies estimated to complete in 2025 of major sections of the City requiring additional traffic speed mitigation and pedestrian safety measures.</p>
<p><b>R3.4 - Install cameras near boys' and girls' restrooms to increase safety and deter misbehavior</b></p>	<p><b>Agree</b></p>	<p><b>In-Process:</b> As part of the safety and security measures included in the passage of the March 2024 bond, the District is embarking on a whole-District review of safety and security measures. This will include the addition of appropriate cameras near restrooms. The analysis and study of increased security measures will be completed by December 2024.</p>

The CCUSD appreciates the Grand Jury's review, process, and recommendations which fully support our on-going priority of student safety. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions or concerns regarding our responses.

Sincerely,



Brian Lucas, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

c: CCUSD Board of Education

# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



**DOMINIC H. CHOI**  
Chief of Police

**KAREN BASS**  
Mayor

P.O. Box 30158  
Los Angeles, CA 90030  
Telephone: (213) 486-8740  
TTY: (877) 275-5273  
Ref #: 1.2

August 21, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Presiding Judge,

Please find the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD or Department) response to the Los Angeles County Superior Court's Civil Grand Jury report titled, "*School Safety – Equitable Safety for All.*" The Department has reviewed the report and supporting materials in their entirety and, pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, responds to the Civil Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations. The Department welcomes and appreciates the opportunity to engage in this timely and important conversation.

## **Findings**

***Finding 3.1:*** "There is an enormous cell phone issue at middle and high schools in LA County."

***Response:*** Agree.

***Finding 3.2:*** "Many of the schools visited by the committee observed older buildings on the campuses that require renovations and restoration. Administrators at schools would like structures such as ceiling repairs and lighting fixtures[sic] repairs accelerated"

***Response:*** Agree.

***Finding 3.3:*** "Many of the schools visited require additional "traffic bumps" at the schools as drivers coming to the schools are speeding and careless while driving near pedestrians."

***Response:*** Agree.

***Finding 3.4:*** “Schools in LA County have a complicated variety of school problems: smoking cigarettes, vaping, smoking marijuana, bullying and fighting. Many of these things occur in or near school bathrooms.”

***Response:*** Agree.

### **Recommendations**

***Recommendation 3.4:*** Install cameras near boys and girls restrooms which will help the following school problems:

- a. *Observe students with vapers, cigarettes, marijuana going into and coming out of restrooms;*
- b. *Observe any potential for a student's unwanted sexual harassment of another;*
- c. *Observe student bullying as it happens;*
- d. *Observe potential student drug sales at the school; and,*
- e. *Observe potential student involvement in gang activity.*

***Response:*** Will not be implemented. The Los Angeles Police Department has no authority to dictate the infrastructure of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) facilities. The decision to install cameras near restrooms to monitor student behavior lies completely in the hands of the District's Superintendent and the LAUSD Board of Education.

Furthermore, as stated in your report, LAUSD has their own police force, the Los Angeles School Police Department. They would be the best source for providing input regarding the investigative merits of the installation of cameras at LAUSD facilities and how nefarious activity would be monitored.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Chief of Staff at (213) 468-8760.

Respectfully,



DOMINIC H. CHOI  
Chief of Police

# **RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE

## **2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOL SAFETY: EQUITABLE SAFETY FOR ALL**

### **SUMMARY**

"This report explores the safeness of various public schools within the County to determine the type of exposure and peril that were in the schools. The goal was to visit schools, speak with administrators, and review safety and emergency programs that they were following. The investigative team randomly selected schools within LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District), as well as a few schools outside of LAUSD, and met to discuss various school safety procedures."<sup>3</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 3.3**

LAUSD, Culver City Unified School District and Torrance Unified School District Principals should work with the BOS, city council members and school superintendents to get approval for installation of "traffic bumps" in all areas surrounding their school thus helping to slow down traffic and prevent car accidents or injury to students.

### **RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is outside of the scope of the jurisdiction of the County. California Streets and Highways Code Section 989 and California Government Code Sections 57329 and 57385 state that county roads transfer to a city automatically upon incorporation.

This recommendation is focused on the school districts of specific incorporated cities (the City of Los Angeles, the City of Culver City, and the City of Torrance) and since each of these instances appear to be within an incorporated city, each of those respective cities have jurisdiction over matters related to those streets around their schools, including decisions to install traffic bumps/speed bumps.

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<sup>3</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, School Safety: Equitable Safety for All, p. 53.



**LAUSD**  
**UNIFIED**

**Los Angeles Unified School District**

Administrative Offices  
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
Phone (213) 241-7000

**Alberto M. Carvalho**  
Superintendent

**Members of the Board**

Jackie Goldberg, President  
Scott M. Schmerelson, Vice President  
Dr. George J. McKenna III  
Dr. Rocío Rivas  
Nick Melvoin  
Kelly Gonez  
Tanya Ortiz Franklin

August 27, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteen Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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RECOMMENDATIONS ON SCHOOL SAFETY: EQUITABLE SAFETY FOR ALL**

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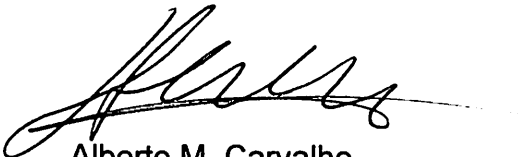
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Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the success of your students and the District.

Sincerely,

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Alberto M. Carvalho  
Superintendent of Schools

c: Martha Alvarez



# TORRANCE

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Civil Grand Jury 2023-2024  
222 South Hill Street, Suite 670  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

September 3, 2024

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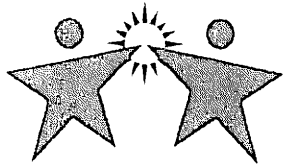
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Thank you,

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Jasmine Park

Torrance Unified School District Board President



CULVER CITY  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Culver City Unified School District

4034 Irving Place Culver City, CA 90232-2810  
(310) 842-4220

Brian Lucas, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

August 22, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple St., 13th Flr., Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please find attached the Culver City Unified School District's (CCUSD) response to the 2023-24 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report on "School Safety: Equitable Safety for All."

Recommendation	District's Response to Recommendation	Action
<b>R3.1</b> - All schools should investigate and consider cellphone lockers	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Implemented:</b> During the Spring of 2024, Culver City High School (CCHS) conducted a needs analysis and project planning meetings for a more robust cellphone policy on campus. Starting at the beginning of the new school year, CCHS will begin the implementation of a cell phone policy which requires students to place cell phones in a cellphone holder at the entrance of each classroom.
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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Kelly Kent Mr. Triston Ezidore Ms. Stephanie Loredó Ms. Paula Amezola Mr. Brian Guerrero Dr. Brian Lucas, Superintendent

<p><b>R3.3 - With with City on the installation of "traffic bumps" to slow down traffic and prevent car accidents</b></p>	<p><b>Partially Agree -</b> The specific recommendation of "traffic bumps" may not be the best or only traffic mitigation strategy for a given street. CCUSD firmly agrees with the intent of the recommendation, but traffic engineering specialists may have other strategies besides "traffic bumps."</p>	<p><b>In-Process:</b> The CCUSD and the City of Culver City enjoy a strong partnership. Over the last several years, the City has conducted pedestrian and vehicle studies on streets and neighborhoods surrounding our schools and have implemented pedestrian safety mechanisms such as increased crosswalk signage and striping, sidewalk modifications, permanent traffic cone placements, and traffic signal installation &amp; adjustments. The City also supports the provision of 18 crossing guards across the City at school ingress and egress times. The City is also implementing additional traffic studies estimated to complete in 2025 of major sections of the City requiring additional traffic speed mitigation and pedestrian safety measures.</p>
<p><b>R3.4 - Install cameras near boys' and girls' restrooms to increase safety and deter misbehavior</b></p>	<p><b>Agree</b></p>	<p><b>In-Process:</b> As part of the safety and security measures included in the passage of the March 2024 bond, the District is embarking on a whole-District review of safety and security measures. This will include the addition of appropriate cameras near restrooms. The analysis and study of increased security measures will be completed by December 2024.</p>

The CCUSD appreciates the Grand Jury's review, process, and recommendations which fully support our on-going priority of student safety. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions or concerns regarding our responses.

Sincerely,



Brian Lucas, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

c: CCUSD Board of Education

# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

**DOMINIC H. CHOI**  
Chief of Police



**KAREN BASS**  
Mayor

P.O. Box 30158  
Los Angeles, CA 90030  
Telephone: (213) 486-8740  
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Ref #: 1.2

August 21, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Presiding Judge,

Please find the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD or Department) response to the Los Angeles County Superior Court's Civil Grand Jury report titled, "*School Safety – Equitable Safety for All.*" The Department has reviewed the report and supporting materials in their entirety and, pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, responds to the Civil Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations. The Department welcomes and appreciates the opportunity to engage in this timely and important conversation.

## **Findings**

***Finding 3.1:*** "There is an enormous cell phone issue at middle and high schools in LA County."

***Response:*** Agree.

***Finding 3.2:*** "Many of the schools visited by the committee observed older buildings on the campuses that require renovations and restoration. Administrators at schools would like structures such as ceiling repairs and lighting fixtures[sic] repairs accelerated"

***Response:*** Agree.

***Finding 3.3:*** "Many of the schools visited require additional "traffic bumps" at the schools as drivers coming to the schools are speeding and careless while driving near pedestrians."

***Response:*** Agree.

***Finding 3.4:*** “Schools in LA County have a complicated variety of school problems: smoking cigarettes, vaping, smoking marijuana, bullying and fighting. Many of these things occur in or near school bathrooms.”

***Response:*** Agree.

### **Recommendations**

***Recommendation 3.4:*** Install cameras near boys and girls restrooms which will help the following school problems:

- a. *Observe students with vapers, cigarettes, marijuana going into and coming out of restrooms;*
- b. *Observe any potential for a student's unwanted sexual harassment of another;*
- c. *Observe student bullying as it happens;*
- d. *Observe potential student drug sales at the school; and,*
- e. *Observe potential student involvement in gang activity.*

***Response:*** Will not be implemented. The Los Angeles Police Department has no authority to dictate the infrastructure of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) facilities. The decision to install cameras near restrooms to monitor student behavior lies completely in the hands of the District's Superintendent and the LAUSD Board of Education.

Furthermore, as stated in your report, LAUSD has their own police force, the Los Angeles School Police Department. They would be the best source for providing input regarding the investigative merits of the installation of cameras at LAUSD facilities and how nefarious activity would be monitored.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Chief of Staff at (213) 468-8760.

Respectfully,



DOMINIC H. CHOI  
Chief of Police

**THE DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS REGULATION  
AND THE SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAM**



**2023 – 2024  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
CIVIL GRAND JURY**



DEPARTMENT OF  
CANNABIS REGULATION

CANNABIS REGULATION  
COMMISSION

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PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENT

ANTON FARMBY  
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<http://cannabis.lacity.gov>

August 29, 2024

County of Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury  
Los Angeles County Superior Court  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 West Temple Street  
Eleventh Floor, Room 11-506  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Members of the County of Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury,

The Department of Cannabis Regulation ("DCR") has had an opportunity to review and consider the Findings and Recommendations contained within the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report: Cannabis In The City of Los Angeles ("Report").

First and foremost, DCR appreciates the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury's interest in the cannabis industry and the time and attention the Grand Jury devoted to the Report. We especially appreciate that the Grand Jury placed Social Equity at the forefront of its evaluation. We too place great importance on the Social Equity Program and are proud that Los Angeles is, by a wide margin, the largest social equity market in the nation. DCR has issued over 1,400 licenses, of which approximately 470 are social equity businesses. This means that nearly 35% of the Los Angeles market belongs to the social equity community.

Unfortunately, the Report contains a number of troubling inaccuracies. DCR recognizes that California's long and muddled history of medicinal cannabis decriminalization has created a complex licensing system across the State that is difficult to understand from a third-party perspective. The Report reflects confusion concerning DCR's licensing and application process, which are understandable. There are, however, many other fundamental misunderstandings in the Report that do not relate to the intricacies of the licensing process. For example:

- The Report repeatedly conflates the City, County and State, attributing each territory's programmatic requirements onto DCR. DCR administers cannabis

regulations only in the City of Los Angeles. It cannot change policy or practices outside of its jurisdiction.

- The Report cites a lack of information regarding the Social Equity Program, but fails to address the many facets of the program that are publicly available through DCR's website, emails, and archived webinars.
- The Report states that the DCR's Social Equity Program was created by the Los Angeles County Office of Cannabis Management ("OCM"). DCR, and its Social Equity Program, was created years prior to OCM. OCM has yet to issue any licenses or launch a social equity program.
- The Report misunderstands the use of the application software Accela. Accela is merely a data storage platform and conduit for filing and receiving information; it does not provide any processing on its own.

Finally, and most significantly, it appears that the Civil Grand Jury is mistaken about the role of DCR. DCR was not created solely to administer the Social Equity Program. DCR was established to license and regulate the cultivation, manufacturing and sale of cannabis in the City of Los Angeles. As part of that mission, DCR established a Social Equity Program to prioritize available licenses for individuals who have been victimized by the War on Drugs. Accordingly, although specific benefits are provided to Social Equity Applicants, DCR regulates both Social Equity and non-Social Equity cannabis businesses across the City of Los Angeles.

Cannabis licensees face challenges unlike any other small businesses. They often do not have access to banking services or commercial loans due to the federal government's classification of cannabis as a Schedule 1 drug. They pay inflated rental rates for merely being associated with cannabis. They are taxed at a rate higher than alcohol, tobacco, or any other consumable product. They are routinely undercut by unlicensed and illicit locations which can charge dramatically lower prices because they do not pay taxes. We appreciate the Civil Grand Jury's attention on DCR – the second such investigation in five years – but we wonder if, instead, an examination into the systemic hurdles faced by cannabis entrepreneurs would have led to meaningful change across the industry and government.

## Responses

**Finding 4.1: DCR delays in the application processing causes SEP applicants to lose money.**

DCR disagrees with this finding. Under Los Angeles Municipal Code 104.03(i), DCR must comply with clear and specific processing timelines at each stage of the application process. For example, for Pre-Application processing, DCR is required to notify Applicants within 30 days if their proposed business premises complies with Sensitive Use requirements, is in an appropriate Community Plan Area, and is not the location of any prior cannabis and criminal

violations.<sup>1</sup> After a Pre-Application is approved, the onus is on the applicant to submit a Temporary Approval and/or Annual Licensing Application, after which DCR must process an Annual License Application within 30 days and a Temporary Approval Application within 60 days.<sup>2</sup> This finding does not explain how these mandatory and reasonably short timelines, which DCR cannot legally ignore, create costly delays for applicants. DCR recommends that any future investigations by the Civil Grand Jury be guided by legal counsel who can advise the Civil Grand Jury on the relevant laws and regulations. We respectfully believe this will help the Civil Grand Jury more accurately form its assessment.

**Finding 4.2: DCR delays in Compliance inspections can cause SEP applicants to lose facilities.**

DCR strongly disagrees with this finding. First, compliance inspections are required annually under DCR's Rules and Regulations, Regulation No. 4(D). Second, these compliance inspections are intended to ensure that licensed businesses are adhering to regulations that are primarily intended to protect public safety and welfare. Any suggestion that DCR eliminate or reduce the number of compliance inspections would jeopardize the safety of customers, employees, and the surrounding community of each licensed business. Regardless, compliance inspections are performed only for businesses that are already conducting commercial cannabis activities, meaning their location has already been approved and the business has already been issued a license. Therefore, compliance inspections do not affect a licensee's chosen location and does not result in the loss of a facility, unless the facility poses a threat to life safety. If there is a threat to life safety, DCR may revoke a license or the facility may be red-tagged or closed by another agency such as the Department of Building and Safety, the Fire Department, or the County Public Health Department.

**Finding 4.3: Most SEP applicants do not know that the eligibility criteria has changed since it was first implemented in 2019. The DCR appears to not be helping SEP applicants navigate the myriad of rules to follow in order to receive a license.**

DCR disagrees with this finding. The Los Angeles City Council amended the Social Equity Individual Applicant (SEIA) eligibility criteria in 2020. Following this change, DCR educated SEIAs that the eligibility criteria had changed via live webinars, numerous emails and targeted text messages to existing and potential SEIAs. Additionally, Los Angeles Municipal Code section 104.06.1(c)(2) required DCR to make "technical assistance available for a period of at least 45 calendar days to prospective or verified Social Equity Individual Applicants" prior to opening registration for the Phase Three Retail Round Two (P3RR2) lottery in 2022. During this 45-day window, DCR held four live webinars and sent numerous emails and targeted text messages to current and potential SEIAs, explaining the new verification and lottery process. Recordings of

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<sup>1</sup> LAMC 104.03(i)(1)(ii)

<sup>2</sup> LAMC 104.06(b)(1) & LAMC 104.03(i)(2)(ii)

each webinar were made available on DCR's website after the fact.<sup>3</sup> Email blasts advertised each of these webinars, and notice was also posted to the home page of DCR's website. Moreover, detailed narrative information and step-by-step instructions about the verification process were also provided by email and then posted to DCR's website, where it is, in fact, still available.<sup>4</sup>

DCR's website also provides thorough information on all aspects of the licensing process, apart from the P3RR2 verification and lottery. For instance, DCR devotes an entire section of its website to instructions for applying for a license on a page aptly named "Application Procedures and Resources."<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, since July 2023, DCR has conducted 12 monthly "Lunch and Learn" webinars with Assistant General Manager Jason Killeen where anyone can send in questions beforehand which Mr. Killeen answers live. These Q&A sessions are also archived in DCR's event page referenced above. For these 12 Q&A webinars, DCR sent out 29 emails – approximately two reminders per event – in addition to advertising through social media posts. DCR provides monthly updates via its newsletter and the Social Equity-specific newsletter called "Cannadispatch." Both of these updates are also posted online.<sup>6</sup>

**Finding 4.4: DCR's failure to adequately inform SEP applicants of training and assistance available for the SEP and Accela system has caused SEP applicants to lose potential funding from outside sources.**

DCR disagrees with this finding. First, Social Equity Program-sponsored training and assistance do not affect funding from outside, third-party sources. This finding presents a fundamental misunderstanding of startup finance and fundraising, and how it occurs separately from licensing and regulatory processes.

Second, between August 2021 to January 2024, staff for DCR's Social Equity Program sent **171,385 emails**, made **42,406 phone calls** and sent **37,989 text messages** notifying Social Equity Individual Applicants (SEIAs) of the resources available to them. These communications included specific, targeted information about grant funding, one-on-one coaching, online learning resources, live webinars, and pro/low bono legal resources. More detail on the specifics of these programs is included in response to Finding 4.6 below.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://cannabis.lacity.gov/about-department-cannabis-regulation/dcr-events>

<sup>4</sup> <https://cannabis.lacity.gov/social-equity-program/program-requirements-and-resources/eligibility-verification-individual>

<sup>5</sup> <https://cannabis.lacity.gov/social-equity-program/program-requirements-and-resources/phase-3-retail-round-2-p3rr2-lottery>

<sup>6</sup> <https://cannabis.lacity.gov/licensing/licensing-information/application-procedures-and-resources>

<sup>7</sup> <https://cannabis.lacity.gov/tags/updates>

**Finding 4.5: Excessive DCR, City and State fee requirements can cause SEP applicants to engage with predatory business partners.**

DCR disagrees in part with this finding. DCR acknowledges that excessive taxes and fees can present a burden for Social Equity Applicants trying to establish themselves in the commercial cannabis marketplace without startup capital. The Report, however, does not acknowledge that DCR has waived or deferred most, if not all, of the highest application costs, such as the Annual License Application Fee (\$7,691) and Environmental Impact Report (\$16,454) for Social Equity Applicants applying for Storefront Retail (Type 10) activity. Therefore, while the burden can be significant and should be addressed, no Social Equity Applicant has actually paid the full fee amounts listed in the Report. As a result, DCR disagrees with the assertion that these fees cause Social Equity Applicants to engage with predatory business partners.

**Finding 4.6: DCR's current budget is inadequate to fully develop education programs and DCR infrastructure. Without this, DCR is unable to fully assist new SEP participants as they learn the Accela system.**

DCR disagrees with this finding in part. The Los Angeles City Council determines the allocation of General Fund monies, and most recently provided DCR with \$1 million in Social Equity Program funding for fiscal year 2024-2025. DCR is grateful for these dollars in a tight fiscal year. However, additional funding would help to maintain the current level of Social Equity programming. DCR disagrees that this funding is required to assist Social Equity Applicants with the Accela system. Accela is merely a software platform used to input and store information.

As mentioned in Section 4.4, DCR's Social Equity Program contains an impressive suite of ongoing resources available exclusively to Social Equity Individual Applicants. Again, this information is easily accessible on DCR's website.<sup>7</sup> The Social Equity Program offers free one-on-one coaching with cannabis experts who can advise applicants on topics ranging from licensing to business planning, accounting, marketing and branding, and even plant science. Similarly, DCR has partnered with the Los Angeles County Bar Association to provide up to 40 hours of free and low-cost (\$35/hour) legal services for Social Equity Applicants. DCR's Learning Management System, available only to Social Equity Applicants, contains 165 hours of self-directed online learning on every topic relevant to a startup cannabis business taught by experts in the field. The Social Equity Program also hosts monthly webinars and other live events available only to Social Equity Applicants.

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<sup>7</sup>

**Finding 4.7: DCR's lack of personnel delays the SEIA application processing and compliance inspections.**

DCR disagrees with this finding. Again, as referenced in Finding 4.1, application processing is dictated by mandatory timelines in the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Additionally, compliance inspections are irrelevant to application processing as they occur after an application has already been granted. A lack of personnel did delay application processing in 2019. However, since 2021, DCR's vacancy rate has decreased by almost 40% and DCR is fully staffed or very nearly so.

**Finding 4.8: DCR's Accela application is not secure enough to protect the SEIA from predatory investors trolling the system for new SEP applicants with whom to partner. An applicant's full personal details and potential funding sources are publicly accessible through Accela.**

DCR disagrees with this finding. The Accela software platform is utilized by many government agencies, including the State Department of Cannabis Control. **Information and documents stored on it cannot be accessed by the public, and an applicant's personal details and records are not available to other users.** If an applicant shares their login name and password with business partners or investors, it may be possible for those individuals to log into the system as if they were the applicant and therefore view that applicant's information and records. Regardless, DCR does not collect information or records concerning an applicant's potential funding sources, so it is unclear how Accela may be used to obtain this information even through password sharing.

It appears that the Civil Grand Jury is unaware of the California Public Records Act (CPRA), a sunshine law that requires governments to make records and information available unless a specific exemption applies allowing the agency to withhold or redact the information. While DCR withholds personal identifying information, including addresses and contact information, in response to all public record requests, the fact that an individual has applied for a business license in any jurisdiction across the State is a matter of public record and is disclosed under the CPRA.

**Finding 4.9: The amount of fees, taxes and permits charged to an SEIA, compared to a comparable business like a cigar shop or liquor store operating within the City of Los Angeles is much higher. The DCR's standard operating procedures are unable to perform as the SEP was intended.**

DCR disagrees with this finding in part. DCR does not have "standard operating procedures" so it is unclear what this finding references. Measure M, passed by the voters of the City of Los Angeles, established a regulatory and tax system for the cultivation, manufacturing and sale of cannabis in the City of Los Angeles. With Measure M, the voters approved the existing tax rate,

which DCR agrees is considerably higher than either tobacco or alcohol. Unfortunately, DCR can control neither the tax rate nor the stigma associated with cannabis compared to alcohol or tobacco businesses. DCR welcomes an examination of the outsized tax burden placed on cannabis licensees and how tax relief would assist Social Equity Applicants, direct customers to licensed locations by reducing the cost differential between unlicensed and licensed locations, and encourage an increased number of businesses to enter the legal market.

**Finding 4.10: Due to system inefficiencies, Accela creates a bottleneck in the application process and requires money to continue to be paid by the SEP applicant to keep their application current.**

DCR disagrees with this finding. Accela does not create a bottleneck in the application process because it is simply a data storage system. As previously stated, applications are processed on timelines dictated by the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

**Finding 4.11: DCR requires application, and has the ability to, but does not refund any money if an SEP application is indefinitely stalled or ultimately abandoned because of the Department's internal review processes. The combination of the bottleneck from Accela, the mounting fees, and the slow process has been found to stall licenses to actually be granted.**

DCR strongly disagrees with this finding. Los Angeles Municipal Code section 104.03(b) prohibits DCR from refunding fees for a withdrawn or abandoned application. DCR does not have the authority to change this ordinance without City Council approval.

Furthermore, DCR is a full-cost recovery agency. It must charge fees to compensate for the staff time and effort required to review and process any application. Even if an applicant abandons an application, DCR staff time and resources were spent reviewing documents submitted by the applicant, communicating any deficiencies or next steps to the applicant, and processing the application record to the next stage. It is unclear how DCR's internal review process might lead to the abandonment of an application. DCR recognizes the very real challenges faced by Social Equity Applicants that threaten the Social Equity community's viability in the commercial cannabis space. These hurdles are created, or at least heightened by, the federal government's prohibition on cannabis, which limits access to traditional banking, payroll services and commercial loans, and may lead to an upcharge by landlords who assume the risk of housing a federally illegal activity. Unfortunately, DCR cannot find willing investors on behalf of applicants or procure leased space at a reasonable rate. Such activities fall well outside of DCR's purview as a regulatory agency.

In the future, we suggest the Civil Grand Jury engage in a meaningful inquiry about the most relevant systemic roadblocks Social Equity Applicants face and the best ways to reduce or eliminate those challenges.

# **RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS

## **2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS REGULATION AND THE SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAM**

### **SUMMARY**

"This report discusses the challenges of the City of Los Angeles' Department of Cannabis Regulations (DCR) and how they manage the Social Equity Program (SEP). The report identifies the findings from the Committee's interviews and their recommendations in assisting to make the SEP a viable and worthwhile program. The Committee found that new cannabis business owners in the City of Los Angeles faced regulatory obstacles and many people were eliminated from the permitting process."<sup>4</sup>

### **RESPONSE**

Upon careful review, it is confirmed that the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), which operates under the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), a County entity, is not designated as a responding agency under the Required Responses section for the Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR) and the Social Equity Program (SEP). Furthermore, the recommendations specified in this investigative report pertain exclusively to the Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR), a City of Los Angeles entity. As such, the County does not have responses for the recommendations in this investigative report.

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<sup>4</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, The Department of Cannabis Regulation and the Social Equity Program, pp. 71-72.



**ROOM TO BREATHE**  
An Analysis of Guaranteed Basic Income and LA County's  
Pilot Initiatives.



**2023 – 2024**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROOM TO BREATHE: AN ANALYSIS OF GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME AND LA COUNTY'S PILOT INITIATIVES

### SUMMARY

"This report analyzes the BREATHE (Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Basic Income Experiment) program's implementation, how funding sources can effect data, the long term effects (if any) of Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) models on impacted communities, and identifying room for potential improvements if and when running future models. The Committee also evaluated similar GBI initiatives administered elsewhere in the State of California as a reference to pros and cons of a program's parameters."<sup>5</sup>

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 5.1

BOS should collect data about how many participants used the income for job training, education, and childcare at the end of the program. Any future programs similar to BREATHE that the BOS chooses for their own policy reasons should be part of any success metrics by which to analyze such programs, if any.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The County has already established an agreement for the implementation of this recommendation. In partnership with the County, the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR) executed a randomized controlled trial to determine the impacts of the guaranteed income on the overall health and well-being of recipients across several domain areas. Research activities entail completing a survey every six months throughout the program duration, as well as six months after it concludes. A final report of all findings is anticipated to be completed one year after the final data collection point.

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 5.2

BOS should disclose the amount of money paid by quarter to date: a) to the University of Pennsylvania to run and administer the BREATHE program; b) the amounts paid to the treatment group (those paid, as opposed to the control group); and c) administrative costs incurred by the County.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The County has implemented this recommendation. The Los Angeles County American Rescue Plan (ARP) Dashboard (<https://arptracking.ceo.lacounty.gov/public>) provides data on spending, budget allocations, and project progress on a monthly basis. The Dashboard is a public facing tool that includes program and administrative expenditure data, as well as data related to metrics and outcomes, individuals served inclusive of demographic

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<sup>5</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Room to Breathe: An Analysis of Guaranteed Basic Income and LA County's Pilot Initiatives, p. 96.

and geographic data, and resource guides (<https://ceo.lacounty.gov/recovery/>) that provide informational material to help the public navigate the tool.

In partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR) and the Stanford Basic Income Lab, the County has committed to also contributing to a public facing data dashboard (<https://guaranteedincome.us/los-angeles-county>) that includes guaranteed income disbursement and expenditure data of the participants of Breathe: Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Income Program. The dashboard also includes participant demographic data, local economic data, and total disbursements of payments to date; the dashboard is updated monthly.

**LOS ANGELES RIVER**  
Let It Flow, Let It Flow, Let It Flow (NOT!)



**2023 – 2024**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

# **RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## **2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOS ANGELES RIVER: LET IT FLOW, LET IT FLOW, LET IT FLOW (NOT!)**

### **SUMMARY**

"This report studies the Los Angeles River (LA River), a complex system of systems in which people, places, and the environment coexist. The report is focused on determining how questions of ownership, jurisdiction, and politics work alongside or against policies that historically have ignored the LA River system's importance as a component to sustainable municipal infrastructure. The purpose of this report is to determine which agencies or organizations are responsible for the upkeep of the LA River."<sup>6</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.1**

In the interest of local health and the City's and County's reputation as a worldwide tourist destination, the Creek's soft bottom segment must be abated to prevent it from becoming a breeding ground for the primary vectors for transmission of West Nile or Dengue Fever. BOS coordinates clean up, and vector control against predicted dengue fever.

### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented to areas under the scope of the jurisdiction of the County's BOS and its Department of Public Works (DPW). DPW maintains a small portion of Compton Creek from the 91 Freeway to its confluence with the Los Angeles River. For this portion, DPW performs annual vegetation removal in the fall that includes re-establishment of the low flow down the center of the creek to assist with vector control. The majority and rest of Compton Creek upstream of the 91 Freeway is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Additionally, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (DPH) investigates and monitors the trends of mosquito-borne diseases among residents in the County. West Nile virus and Saint Louis Encephalitis virus are two mosquito-borne diseases endemic in the County. These diseases are spread by local Culex mosquitoes each year in the County. Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue and chikungunya are also identified among returning travelers who became infected abroad and are subsequently diagnosed in the County. These travel-associated diseases are not typically spread by local mosquitoes. However, sporadic local transmission can occur as the mosquito species capable of spreading these infections, primarily Aedes mosquitoes, are present in most areas of the County.

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<sup>6</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Los Angeles River: Let it Flow, Let it Flow, Let it Flow (Not!), pp. 113-114.

The independent Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District and Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement Districts serving the Compton Creek area provide additional information on local conditions and their impact on mosquito breeding. These independent specialized agencies are responsible for mosquito surveillance and control within their jurisdictions and can provide guidance on mitigating the disease risks associated with mosquitoes in that region moving forward.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.2**

City of Compton explore alternative money management such as trustee appointment for general fund disbursement and city service moneys or more seriously, file for Federal bankruptcy protection.

**RESPONSE**

Neither agree nor disagree. Compton Creek within the City of Compton is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. The County's Department of Public Works (DPW) does not have jurisdiction over this matter. Similarly, this recommendation does not involve or implicate health expertise from the County's Department of Public Health (DPH). As such, it is recommended that the Civil Grand Jury review the response from the City of Compton regarding this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.3**

Regarding the City of Compton, prioritize the clean-up of the water and sewer infrastructure and especially prioritize Compton Creek. Explore the possibility to assigning a Trustee to fulfil the project objectives of bringing the creek up to excellent standards.

**RESPONSE**

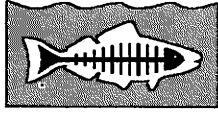
Neither agree nor disagree. Compton Creek within the City of Compton is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. The County's DPW does not have jurisdiction over this matter and recommends the Civil Grand Jury review the responses from the City of Compton regarding the recommendations presented in this investigative report, which may include more details about the City of Compton's funding sources and facilities.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 6.4**

City of Compton should explore how Heal the Bay (and any other interested environmental/other civic-oriented group) can restart volunteer cleanup activities.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented as this recommendation is outside of the scope of the jurisdiction of the County and its BOS. The City of Compton is an incorporated city and has its own authority to conduct the exploration of such an option. However, the County supports any such efforts to restart volunteer cleanup activities that the City of Compton wishes to pursue.



## Heal the Bay

Heal the Bay  
1444 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

August 20, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Response to Civil Grand Jury Report, “Los Angeles River: Let it Flow, Let it Flow, Let Flow (NOT!)”**

Dear Presiding Judge:

On behalf of Heal the Bay<sup>1</sup>, we thank you for your report on the L.A. River and the time and effort that went into it. We certainly appreciate the attention to and consideration of our local waterways.

The report specifically asked us to respond to Recommendation R6.4. We have also included comments about Finding 6.4 and an additional finding and recommendation.

### Responses to:

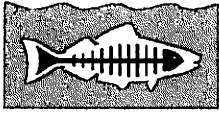
- **Finding 6.4** – Response of (2) - Heal the Bay partially disagrees with this finding. We did not discontinue cleanups because of “threats of violence” but more out of concern for safety of staff and volunteers as well as the safety of individuals experiencing homelessness. We also discontinued other work in Compton Creek (such as a habitat restoration project and installation of a trash screen) due to issues with obtaining permitting. Finally, we did not cease all activities – we hosted a BioBlitz and cleanup in 2017 near the Crystal Casino and Heal the Bay hosted a Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD) site at the same location in 2015, 2016, 2019, and will host one in 2024. There was also a CCD site at Compton Creek at East 109<sup>th</sup> St. and Stanford Ave. in 2018. Coastal Cleanup Day is hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September annually.
- **Recommendation R6.4** – Response of (2) – Heal the Bay is supportive of this recommendation to restart volunteer cleanup activities, however, the task appears to be designated to the City of Compton to lead on. Heal the Bay is open and excited to meet and provide any feedback to the City of Compton and we look forward to a collaborative relationship. Again, we plan to support a CCD site in 2024 (September 21) in Compton Creek near the Crystal Casino.

### Additional Responses:

- **Finding 6.1** – The statement that the soft bottom section is more “swamp than “navigable” waterway” is concerning to us. Being designated as a “navigable waterway” is important in affording the protections of the Clean Water Act to Compton Creek and, therefore, is critical to

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<sup>1</sup> Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization with nearly 40 years of experience dedicated to making the coastal waters and watersheds of Greater Los Angeles safe, healthy, and clean. We use science, education, community action, and advocacy to fulfill our mission.



## Heal the Bay

maintain. The classification of the Creek as a “swamp” is unclear; what is meant by a swamp and is this negative? We believe it may be referencing stagnant water and reduced flow but we also encourage scientific documentation of this. The report discusses stagnant water but does not actually document hydrologic or flow conditions, nor does it discuss presence of mosquitoes or actions currently being taken to abate mosquitoes in the Creek. We suggest that these be considered before any action is taken.

- **Recommendation R6.1** – We have some concerns about this recommendation as well. What does abatement of the soft bottom section mean? Heal the Bay supports prioritizing vegetation and habitat in waterways while also protecting public health. More naturalized waterways (in comparison to concretized waterways) support numerous ecosystem benefits, such as cooling, improving air and water quality, carbon sequestration, and providing habitat for wildlife. Before any action is taken to remove the little vegetation that exists in Compton Creek, we recommend that additional information be provided and considered on flow and hydrology as well as documentation of breeding mosquitoes and current vector control actions being taken and their efficacy.

If you have any additional questions or would like to discuss our responses, please reach out to Dr. Katherine Pease at [kpease@healthebay.org](mailto:kpease@healthebay.org) or 310-451-1500 x 141.

Sincerely,

Katherine Pease, PhD  
Director of Science & Policy

Tracy Quinn  
Chief Executive Officer & President



September 26, 2024

**Presiding Judge**

**Los Angeles County Superior Court**

Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center

Los Angeles County Grand Jury

210 West Temple Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 13-303

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Presiding Judge,

The City of Long Beach is in receipt of the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury report "Let It Flow, Let It Flow, Let It Flow (NOT!)." The City of Long Beach responds to the Grand Jury's recommendations as follows:

Recommendations

R6.1 In the interest of local health and the City's and County's reputation as a worldwide tourist destination, the Creek's soft bottom segment must be abated to prevent it from becoming a breeding ground for the primary vectors for transmission of West Nile or Dengue Fever. BOS coordinate clean up, and vector control against predicted dengue fever.

**Response:**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

It is the opinion of the City of Long Beach that the abatement of the soft bottom condition would result in additional adverse conditions to the ecology of the river and to public beaches in Long Beach.

The conclusion is based on the following:

- The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Vector Control Program does not have oversight of the Compton Creek area. Long Beach is serviced by three Vector Control Districts and the responsible vector control agency for the Compton Creek area is the Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District.
- The existing soft bottom condition tends to slow runoff and filter the water that eventually flows to City beaches. Converting to hard bottom conditions will eliminate natural infiltration and biofiltration processes (and associated benefits) that occur with soft bottom and vegetated conditions.
- 



- Abatement of the soft bottom condition is expected to result in the transport of sediments with higher metals content, bacteria, etc. reaching the Los Angeles River and city beaches downstream of Compton Creek due to the removal of infiltration and biofiltration processes associated with soft bottom channel conditions. Water bodies along the waterfront would likely be negatively affected, thus impacting the City's operations, attractions, recreational sites, and the upcoming Olympic games and events.
- Increased contaminants in our waterways can affect National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance and lead to beach closures. Non-compliance can result in financial penalties for the City.

We will be more than ready to answer any additional questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Eric Lopez  
Director  
Public Works



**THE EXAMINERS GET EXAMINED!**  
Rethinking Park Fees and Development



**2023 – 2024**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES; MEDICAL EXAMINER

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXAMINERS GET EXAMINED!

### SUMMARY

"This report reviews whether recent changes in infrastructure and in leadership have diminished or enhanced the basic operations and processes of the Department of Medical Examiner (DME), the Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA), and the Department of Health Services (DHS), and their collaborative work or coordinated support. This includes a review of whether past procedures, programs, and projects are being continued promptly, efficiently, and according to the expectations of the electorate. This also includes a review of whether sufficient and experienced personnel are hired, and adequate facilities with state-of-the-art instrumentation are provided to serve the estimated 75,000 deaths each year within the County."<sup>7</sup>

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.1

DME should eliminate the critical issues which are preventing achievement of full accreditation by the National Board of Medical Examiners, including:

- i. 90% of the autopsy reports completed in ninety days or less.
- ii. 90% of the autopsies and exams performed within seventy-two hours.
- iii. DME needs to promptly submit the latest DME's Annual Report for 2023.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The County's Department of Medical Examiner (DME) has made significant strides in regaining their NAME (National Board of Medical Examiners) accreditation by implementing efficient workflows, which have been coupled with substantial gains in the budget for staffing in various areas. DME is targeting to regain accreditation in 2025.

DME was allocated an epidemiologist position in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 and this individual will be the author of the annual reports and will help DME catch up to 2023. DME is currently engaged in interviews for the position, with a target start date for the selected individual in late Summer or early Fall of 2024.

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.2

DHS should provide additional staffing for ODA attendants, aids, and crematory operators, and transport vans [preferably electric]; Hire more transport drivers so that three drivers are on duty twenty-four seven to account for the fact that a death occurs at any time.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The County's Department of Health Services (DHS) has submitted a budget request for additional Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA) staffing in the FY 2024-25

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<sup>7</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, The Examiners Get Examined!, p. 153.

Supplemental Budget Resolution (SBR) to address immediate needs, and full staffing will be assessed at later budget phases, as needed. This budget request includes requests for Services & Supplies (S&S) funding for the ongoing and annual costs related to the Decedent Management System. The request also seeks funding for the replacement of outdated refrigerated storage containers for decedents and additional morgue vehicles.

Additionally, please note that since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (in 2020), DHS ceased operating a crematory. DHS has outsourced cremations and no longer requires crematory operators.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.3**

The BOS and Chief Executive Officer should create capital outlay plans for replacing or relocating the entire DME complex containing the Medical Examiner's current facility to a larger facility with state-of-the-art equipment and disruptive toxicological labs.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation requires further analysis. A master plan should be conducted to identify a comprehensive facilities capital plan for the DME, including the central Los Angeles location, as well as in the North, Valley, and South portions of the County. The timeframe to initiate a master plan is Quarter 1 of 2025 and will require an allocation of funding.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.4**

Continue to develop additional facilities for Medical Examiner investigators in north, valley, and south portions of the County to improve efficiency, prompt response, and to demonstrate coverage of the DME fieldwork.

#### **RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The benchmarks assessing this need and the expected improvements for the specific expansion of satellite offices are not clear. The named Los Angeles regions are ambiguous and need further clarification. However, opportunities to improve service delivery and geographic coverage will continue to be evaluated, as a component of ongoing operational management.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.5**

Regardless of how or why the existing facilities are deteriorating, the concern of seismic retrofit safety has to be addressed promptly, both on a global and granular level for the good of the employees and the general public.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. Funding for seismic retrofit of the existing Downtown DME facility has been approved. The County's Department of Public Works (DPW) is working on pre-design activities to address seismic deficiencies for DME's 1102/1104-A Buildings. A preliminary target for BOS approval of the seismic repairs is Quarter 1 of 2025. However, considerations for a new DME facility are also underway, at the same time as this proposed project.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.6**

DHS should ensure that future ceremonies for unclaimed dead are widely publicized prior to the event and ensure as many private citizens are allowed to attend as possible.

#### **RESPONSE**

Agree. The County's Department of Health Services (DHS) has implemented this recommendation. Before 2020, the annual Ceremony of the Unclaimed Dead typically hosted about 200-300 people who attended in person. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all large gatherings were canceled, resulting in DHS adapting the ceremony to a live-stream format. From 2020 to 2022, over 15,000 online viewers participated virtually. The virtual option not only addressed pandemic limitations, but also expanded the ceremony's reach to a larger and more diverse audience.

In 2023, DHS switched to hybrid events, with both virtual attendance and in-person attendance (limited to 75 individuals). DHS extensively publicized the ceremonies through various channels, including flyers, social media, and media advisories. DHS live-streamed the annual Ceremony of the Unclaimed Dead, allowing the broader community to participate remotely. DHS also shared flyers across all social media platforms and distributed them to over 40 community organizations and partners. The hybrid model adopted in 2023 allowed for a larger audience, with both virtual participation and a limited number of in-person attendees.

In 2024, DHS plans to expand in-person attendance and continue offering a virtual option, ensuring that future ceremonies are widely publicized and accessible for the community.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.7**

The fee the Public Administrator charges for claiming the cremated remains of a decedent should be reviewed, with the intent to increase them for the services & convenience rendered to make them more representative of actual costs.

#### **RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The Public Administrator (PA) passes on the cremation fee to the estate and pays if there are enough funds in the estate to cover all debts. The PA does not charge a fee for claiming the cremated remains of a deceased person. If the deceased is found to have no assets, the PA does not charge to investigate and search for the next of kin.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.8**

The ODA should explore the possibility of using the same VertiQ case management system that is already in use by the DME.

#### **RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. While using an existing system may be efficient, it may not meet the unique needs of the Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA) or align with their workflow. Instead of assuming the feasibility of adopting VertiQ, a comprehensive needs assessment could be conducted, evaluating multiple options to determine the best fit for the ODA. This approach will ensure that ODA's specific requirements will inform any decision made, with aims to enhance ODA's service delivery effectively.

The assessment will be completed by DHS and should not exceed six months from the Civil Grand Jury Report's publication date.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.9**

When the ME relocates to new quarters, the building should be designed with the purpose of housing the activities of the ODA, with consideration being given to moving those functions from the hospital into the Department of the DME.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation involves two separate considerations. First, any decision about co-locating the activities of the Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA) would have to be made once it is determined whether the DME will be operating in their existing facility (after a seismic retrofit) or in a new facility. That portion of the recommendation cannot be considered until the decision is made about the location of the DME operations.

Second, additional analysis is needed to determine the optimal location for where the ODA functions should reside and will not be implemented at this time. The role of DME (as defined in California Government Code Section 27491) is to investigate sudden unexpected and violent deaths to provide information to prevent premature deaths. The specific cases of which decedents fall under the jurisdiction of DME have been reviewed in previous studies ([https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1007230\\_ReporttoCEO-FINAL11-17-16.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1007230_ReporttoCEO-FINAL11-17-16.pdf)). The recommendation as written would make the DME involved with decedents that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner. Taking on this additional function would dilute that core function of the DME at a time when DME has been making efforts to regain its accreditation. However, it is also understood that DHS may not be the right fit for the ODA functions either, since the management of indigent and unclaimed deceased individuals, as well as cemetery functions, are rarely performed by a Medical Center.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.10**

The DME is housed (since 1972) in an antiquated building complex constructed in the 1920's that doesn't meet today's minimal earthquake safety standards. Must relocate to a larger facility.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. While the Old Administration Building, on the DME's Downtown Los Angeles complex was seismically retrofitted in 2002, the County's Department of Public Works (DPW) is working on pre-design activities to address seismic deficiencies for DME's 1102/1104-A Buildings, which were built in 1972. A preliminary target for Board approval of the seismic repairs is Quarter 1 of 2025.

However, there is also partial disagreement with this recommendation, since compliance with seismic standards should not dictate a requirement to move into a larger facility. Funding is being acquired for conducting a feasibility study that will create the foundation for what the new DME facility will be composed of, be it at the seismically retrofitted version of the current site or a new facility.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.11**

DME should ensure adequate qualified staffing in the Medical Examiners' three satellite offices to relieve the workload off of HQ. This may facilitate support of the needs a major disaster or a catastrophic earthquake bring.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The satellite offices of the DME were established due to the large geographical coverage of DME's jurisdiction. The existence of these satellite offices acknowledges the need, but there is a lack of clarity about what this recommendation means by "adequate qualified staffing" and makes unstated assumptions about what would meet this standard. Ongoing staffing needs will continue to be analyzed as part of the County's annual budgeting process, taking these recommendations into consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 7.12**

ODA and DME jointly consult with the publisher of the VertiQ case management software to see if the two agencies could share various common forms and the practical simplicity of output. In addition, the publisher would "detect" the 'path' of processing decedents to see similarities in tracking.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented since standardizing workflows between the two agencies is not applicable because the core functions differ significantly. Sharing forms and processes could introduce complexities in data management and operational alignment, which may not align with current operational priorities and resource allocation. Focus will instead be placed on optimizing internal processes and leveraging existing resources for each agency.



**QUIMBY PARK FEES**  
Rethinking Park Fees and Development



**2023 – 2024**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION; DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL  
PLANNING

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QUIMBY PARK FEES: RETHINKING PARK FEES AND DEVELOPMENT

### SUMMARY

"This report investigates why the City of Los Angeles (City) and the County collect fees for parks from developers and yet continue to be Park Poor (PP) (a term that refers to areas or neighborhoods that have limited access to parks and green spaces). The report also looks at whether the Quimby Act (QA) has been successfully implemented in creating more parks or just more development."<sup>8</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.1**

The City and the County should review and consider raising Quimby fees to purchase more park land.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation is currently being implemented. The County, through its Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), is exploring the feasibility of increasing Quimby fees to be in line with current land values from CoStar (based on recent transaction data).

The Quimby Act establishes a standard of dedicating three (3) acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for subdivisions. Quimby fees may be used to acquire land for local park purposes, improve local parkland (including existing local parks), or both acquire and develop local parkland. However, Quimby funds cannot be used for ongoing costs for staff, operations, utilities, and grounds maintenance for the County. Quimby fees that reflect existing land values would generate additional funding to better reflect current costs for park development and parkland acquisition.

Additionally, the County's Department of Regional Planning (DRP) chairs the County Subdivision Committee ("Subdivision Committee"), consisting of five County departments who review all proposed subdivision projects in the unincorporated areas of the County. DPR is also a member of the Subdivision Committee and is responsible for determining the Quimby fees for a proposed subdivision project, which will also support the efforts that implement this recommendation.

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<sup>8</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Quimby Park Fees: Rethinking Park Fees and Development, pp. 177-181.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.2**

LAC and LA City Park Departments should consider issuing bonds and measures for park acquisition and development like the Land and Water Conservation Funds, which was established in 1964 at no cost to the taxpayer, the Outdoors Equity Program, Los Angeles County Measure A, and the California Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure, to help areas that are park-poor.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is extremely diligent in scouring all funding opportunities from federal, state, and local grant funding programs and has successfully secured millions of dollars from federal, state, and local grant programs to support new park and park amenities development, especially in the highest need communities.

Historically, the County voters approved two local parks funding measures in 1992 and 1996, both called Proposition A. Measure A, placed on the ballot in November 2016 was approved by over 75% of voters and was the first equity-based finance measure in the United States. Measure A funds are derived from an annual special tax on property within the County (<https://rposd.lacounty.gov/assessment-calculators/>). Measure A funds are distributed into seven (7) funding categories and Measure A generates about \$95 million of revenue annually, with dedicated funding for high and very high-need areas, based on the adopted 2016 Parks Needs Assessment (PNA).

Revenue collected from both Proposition A and Measure A provide for:

- improvements to existing park, recreation, and beach facilities;
- acquisition of additional park land and open space;
- construction and development of parks;
- acquisition and development of trails;
- restoration of rivers and streams; and
- graffiti prevention, tree planting, and other park and recreation enhancements.

Additionally, the State of California has various bond-funded grant programs (i.e., Proposition 40, Proposition 84, and Proposition 68) that provide funding for park and open space development, park and open space acquisition, and park enhancements.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.3**

The City of Los Angeles should consider using the funds available from Quimby and other fees to purchase park space.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented, as this recommendation applies to the City of Los Angeles, which, as an incorporated city, and is outside of the scope of the jurisdiction of the County of Los Angeles and its Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Office, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Regional Planning.

#### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.4**

LAC and LA development should not be approved in areas that are park poor until enough land is acquired in those areas before more development is approved.

#### **RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not legal or reasonable. Efforts are already underway to improve park access in such areas of the County. Not approving any new housing development in park poor areas until enough park land is acquired will further exacerbate the availability of affordable housing in these impacted areas.

There are State laws in effect that prevent the County from reducing the amount of new housing that could potentially be developed in the unincorporated areas of the County or delaying new housing via administrative or other regulatory barriers. If the County is found to violate these State laws, the County could be assessed financial penalties on a per housing unit basis. The County is already responding to critical housing needs through programs and policies to ensure decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for current and future residents, including those with special needs.

However, the County's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) works closely with the County's Department of Regional Planning (DRP) to:

- review development proposals and ensure various area plans provide equitable access to open space, parks, and recreation;
- preserve natural, historical, and cultural resources;
- provide recreational opportunities and education on indigenous history;
- provide enhanced parks and recreational programs; and
- improve, expand, and connect trails.

In addition, DPR works with DRP to ensure that housing and mixed-use development projects are in compliance with adopted trail plans.

The Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan provides the policy and planning framework for how and where the unincorporated County will grow through the year 2035. This General Plan contains an Open Space Element, developed by DPR, and also incorporates seven community park plans, developed by DPR, and informed by an extensive community-based planning process.

Additionally, any Quimby fees associated with housing development cannot be collected if new housing development is not approved (as discussed in the Seventh Annual Affordable Housing Outcomes Report:

[https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1147895\\_09-21-23-BM-SeventhAnnualAffordableHousingProgramsReport\\_Final.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1147895_09-21-23-BM-SeventhAnnualAffordableHousingProgramsReport_Final.pdf)), which would further hinder park development.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.5**

**LAC and LA City should complete a study and target areas that are park-poor to evaluate the reason why these areas are park poor and develop remedies.**

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented in the future. The County, through DPR, has completed studies of target areas that are park poor to evaluate the reasons why they are park poor and develop remedies.

In 2016, DPR completed the Countywide Parks Needs Assessment (PNA), which quantifies the need for parks and recreation resources in the County and estimates the potential cost of meeting that need. Unprecedented in scope and scale, the PNA was based on data that included park acreage, population density, proximity to parks, and condition of parks. These criteria established high and very high need park need areas, identifying for the first time where high and very high need park poor areas exist, based on data. The PNA serves as a guiding document for planning, resource allocation, and development of new parks and park amenities to address the dearth of parks in high need communities.

In 2022, the Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) expanded upon the work of the 2016 Parks Needs Assessment to regional and rural opportunities, as well as the conservation and restoration of degraded lands. Both the PNA and PNA+ utilized data and community-based engagement processes to identify areas that are park poor and opportunities to restore degraded lands for future parklands and open space habitat areas. It is anticipated that DPR will complete an updated PNA within the next five years.

Additionally, the County's DRP oversaw the development of the 2015 County General Plan, which provides the policy framework and long-range vision for how and where the County's unincorporated areas will grow. The County General Plan includes a Parks and Recreation Element, contributed by DPR, that provides policy direction for the maintenance and expansion of the County's parks and recreation system.

As part of its implementation of the General Plan, DRP is currently preparing several Area Plans that focus on land use and other policy issues within various unincorporated communities of the County. These Area Plans include open space and parkland policies recommended by DPR.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.6**

LAC and LA City should consider issuing bonds in addition to charging developers Quimby fees to purchase land for park development.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented and will continue to be implemented in the future. The Regional Park and Open Space District, established with the passage of Proposition A by voters in the County, is funded through a tax assessment to support the development of parks, open space, and trails. In 2018, Measure A was passed by voters in the County, and it generates \$90 million annually to support parkland acquisition and development.

Local funding measures, like Measure A, are leveraged by State funding programs (funded by bonds) and federal funding programs. The State of California has put forth several bond measures such as Propositions 40, 84, and 68. These grant programs supported by bonds and tax assessments provide critical funding to support park acquisition and development.

While bonds are not grants and must be paid back with interest over time, bonds can provide funding for land acquisition and capital improvement projects. Bonds and Quimby funds may be used for land acquisition, as well as developing new or rehabilitating existing recreational facilities, but bonds and Quimby funds cannot be used for ongoing costs for staff, operations, utilities, and grounds maintenance for the County of Los Angeles.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.7**

LAC and LA City should realign land use zoning to increase the available land for parks.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not necessary for increasing the available land for parks. The availability of land for parks is not constrained by zoning because parks are already allowed and could potentially be established in all zones within the unincorporated areas of the County. No land use realignment would be required to increase available land for parks.

The County, through DPR uses the standard for the provision of parkland of four (4) acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents of the population in the unincorporated areas of the County and six (6) acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the total population of the County. DPR works closely with the County's DPR to ensure that adopted park, open space, and trails plans are incorporated in development proposals/projects so that zoning is in alignment with these adopted plans.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 8.8**

LAC and LA City should consider exploring options to make more timely use of available Quimby funds.

RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation is already being implemented, on an ongoing basis. Park projects are identified through extensive community engagement processes, and the successful completion of park projects can only be done through the leveraging of various funding sources, including Quimby funds. Quimby funds are not typically enough to be the sole funding source for park projects.

The County, through DPR, will often use Quimby dollars as a required match for other competitive funding grant programs and will align with the grant program timelines, in recognition that there are often insufficient Quimby funds for priority park projects. DPR can secure the necessary funding to complete a new park or new park amenity project by leveraging Quimby funds with other State and local funding sources.

In terms of timing, Quimby fees for proposed subdivision projects are calculated and assessed prior to the public hearing regarding the subdivision's tentative map. However, Quimby fees for proposed subdivision projects are collected prior to the subdivision's final map recordation, which may occur many years later. During the time between the public hearing and final map recordation, the costs for acquiring park land can increase significantly.

More timely use of available Quimby funds could help to minimize the impact of rising costs on land acquisition and on developing new or rehabilitating existing recreational facilities that are eligible for Quimby funding. Quimby funds may be used for land acquisition as well as developing new or rehabilitating existing recreational facilities, but cannot be used for ongoing costs for staff, operations, utilities, and grounds maintenance for the County. In light of these constraints, options for timely use of available Quimby funds will continue to be explored, as they come up.

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

CALIFORNIA

**Matthew W. Szabo**  
CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



**KAREN BASS**  
MAYOR

ASSISTANT  
CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

**PATRICIA J. HUBER**  
**MALAIKA BILLUPS**  
**BEN CEJA**  
**YOLANDA CHAVEZ**  
**EDWIN GIPSON II**

October 30, 2024

0220-06259-0002

**Samantha P. Jessner**  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: QUIMBY PARK FEES**  
**Report by the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury**

Dear Honorable Judge Jessner:

The City of Los Angeles acknowledges receipt of the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report regarding Quimby Park Fees, its findings, and recommendations. The City respectfully submits Attachment A as the City's formal response. The City's responses were prepared with assistance of knowledgeable staff working in the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP).

Sincerely,

**Matthew W. Szabo**  
City Administrative Officer

**MWS:PJH:AT:11250048**

**Attachment A: 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Recommendations for Quimby Park Fees**



## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

**Subject:** 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Recommendations for Quimby Park Fees

**Recommendation 8.1** - The City and County of Los Angeles should review and consider raising Quimby fees to purchase more park land.

**Response:** Pursuing an increase in Quimby fees is a City policy question. In order to significantly raise the Quimby and Park Fees rates, the City would need to conduct a new fee study to justify the adoption of a higher rate with the primary goal of acquiring new parkland.

**Recommendation 8.2** - LAC and LA City Park Departments should consider issuing bonds and measures for park acquisition and development like the Land and Water Conservation Funds, which was established in 1964 at no cost to the taxpayer, the Outdoors Equity Program, Los Angeles County Measure A, and the California Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure, to help areas that are park-poor.

**Response:** The City will likely consider in the future new bond and funding measure options benefitting park and recreational facilities with the sunset of the Proposition K program in 2026. Currently, the City receives \$21 million annually in Measure A funding for park acquisition and development.

**Recommendation 8.3** - The City of Los Angeles should consider using the funds available from Quimby and other fees to purchase park space.

**Response:** This recommendation has already been implemented. RAP has previously used, and continues to use, Quimby and Park Fees for parkland acquisition. Requests for Quimby and Park Fees funding for capital improvement projects or land acquisitions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis with several factors taken into consideration. Ultimately, the authority to commit Quimby and Park Fees to a project lies solely with the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners (RAP Board).

**Recommendation 8.4** - LAC and LA development should not be approved in areas that are park-poor until enough land is acquired in those areas before more development is approved.

**Response:** Pursuing this concept is a question for City policy makers. The RAP Board makes recommendations regarding the dedication of land to be used for park purposes in connection with a residential development in park-poor areas. Final decisions and approvals regarding the City's development projects are under the purview of the Department of City Planning, often with approvals needed by City Planning Commission, City Council, and the Mayor.

**Recommendation 8.5** - LAC and LA City should complete a study and target areas that are park-poor to evaluate the reason why these areas are park-poor and develop remedies.

**Response:** The implementation of this recommendation is in progress. The City released a Request for Proposals on August 2, 2024 to hire a consultant to conduct a Citywide Park Needs Assessment in 2025. The goals of the Park Needs Assessment are as follows: (1) evaluate the current park needs of the City and its residents, (2) evaluate past park investment, growth and development over the last 25 years (2000-2025), (3) model future City population growth and future park needs, and (4) develop a Decision-Making Framework to objectively inform how RAP should be prioritizing overall park investment, including future capital improvement projects.

**Recommendation 8.6** - LAC and LA City should consider issuing bonds in addition to charging developers Quimby fees to purchase land for park development.

**Response:** The City will likely consider in the future new bond and funding measure options benefitting park and recreational facilities with the sunset of the Proposition K program in 2026. Currently, the City receives \$21 million annually in Measure A funding for park acquisition and development.

**Recommendation 8.7-** LAC and LA City should realign land use zoning to increase the available land for parks.

**Response:** Decisions regarding changes in the City's zoning requirements are under the purview of the Department of City Planning, with most changes requiring approval by City policy makers.

**Recommendation 8.8** - LAC and LA City should consider exploring options to make more timely use of available Quimby funds.

**Response:** This recommendation has already been implemented. Per Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.33.1.3.a, any Quimby and Park Fees collected shall be committed to a project within 5 years of the receipt of payment. RAP ensures that all Quimby and Park Fees are committed to a project by the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners within this specified timeframe.

**WELLBEING CENTERS**  
In Los Angeles County Schools



**2023 – 2024**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH; LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF  
EDUCATION

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WELLBEING CENTERS: IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOLS

### SUMMARY

"This report focuses on Wellbeing Centers (WBC) located in high schools in LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District) and LACOE (Los Angeles County Office of Education) school districts. The purpose of the Committee's investigation is to determine the initial success of the WBC program and examine who has been accountable for the WBC's budget (during both the initial rollout and ongoing operations). The purpose is also to report on the transparency and appropriateness of the information gathered and review inter-agency monitoring and cooperation."<sup>9</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.1**

The DPH should evaluate the current system for capturing visits to the WBCs (REDcap) to see if the system is appropriate and can be improved, or if it needs to be replaced.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The REDcap system for data collection was developed and piloted in the Fall Semester of 2023. The system is now fully launched and undergoes continuous quality improvement and system enhancements to optimize its utility in program quality assurance and quality improvement efforts.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.2**

Relevant Data Analysis metrics need to be developed by the Program Director.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The Program Director has set goals and metrics for the program, is actively looking at data on whether those goals are being met and will continue to refine and adjust the goals based on programmatic progress.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.3**

Measures of success or outcomes need to be developed in cooperation with stakeholders, especially with administration of the high schools with WBCs. These measures must be collected and reported from the beginning of the program.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The Wellbeing Centers (WBC) data was shared with school and district administrators in the

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<sup>9</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Wellbeing Centers: In Los Angeles County Schools, p. 201.

Winter/Spring Semester of 2024. During those meetings, district and school stakeholders were provided local school/district level data, and collaboratively worked on solutions for program improvements.

During the initial program implementation phase, WBCs focused on intermediate outcomes, from program launch through the establishment of memorandums of understanding with school districts. This included developing close partnerships with district and school administrators to identify locations and set up centers, hiring and training staff, and developing program policies, protocols, and curriculum.

As a result of school closures due to COVID-19, much of the effort was halted. During this past 2023-24 school year, data metrics and data collection systems have been developed to support both qualitative and quantitative data analysis, as well as quality assurance and improvement initiatives. By Spring 2024, initial data was available to begin sharing with stakeholders.

Data and reports will continue to be enhanced to allow for strategic decision making with stakeholders to optimize program outcomes. Additionally, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) will continue to make recommendations to schools to work in collaboration with educational interest holders in support of these efforts.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.4**

The Program Director should develop standards describing accountability for the practices in use for the WBCs in high schools.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The Program Director has worked closely with staff to create protocols to guide staff across the different sites. These protocols set a standard for staff to follow and create shared expectations for accountability. The program will continue to improve current protocols and implement new protocols to improve service to students at the Wellbeing Centers (WBCs).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.5**

The Program, Director should make a survey of programs used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Wellbeing Centers.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. In the Winter/Spring semester of 2024, the Program Director conducted a survey of principals and liaisons at school sites where the Wellbeing Centers (WBCs) are located to elicit their feedback. This survey will be conducted annually. Additionally, surveys were conducted to gather feedback from students who come to the WBCs, and student leaders who participate in the Peer Health Advocates program. These surveys will also be conducted annually. The program is using the survey data to drive improvement efforts across the program.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.6**

The Department of Public Health needs to develop a process to consistently distribute Wellbeing Center Reports, and ensure information is shared across all schools that host a Wellbeing Center.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been partially implemented and will continue to be implemented in the future. During the Winter/Spring Semester of 2024, the Program Director began the process of distributing school data reports to each principal and school liaison and had meetings with individual school administrators to discuss the data and how to improve the WBCs at the schools. The Program Director will continue this practice and continue to explore additional methods to share WBC reports with school and district administrators.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.7**

Other Healthcare providers should be considered to provide student related services for any future Wellbeing Centers.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The jurisdiction for this recommendation falls with the School Districts. Planned Parenthood Los Angeles is providing free, no-cost clinical and behavioral health services for students at all Wellbeing Center (WBC) sites within their jurisdiction through memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with School Districts, rather than with the County and its Department of Public Health (DPH). Schools/Districts can engage other healthcare providers that are interested in providing free and confidential services for students at WBCs and the County, through its public health department, DPH, can coordinate and collaborate with these providers.



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## Los Angeles County Office of Education

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Serving Students • Supporting Communities • Leading Educators

July 23, 2024

Debra Duardo  
Superintendent

Los Angeles County  
Board of Education

Stanley L. Johnson, Jr.  
President

Monte E. Perez  
Vice President

Yvonne Chan

James Cross

Andrea Foggy-Paxton

Betty Forrester

Theresa Montaño

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: **Wellbeing Centers**  
2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

To the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), attached is the response to the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report. The report requires responses from LACOE to Recommendations 10.3, 10.4, 10.6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Duardo".

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.  
Superintendent

DD:AG/ma

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.3**

Measures of success or outcomes need to be developed in cooperation with stakeholders, especially with administration of the high schools with WBCs. These measures must be collected and reported from the beginning of the program.

**RESPONSE**

To the extent this recommendation is specific to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the high schools with WBCs within the County, LACOE defers to their response. LACOE will continue to make recommendations to schools to work in collaboration with educational interest holders.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.4**

The Program Director should develop standards describing accountability for the practices in use for the WBCs in high schools.

**RESPONSE**

To the extent this recommendation is specific to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the high schools with WBCs within the County, LACOE defers to their response.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 10.6**

RI0.6 The Department of Public Health needs to develop a process to consistently distribute Wellbeing Center Reports, and ensure information is shared across all schools that host a Wellbeing Center.

**RESPONSE**

To the extent this recommendation is specific to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the high schools with WBCs within the County, LACOE defers to their response.





**LAUSD**  
UNIFIED

**Alberto M. Carvalho**  
Superintendent

**Members of the Board**

Jackie Goldberg, President

Scott M. Schmerelson, Vice President

Dr. George J. McKenna III

Dr. Rocío Rivas

Nick Melvoin

Kelly Gonez

Tanya Ortiz Franklin

**Los Angeles Unified School District**  
Administrative Offices

333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
Phone (213) 241-7000

August 27, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shorridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteen Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: RESPONSE TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON WELLBEING CENTERS**

Dear Presiding Judge,

The Los Angeles Unified School District (Los Angeles Unified, LAUSD, or District) appreciates the County of Los Angeles' Civil Grand Jury's (Civil Grand Jury) examination of student wellbeing centers (WBC) to determine the initial success of the program, examine budget accountability, review inter-agency monitoring and cooperation, and report on the transparency and appropriateness of the information gathered.

As required by California Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05, we are submitting our required responses to the findings and recommendations from the June 28, 2024, report on Wellbeing Centers in Los Angeles County Schools.

**10.3: Development of Measures of Success or Outcomes**

- ***Finding: Principals and counselors involved with the WBCs need additional services for students.***
- ***Recommendation: Measures of success or outcomes need to be developed in cooperation with stakeholders, especially with administration of the high schools with WBCs. These measures must be collected and reported from the beginning of the program.***

While Los Angeles Unified generally agrees with the finding and recommendation, it requires further analysis. The Program Director will meet with LAUSD to discuss the current data provided to school principals. Additional data items may be recommended, consistent with applicable confidentiality laws, to help identify factors attributing to utilization differences between locations, and to help ensure measures of success align with LAUSD's Strategic Plan, particularly as it relates to the priorities and strategies to improve attendance and graduation and to support student needs. The timeframe for discussing the recommendations with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and providing feedback for their implementation is expected to be approximately six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.

#### **10.4: Standards Describing Accountability**

- ***Finding: Other providers that PPLA were not considered to provide student related services in WBCs.***
- ***Recommendation: The Program Director should develop standards describing accountability for the practices in use for the WBCs in high schools.***

While Los Angeles Unified generally agrees with the finding and recommendation, it requires further analysis. A meeting with LAUSD and the Program Director will be held to discuss and review the standards describing accountability for the practices in the WBCs. These standards should align with the measures of success, or outcomes discussed in recommendation 10.3. The timeframe for discussing the proposed standards with the DPH and providing feedback for their implementation is expected to be approximately six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.

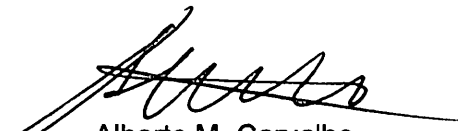
#### **10.6: Comprehensive Metrics and Wellbeing Center Reports**

- ***Finding: Not enough comprehensive metrics based on data collected in the WBCs to make qualitative analysis of the WBC's progress.***
- ***Recommendation: The Department of Public Health needs to develop a process to consistently distribute Wellbeing Center Reports, and ensure information is shared across all schools that host a Wellbeing Center.***

Los Angeles Unified disagrees partially with the finding and recommendation. The Program Director and LAUSD staff visited five WBCs in the fall of the 2023-24 school year together and met with each school principal. Information collected from these visits resulted in two common themes: (1) the WBCs should be open five days a week, and (2) aggregated usage data should be shared with the schools on a frequent basis. The Program Director shared these reports with the schools toward the end of the 2023-24 school year. The Program Director and LAUSD will continue to meet and refine these reports.

In conclusion, Los Angeles Unified is committed to collaborating with the Program Director, the Department of Public Health, and all relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation and ongoing improvement of Wellbeing Centers serving our schools. We recognize the importance of accountability, transparency, and continuous review in supporting the health and well-being of our students. We look forward to continuing our efforts to meet these goals in alignment with the recommendations provided by the Civil Grand Jury. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Smita Malhotra, Chief Medical Director at 213-241-6326 or via email at [smita.malhotra@lausd.net](mailto:smita.malhotra@lausd.net)

Sincerely,



Alberto M. Carvalho  
Superintendent of Schools



APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF  
EDUCATION

# MONTEBELLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Board of Education

123 South Montebello Boulevard, Montebello, California 90640  
(323) 887-7900, ext. 2206 • Fax: (323) 887-5890

September 4, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Montebello Unified School District’s Response to the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report: *Wellbeing Centers in Los Angeles County Schools*

Dear Presiding Judge,

The Montebello Unified School District (“MUSD”) has received the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report: *Wellbeing Centers in Los Angeles County Schools*, dated June 28, 2024 (“Report”). The Los Angeles County Grand Jury has requested that MUSD provide a response to Report Recommendations 10.3, 10.4, and 10.6 (“Recommendations”). Attached, please find MUSD’s response. Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05(b), the following constitutes the response of MUSD and its Governing Board to the Recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of MUSD.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the wellbeing of students in our local public schools, including MUSD.

Sincerely,

Liliana Magaña, President  
Board of Education  
Montebello Unified School District

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
LILIANA MAGAÑA, President  
ELIZABETH CABRERA, Vice President  
CARLOS CERDAN, Clerk  
MARISOL MADRIGAL URIBE, Member  
JENNIFER GUTIERREZ, Member

**ADMINISTRATION**  
MARK SKVARNA, Superintendent of Schools  
KAIVAN YUEN, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent – Educational Services  
ZEPURE HACOPIAN, Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources  
VACANT, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services  
DONALD G. ELLINGSON, Chief Financial Officer– Business Services

**MEMORANDUM**

August 28, 2024



APPROVED BY THE  
**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

**ACTION**

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Mark Skvarna, Superintendent of Schools

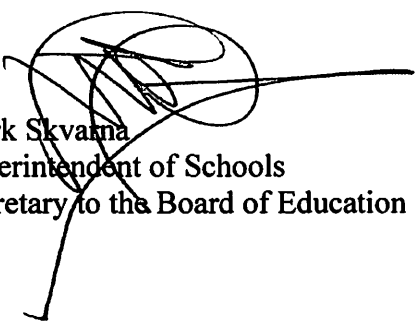
**SUBJECT:** **Approval of Montebello Unified School District's Response to the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report: *Wellbeing Centers in Los Angeles County Schools***

On June 28, 2024, the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report: *Wellbeing Centers in Los Angeles County Schools* ("Report") became a public record, which was released to various public agencies, including Montebello Unified School District ("District"). The Los Angeles County Grand Jury has requested a response from MUSD to its Recommendations R10.3, R10.4, and R10.6 ("Recommendations"). Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05(b), the District must provide a response to the Recommendations within ninety (90) days from the release of the Report. The District's response to the Recommendations typically must state one of the following actions by the District: whether it has already implemented the recommendation; will not implement the recommendation; will implement the recommendation and the date of expected implementation; or the District requires additional time to analyze the recommendation. In this case, each of the Grand Jury's Recommendations are outside the control of the District. For this reason, the response is limited to a statement of agreement with the Recommendation, with an assurance of working with the appropriate entity to implement it in the future.

I recommend adoption of the following motion:

That the Board of Education approve the Response to Recommendations R10.3, R10.4, and R10.6 of the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report: *Wellbeing Centers in Los Angeles County Schools*, as documented in the attached correspondence addressed to the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, which is incorporated herein by this reference, and authorize and direct submission of the Response to the Presiding Judge in order to be in compliance.

Approved for presentation to the  
Board of Education: September 4, 2024

  
Mark Skvarna  
Superintendent of Schools  
Secretary to the Board of Education



**Recommendation R10.3** – Measures of success or outcomes need to be developed in cooperation with stakeholders, especially with administration of the high schools with [wellbeing centers (“WBCs”)]. These measures must be collected and reported from the beginning of the program.

**MUSD Response:** Although MUSD agrees with this recommendation, it has not been implemented as MUSD lacks the authority to implement it and the control for a related timeline of implementation. As a stakeholder, MUSD will work with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (“DPH”) to develop measurements of success or outcomes. If DPH agrees to implementation of Recommendation R10.3, MUSD will further contact the Program Director to coordinate a meeting to discuss the recommendation and is hopeful the recommendation will be implemented by January 2025.

**Recommendation R10.4** – The Program Director should develop standards describing accountability for the practices in use for the WBCs in high schools.

**MUSD Response:** While MUSD agrees the development of standards describing accountability for the practices in use for the WBCs in high schools would be beneficial by setting objective guidelines to make improvements to the program, the recommendation has not been implemented as MUSD has no supervisory or compulsory control over the Program Director or the development of such standards. MUSD will provide input to the Program Director as to the development of standards in the hope said standards will be developed by January 2025.

**Recommendation R.10.6** – The Department of Public Health needs to develop a process to consistently distribute Wellbeing Center Reports, and ensure information is shared across all schools that host a Wellbeing Center.

**MUSD Response:** While MUSD agrees with this recommendation, it has not been implemented as MUSD has no authority to implement it nor control over its related timeline. MUSD will work with the DPH to ensure the data collection and report distribution process is streamlined, and the reports are consistently distributed and accessible to all participating schools hosting a Wellbeing Center. MUSD will recommend to DPH that reports be distributed biannually, and that they include comparison data across districts/schools and contain recommendations for improvement to the extent applicable and available.

Please note, all changes implemented as discussed hereinabove shall further be reflected in an amendment to the subject memorandum of understanding between MUSD and DPH, to the extent necessary and appropriate.



**LAUSD**  
UNIFIED

**Alberto M. Carvalho**  
Superintendent

**Members of the Board**

Jackie Goldberg, President

Scott M. Schmerelson, Vice President

Dr. George J. McKenna III

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**Los Angeles Unified School District**  
Administrative Offices

333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
Phone (213) 241-7000

August 27, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteen Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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ON WELLBEING CENTERS**

Dear Presiding Judge,

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As required by California Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05, we are submitting our required responses to the findings and recommendations from the June 28, 2024, report on Wellbeing Centers in Los Angeles County Schools.

**10.3: Development of Measures of Success or Outcomes**

- ***Finding: Principals and counselors involved with the WBCs need additional services for students.***
- ***Recommendation: Measures of success or outcomes need to be developed in cooperation with stakeholders, especially with administration of the high schools with WBCs. These measures must be collected and reported from the beginning of the program.***

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- ***Finding: Other providers that PPLA were not considered to provide student related services in WBCs.***
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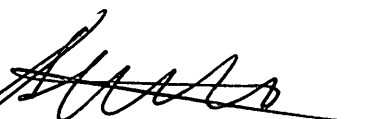
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Los Angeles Unified disagrees partially with the finding and recommendation. The Program Director and LAUSD staff visited five WBCs in the fall of the 2023-24 school year together and met with each school principal. Information collected from these visits resulted in two common themes: (1) the WBCs should be open five days a week, and (2) aggregated usage data should be shared with the schools on a frequent basis. The Program Director shared these reports with the schools toward the end of the 2023-24 school year. The Program Director and LAUSD will continue to meet and refine these reports.

In conclusion, Los Angeles Unified is committed to collaborating with the Program Director, the Department of Public Health, and all relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation and ongoing improvement of Wellbeing Centers serving our schools. We recognize the importance of accountability, transparency, and continuous review in supporting the health and well-being of our students. We look forward to continuing our efforts to meet these goals in alignment with the recommendations provided by the Civil Grand Jury. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Smita Malhotra, Chief Medical Director at 213-241-6326 or via email at [smita.malhotra@lausd.net](mailto:smita.malhotra@lausd.net)

Sincerely,



Alberto M. Carvalho  
Superintendent of Schools

**DE-ESCALATION  
TAKE A BEAT, NOT A BEATING**



**2023 – 2024  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
CIVIL GRAND JURY**



# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DE-ESCALATION: TAKE A BEAT, NOT A BEATING

### SUMMARY

"This report concentrates on traffic stops by law enforcement officers and appropriate actions taken once the stop has occurred. The purpose of the Committee's investigation is to shine a light on police officers and deputies in Los Angeles County in their day-to-day duties when patrolling the streets and their involvement in crime-related incidents with its citizens. The Committee's objective is to determine if law enforcement agencies (comprised of Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), and independent policing agencies) are adhering to and abiding by official written procedures and training related to de-escalation techniques."<sup>10</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 11.1**

LASD has tested a new App relating to traffic stops for drivers. This App is called "SafeStop." A recommendation is made for LASD and LAPD to advertise on their websites this App to enable drivers in the County to add it to their cell phones. The App will assist drivers to have a dialogue with the officers or deputies who initiated the stop, thus alleviate potential adverse situations.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The County's LASD's West Hollywood Station launched a partnership with SafeStop in the Fall of 2023. Deputies who were interested in participating on a voluntary basis were supplied with the app, which allows motorists to initiate video contact with law enforcement after having been pulled over, but before deputies approach the vehicle. However, no activations were initiated by the public using the app for the duration of the pilot. Therefore, it is difficult to assess the effectiveness of this app as a tool.

LASD is supportive of further exploring potential use as a voluntary tool for deputies in appropriate circumstances. However, more information is needed to ensure there are no unnecessary delays or safety concerns posed given that current training on safe traffic stops instructs deputies to minimize delays or distractions prior to contacting the occupant(s) inside the vehicle stopped.

In the coming year, LASD will explore extension of the West Hollywood Station pilot program for the purposes of monitoring outcomes and will gather additional information regarding use cases from law enforcement agencies in other jurisdictions regarding implementation. The recommendation requires further analysis as noted above and will be re-evaluated in six months.

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<sup>10</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, De-Escalation: Take a Beat, Not a Beating, p. 219.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 11.2**

LASD and LAPD should provide pamphlets similar to the ones that the Antelope Valley Sheriff's Department offers their citizens which gives guidance on what to do when you are involved in a traffic stop with a deputy sheriff. This pamphlet can be made available at all LASD and LAPD stations. These pamphlets should also be placed at other traffic related locations such as car rental agencies, Automobile Association of America offices, and Insurance Agencies.

### **RESPONSE**

Agree. The County's LASD agrees that this information should be made widely available. In the next quarter, the pamphlet will be posted publicly online, and the link will be posted at Sheriff's Department stations. This method of communication has proven to be a more effective method of disseminating information throughout the large geographic area patrolled by the LASD. It also an opportunity to easily provide the information in multiple languages. The recommendation has been implemented in part, as noted in the recommendation, but will be more fully implemented in approximately six months.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 11.3**

Both LAPD and LASD should implement the findings of the Study of traffic stops which was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science in May 2023. "The First 45 Words" specifies what law enforcement should say when they initially make a traffic stop of a driver in the County.

### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This effort is underway. As part of compliance efforts related to the Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, the County's LASD has rolled out full-day training on constitutional and bias-free policing which encompasses the principles identified in the aforementioned study, including introduction of deputies at the initiation of contact with a civilian, stating the reason for stops or detentions, ensuring that the stop or detention is no longer than necessary to take appropriate action, and acting with courtesy and professionalism in civilian interactions.

Quarterly refresher roll-call trainings on these topics are also being implemented. LASD is also delivering a new training via a group of external trainers, entitled "Why'd You Stop Me." This focuses on deputy-community interactions and communication, including the concepts of procedural justice.

Further, the LASD's Audit and Accountability Bureau has been conducting a series of audits monitoring these efforts on an ongoing basis, which are being used in conjunction with body worn camera review to determine compliance and identify necessary improvements.

Finally, California passed Assembly Bill 2773 (which amends government Code section 12525.5) requiring law enforcement to state the reason for the stop before engaging in any further questioning regarding the stop. The Sheriff's Department employees have received training on this new law. Therefore, this recommendation has been implemented.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 11.4**

Direct LASD and LAPD to monitor and explore all new Artificial Intelligence (AI) currently being created to provide improved training, augment their current policies and reporting.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. The County's LASD has already evaluated numerous Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. The evaluation indicates that the tools are expensive and not effective at this early stage. However, the Sheriff's Department will continue to monitor and explore AI capabilities as they evolve to identify opportunities for improved training, reporting, and policy development. The Sheriff's Department recognizes that such tools may implicate meet and confer issues with labor, if such tools are adopted.

# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

**DOMINIC H. CHOI**  
Chief of Police



**KAREN BASS**  
Mayor

P.O. Box 30158  
Los Angeles, CA 90030  
Telephone: (213) 486-8740  
TTY: (877) 275-5273  
Ref #: 1.2

August 21, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Presiding Judge,

Please find the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD or Department) response to the Los Angeles County Superior Court's Civil Grand Jury report titled, "*De-Escalation: Take a Beat, Not a Beating.*" The Department has reviewed the report and supporting materials in their entirety and, pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, responds to the Civil Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations. The Department welcomes and appreciates the opportunity to engage in this timely and important conversation.

## Findings

**Finding 11.1:** "*LASD has identified an App, SafeStop, to be used by the public that will assist them when detained by a deputy at a traffic stop.*"

**Response: Disagree.** The Department does not have any factual information, outside of the information provided in this report, on which to base an informed response to this finding.

**Finding 11.2:** "*LASD in the Antelope Valley have pamphlets identifying procedures for drivers when stopped at traffic stops by deputies.*"

**Response: Disagree.** The Department does not have any factual information, outside of the information provided in this report, on which to base an informed response to this finding.

**Finding 11.3:** "*LAPD is involved in a study which suggests the initial 45 words that an officer uses can "Escalate or De-Escalate" an encounter with the public.*"

**Response: Disagree.** The Department was not involved with the study profiled in the publication "Escalated Police Stops of Black Men are Linguistically and Psychologically Distinct in Their Earliest Moments," published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of

Sciences of the United States of America. This finding appears to be factually incorrect. Additionally, the Civil Grand Jury report cites a “high-ranking official with LAPD,” as discussing a proposal that the Department “was contemplating,” possibly based on this study. Because the report does not identify who the “high-ranking” individual is, there is no factually based way for the Department to support this finding.

***Finding 11.4:*** “LAPD is working on a study with USC and other universities creating an artificial intelligence program to monitor officer work [sic] body cameras.”

***Response: Partially agree.*** The Department is currently assisting the University of Southern California (USC) with research in support of the development of a program to review officer *body worn* video footage to assess communications and provide actionable findings to be integrated into training, policy, and Department practices.

### **Recommendations**

***Recommendation 11.1:*** “LASD has tested a new App relating to traffic stops for drivers. This App is called “SafeStop”. A recommendation is made for LASD and LAPD to advertise on their websites this App to enable drivers in LA County to add it to their cell phones. The App will assist drivers to have a dialogue with the officers or deputies who initiated the stop, thus alleviate potential adverse situations.”

***Response: Further Analysis Required.*** In order to deploy this type of third-party application, the Department would need to explore the feasibility of an application of this nature. This analysis would require a particular focus on the need to balance transparency and building public trust, with proven law enforcement practices designed to ensure officer and public safety during traffic stops and other incidents of engagement with the public. Additionally, an analysis would examine the feasibility and potential for liability involved in the Department advocating for the public use of a privately-owned application when the Department has no control over how the user’s personal data is collected or used. Also, to be considered is the fact that the “SafeStop” website provides very little information on how law enforcement agencies are intended to incorporate the use of this application into normal patrol and enforcement functions.

***Recommendation 11.2:*** “LASD and LAPD should provide pamphlets similar to the ones that the Antelope Valley Sheriff’s Departments offers their citizens which gives guidance on what to do when you are involved in a traffic stop with a deputy sheriff. This pamphlet can be made available at all LASD and LAPD stations. These pamphlets should also be placed at other traffic related locations such a[s] car rental agencies, Automobile Association of America officers and Insurance Agencies.”

***Response: Further Analysis Required.*** While the Department recognizes and acknowledges the potential benefits of providing this type of literature to the public, further research is required. The Department will explore and analyze the viability of creating and distributing such a pamphlet. The Department will examine the best means of delivering the information that would be contained in the pamphlet, while also ensuring inclusivity in the message so as to not alienate any members of our diverse communities. While the Department may explore the placement of any future educational materials in third party locations, the Department cannot at this time make

a commitment to this, as the agreement and cooperation of the parties responsible for these locations would have to be obtained.

***Recommendation 11.3:*** “Both LAPD and LASD should implement the findings of the Study of Traffic stops which was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science in May of 2023. The First 45 Words specifics what law enforcement should say when they initially make a traffic stop of a driver in LA County.”

***Response: Will Not Be Implemented.*** Department experts reviewed the report “Escalated Police Stops of Black Men are Distinct in Their Earliest Moments,” published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) in May 2023. While the findings from the study provided some insights for consideration, the Department will not be implementing the recommendation to utilize the “First 45 Words” script for the following reasons:

1. **Individuality of Each Interaction:** Each traffic stop is unique, and officers must be able to adapt their approach based on the specific circumstances they encounter. A scripted approach may not account for the nuances and complexities of each situation, potentially limiting an officer’s ability to respond appropriately and effectively.
2. **Officer Discretion and Judgement:** Law enforcement officers are trained to use their judgement and discretion to facilitate adaptability in dynamic and potentially volatile situations. A strictly scripted approach may hinder an officer’s ability to adapt and modify their communication style in response to the evolving nature of any traffic stop. By mandating a script, we risk undermining their professional expertise and ability to assess and respond to the immediate needs of a situation, which could be counterproductive to maintaining public safety and order.
3. **Potential for Miscommunication:** Scripts can sometimes be perceived as insincere or robotic, which might not foster the intended interaction and any subsequent de-escalation efforts. Genuine context-sensitive communication is often more effective in building rapport and trust between officers and members of the public.
4. **Training and Implementation Challenges:** Training officers to follow a strict script would divert valuable resources and time that could be better spent on comprehensive de-escalation training, cultural competency, and other critical skills that enhance the overall interaction quality without restricting flexibility.
5. **Effectiveness and Practicality:** There is no guarantee that a scripted approach will universally improve outcomes. The effectiveness of such a measure needs to be empirically validated across diverse scenarios and populations before broad implementation. Additionally, practical challenges in consistently applying a script in high-pressure or rapidly changing situations must be considered.

The Department has implemented several approaches to improve communication between officers and members of the public with the intent of increasing trust and transparency, while also fostering interactions in which members of the public feel heard and respected. These approaches include:

1. **Enhanced De-escalation Training:** With a focus on broadening and deepening de-escalation training that allows officers to use their judgement and adapt their communication skills, while emphasizing respect and professionalism.

2. **Community Policing Initiatives:** Enhanced community policing efforts build long-term trust and solid relationships between law enforcement and communities, which ultimately lead to more positive interactions.
3. **Continual Feedback and Improvement:** One of our Department's Core Values is "Quality Through Continuous Improvement." In practical application this translates to a constant and continual effort on the part of the Department to ensure we are constantly assessing, developing, and improving our policies, procedures, and best practices. The members of the Department are committed to being responsive to the needs of the diverse communities we serve.
4. **Procedural Justice:** The Department has developed robust training material on the topic of Procedural Justice, which focuses on the core tenets of Respect, Neutrality, and Voice. When applied by officers during their interactions with members of the public, this approach increases Trust. By allowing the concept of procedural justice to guide every interaction we can develop a stronger bond with the public that is based on fairness and mutual understanding.

***Recommendation 11.4:*** "Direct LASD and LAPD to monitor and explore all new Artificial Intelligence (AI) currently being created to provide improved training, augment their current policies and reporting."

***Response: Already Implemented.*** The Department has partnered with the USC and other universities who are creating an Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs to monitor officers' body worn cameras.

The Department's Innovation Management Division (IMD) has been exploring emerging AI technologies aimed at enhancing training and augmenting current LAPD policies and reporting processes. As a result of this exploration, two promising products have been identified.

The first product is an AI system that analyzes audio from body worn cameras to provide alerts and feedback to supervisors regarding officers' performance. This analysis can be used to improve training, correct undesirable behaviors, and recognize positive interactions. However, feedback from local police agencies that have tested this program indicates a high error rate in the automatic speech recognition. Therefore, the Department has opted to not employ this program until further improvements and testing have been completed.

Another product is an AI tool designed to generate draft report narratives using body camera audio. Because this technology is newly released, IMD is currently subjecting it to rigorous testing and review, to ensure that the product meets the high standards of the Department.

While AI and emerging technologies are exciting and offer potential benefits, the Department is also keenly aware of the fallibility of technology, particularly when undertested. While the Department is not resistant to adopting and deploying new technology, we will continue to prioritize accuracy, fairness, and equitability in any new technology.

In summary, the recommendations highlight opportunities and challenges in enhancing law enforcement interactions with the community. The introduction of the "SafeStop" application represents an innovative approach to improving dialogue during traffic stops. Yet, it underscores

the necessity of thorough vetting and understanding of any third-party technologies before endorsement or deployment. This cautious approach is vital in maintaining public trust and ensuring any technology's effectiveness in reducing adverse outcomes prior to use by the Department.

The push for educational pamphlets and enhanced training programs reflects a commitment to proactive community engagement and de-escalation tactics. While "The First 45 Words" initiative aims to standardize initial interactions, the value of maintaining flexibility and leveraging officer judgment cannot be overstated. Instead of rigid scripts, fostering adaptable communications skills and cultural competence will likely yield more genuine and positive outcomes.

The collaboration with academic institutions to explore AI applications indicates a forward-thinking approach to law enforcement. However, the challenges in accuracy and reliability emphasize the need for continuous evaluation and adaptation. The potential of AI to revolutionize training and reporting processes is promising, yet it demands a balanced integration that respects the nuanced and human-centered nature of policing.

Ultimately the sentiments behind the recommendations are in line with the Department's comprehensive strategy to enhance transparency and communication while building on and maintaining the public's trust. By prioritizing adaptability, community involvement, and technological innovation, the Department fosters safer and more respectful interactions that align with modern policing standards. As these initiatives are explored, ongoing feedback and refinement will be crucial to achieving the desired outcomes and maintaining the public's confidence in the Department.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Chief of Staff at (213) 468-8760.

Respectfully,



DOMINIC H. CHOI  
Chief of Police



**RECOMMENDATION NO. 11.4**

Direct LASD and LAPD to monitor and explore all new Artificial Intelligence (AI) currently being created to provide improved training, augment their current policies and reporting.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. The County's LASD has already evaluated numerous Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. The evaluation indicates that the tools are expensive and not effective at this early stage. However, the Sheriff's Department will continue to monitor and explore AI capabilities as they evolve to identify opportunities for improved training, reporting, and policy development. The Sheriff's Department recognizes that such tools may implicate meet and confer issues with labor, if such tools are adopted.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT USE OF FORCE  
INVOLVING RACIAL BIAS**



**2023 – 2024  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
CIVIL GRAND JURY**

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL;  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT USE OF FORCE INVOLVING RACIAL BIAS

### SUMMARY

"This report looks at the racial demographics of law enforcement (LE) civilian stops and arrests, District Attorney (DA) and LA City Attorney (CA) prosecutorial endeavors, and the racial makeup of Los Angeles County jails and detention entities. The Committee also investigated the litigation costs breakdown in the County, focusing primarily on the last five years."<sup>11</sup>

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.1

The LAPD and the LASD should use training officers who have a more inclusive attitude toward other ethnic minorities and dissuade patrol training officers from passing on outdated and racially bias procedures.

- a. LAPD should source creative strategies and anti-racist curriculum for training officers.
- b. LASD should source creative strategies and anti-racist curriculum for training officers.

### RESPONSE

Agree. The recommendation has been implemented or is otherwise in progress. The County's Sheriff's Department is highly diverse. As of July 2024, the demographics of the Sheriff's Department's sworn workforce reflected the following breakdown: 57.7% Hispanic, 7% Black, 5.6% Asian, 1.9% Filipino, 25.9% White, and 1.9% Other. The Sheriff's Department's training program is being updated to ensure it is robust, comprehensive, and addresses 21st Century Policing principles. Bias-free policing training is included in this effort and is ongoing. Additionally, the Office of Inspector General prepares reports that include recommendations regarding addressing racial disparities in policing.

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.2

All LACY LE agencies and departments should follow California Assembly Bill 748 to the letter of the law. LACY LE oversight authorities should stop allowing LE to do whatever they please when it comes to releasing BWV.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. The County's Sheriff's Department is in compliance with Assembly Bill 748 and meets or exceeds the 45-day guidelines for the release of video in critical incidents. However, the portion of this recommendation related to oversight authorities is outside of the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department. Additionally, the Office of Inspector General has

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<sup>11</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Law Enforcement Use of Force Involving Racial Bias, pp. 237-250.

prepared reports that include identifying the need for systemic reform at the Sheriff's Department and recommendations regarding compliance with the release of records.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.3**

LACY LE agencies should make a more concerted effort to recruit officers who live in or near the areas they are assigned to patrol. LASD should collect racial data on officers to include for consideration when assigning officer patrol location.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is being implemented. The County's Sheriff's Department has retained the services of an outside firm to support and augment the recruitment of a diverse and qualified sworn workforce.

The County's Sheriff's Department is highly diverse. As of July 2024, the demographics of the Sheriff's Department's sworn workforce reflected the following breakdown: 57.7% Hispanic, 7% Black, 5.6% Asian, 1.9% Filipino, 25.9% White, and 1.9% Other. The deputies who are assigned to patrol reflect this diversity.

Additionally, the Office of Inspector General prepares reports that include recommendations regarding further addressing racial disparities in policing. Continuous improvement is needed to improve mechanisms for the reform of law enforcement operations, to further ensure compliance with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and federal, state, and local laws that were implemented to ensure fair and unbiased policing.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.4**

LE oversight entities should do their jobs and be outraged at their own failing to hold LE officers and their commanders accountable for continued unwanted missuses of authority and to deprive citizens of fair treatment under the law.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. The County agrees with the need for accountability. The County's Sheriff's Department is committed to constitutional policing practices, while working towards establishing public safety and building public trust.

This effort includes holding deputies and leadership accountable as the Sheriff's Department ensures that it provides services that are respectful, empathetic, and constitutional. Different oversight entities have different legal authorities and within the scope of the current legal authorities relevant to the Sheriff's Department's oversight bodies, this recommendation has been implemented.

Further, the Office of Inspector General also prepares reports that include recommendations regarding further addressing racial disparities in policing. Continuous improvement is needed to improve mechanisms for the reform of law enforcement operations, to further ensure compliance with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and federal, state, and local laws that were implemented to ensure fair and unbiased policing.

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## **HISTORICAL-BASED TRAINING INITIATIVE**

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### **HISTORICAL INTEGRATION INTO RECRUIT TRAINING**

The Recruit Basic Course (RBC) continues to assess the curriculum of the Academy and infuse historical content into the Learning Domains. As of February 2022, there have been twelve new lessons added to RBC curriculum that cover historical events identified through community forums and research. The new or revised curriculum (25 hours) has been sequenced to flow within the existing training that is required by the State or the Department. The 9-20 Class was the first class to start with the full added historical curriculum. The exchange of Community Member participants called Days of Dialogue has also been added to the RBC Curriculum.

### **HISTORICAL INTEGRATION INTO IN-SERVICE TRAINING**

In-Service Training Division Training Division continues to collaborate with PTE on the integration of historical content into PSL, FTO School, FTO Update, Supervisor School and the LAPD Leadership Course.

### **DIVISIONAL HISTORY**

PTE recommended enhanced use of Divisional History for the Orientation of new officers to each Division and the incorporation of Divisional Electronic History Books online for Department and Community Reference. Many Divisions utilize Community Panels into their orientations, but the Department is looking to ensure this practice is standardized.

### **COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS IN TRAINING (CSIT)**

In 2020, a Community panel was formed with more than 70 members to collaborate with regarding input on Training Courses. The panel is made up of community groups that include NAACP, Community Activists, Clergy members and esteemed college professors. In 2021, 16 community-based stakeholders wrote letters of support for the Department to implement the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Training and this group will be merged with remaining CSIT participants for future training input.

### **COMMAND DEVELOPMENT**

Curriculum was updated to infuse both community engagement and historical events for all new Commanding Officers. Annual training for existing Command Officers will continue to reference a critical review of historical incidents and lessons learned through case studies.

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## TRAINING IN PRODUCTION

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### ACTIVE BYSTANDERSHIP FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT (ABLE)

This program managed by Georgetown University seeks to build skills and Department culture for supporting peer intervention through scenario training. The ABLE Project has created national standards and a training curriculum to teach law enforcement agencies the strategies and tactics for effective and early intervention. ABLE Certification enables the Department to access national research and best practices on how bystandership can be best utilized in law enforcement. Funding is currently being sought to support the implementation of this program Department-wide for both sworn and civilian members.

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## SPECIALIZED TRAINING

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- PSL- 2016 to Present **1,837 Officers**
- FTO Update- All FTO's receive updated training every three years.  
2020-2022 Cycle **421 Officers**
- MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTION TRAINING (MHIT) **5,032 Officers\***  
Confronts bias for people dealing with mental illness – this course incorporates cooperative learning by team, taught with clinicians from the Department of Mental Health. Includes field trips to community service providers, and presentations with community members with mental illness as well as family members from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.  
*\*Includes 422 officers from outside agencies*
- GANG INTERVENTION *2017 to Present* **1,374 Officers**  
Confronts bias for gang members and those living in neighborhoods with gang members. Counter stereo type exposure and co-learning are incorporated into this course by integrated exercises, having officers work together with gang interventionists as part of the course.
- LGBTQ CULTURAL COMPENTENCY **4,347 Officers**  
Focus is on team teaching with members of the Transgender Community. Confronts bias with members of the LGBTQ community. Provides methods and strategies for habit-breaking responses. Roll call training for divisional deployment

in was completed 2019. Training video released for Department-wide implementation in 2020.

- **MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE**    *2014 to Present*    **1847 Officers**  
Building Community Trust and Biased Policing – 10-hour Course, training 30 Officers/Week every Thursday; meets State Mandate for Training on Biased Policing every 5 years (training Suspended during Covid and now restarting).
  
- **COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP(CSP CORE)**    **Scheduled to begin Fall 2022**  
Three-day course for all Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Officers. Introduces students to relationship-based policing concepts related to community members living in high crime neighborhoods or housing developments. The course material has heavy emphasis on collaborations with community partners and relationship-based policing. Curriculum includes elements of Procedural Justice and overcoming biases.

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## **TRAINING HISTORY**

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- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ○ July 2022                    | Compliance Year for Racial Profiling Mandate                                |
| ○ February 2021                | Racial Profiling/Biased Policing- Distance Learning Grant-LAPD University   |
| ○ April 2021                   | Anti-Bias Learning for Employees (ABLE)<br>City-wide Training               |
| ○ March 2021                   | Training Bulletin -Contacts with the Public- Part I<br>Legal Considerations |
| ○ April 2020                   | Training Bulletin- Contacts with the Public- Part II<br>Procedural Justice  |
| ○ 2020                         | Principled Policing added to Academy Curriculum                             |
| ○ 2020                         | Days of Dialogue added to Academy Curriculum                                |
| ○ Fall 2018                    | Procedural Justice added to the Command & Control Course Curriculum         |
| ○ 2017-2018 PSP Training Cycle | Implicit Bias   |
| ○ Fall 2018                    | LEADS – Public Engagement for Command Officers:<br>Procedural Justice       |
| ○ Spring, 2018                 | PSL: Implicit Bias (4 hrs) – Dr. Bryant Marks                               |

- Spring, 2017
  - June 2016
  - January 2016
  - Summer 2015
  - September 2015
  - December 2014
  - January 2012
  
  - Fall 2010
  
  - September 2010
  
  - 2010 COP Notice
  - 2010
  
  - 2004 POST Requirement
  
  - 2003
  
  - 2001
  
  - 1996 to Present
  - 1995-1998
- Implicit Bias (4 hrs) – Dr. Bryant Marks  
 PSL I Launched with PJ integrated in Curriculum  
 FTO Update (4 hrs) – Fair and Impartial Policing  
 Building Public Trust / Preservation of Life Training  
 Fair and Impartial Policing – TTT for 25 Instructors  
 Fair and Impartial Policing – Command Staff Training  
 Vehicle Stops – Constitutional Law/Biased Policing  
 Training  
 Training for the HACLA Program (CSP) with  
 integrated Relationship-based Policing Curriculum  
 Senior Staff Meeting – Direct Reports training on  
 Bias and Constitutional Policing  
 Constitutional Policing on E-Learning (LMS)  
 Senior Lead Officer PIII+1 Training on Customer  
 Service, Biased Policing and Leadership  
 Training on Racial Profiling – all Department  
 personnel; integration of Racial Profiling in RBC  
 Creation of Diversity Training Review Committee  
 (Members include NAACP, Urban League, First AME  
 Church, CSUN, Anti-Defamation League, USC) and  
 recommendations were implemented  
 Paragraph 117 of the Consent Decree was written  
 into all LAPD Curriculum. Continuing Education  
 Delivery Program  
 Museum of Tolerance  
 Cultural Awareness Workshop





# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

312 SOUTH HILL STREET, THIRD FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90013  
(213) 974-6100  
<http://og.lacounty.gov>

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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MAX HUNTSMAN  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

June 27, 2024

The Honorable Samantha P. Jessner, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Judge Jessner:

The Civil Grand Jury identified recommendations for which a response is required from the Office of Inspector General in the portion of its 2023-2024 report titled *Law Enforcement Use of Force Involving Racial Bias*. The Office of Inspector General responds to those recommendations as follows:

### **Recommendation 12.1**

Unknown if implemented. Better mechanisms are needed to reform the police and ensure compliance with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and federal, state, and local laws that were implemented to ensure fair and unbiased policing. While the Office of Inspector General is unable to force the adoption of any of its recommendations, reports prepared by this office include recommendations regarding addressing racial disparities in policing. A partial list of these reports is included at the end of this letter.

### **Recommendation 12.2**

Unknown if implemented. Better mechanisms are needed to reform the police and ensure compliance with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and federal, state, and local laws that were implemented to ensure fair and unbiased policing. While the Office of Inspector General is unable to force the adoption of any of its recommendations, reports prepared by this office include identifying the need for systemic reform at the Sheriff's Department and recommendations regarding compliance with the release of records including these reports:

- [First Report Back on Meeting the Sheriff's Department's Obligations Under Senate Bill 1421](#)

- Second Report Back on Meeting the Sheriff's Department's Obligations Under Senate Bill 1421
- Third Report Back on Meeting the Sheriff's Department's Obligations Under Senate Bill 1421

**Recommendation 12.3**

Unknown if implemented. Better mechanisms are needed to reform the police and ensure compliance with the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and federal, state, and local laws that were implemented to ensure fair and unbiased policing. While the Office of Inspector General is unable to force the adoption of any of its recommendations, reports prepared by this office include recommendations regarding addressing racial disparities in policing.

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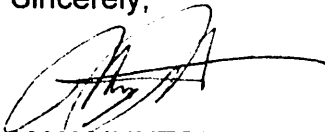
**Recommendation 12.6**

The Office of Inspector General was unable to identify recommendation 12.6 in the report and thus there is no response to recommendation 12.6.

Here is a partial list of Office of Inspector General reports that include information on racial bias in policing:

- The Sheriff's Department's Underreporting of Civilian Stop Data to the California Attorney General
- Allegations of Racial Disparities in Contacts with High School Students by the Sheriff's Department's Lancaster Station
- Addressing Racial Disparities in Traffic Stops
- Report Back on Improving School Climate and Safety

Sincerely,



MAX HUNTSMAN  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

CALIFORNIA

**Matthew W. Szabo**  
CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



**KAREN BASS**  
MAYOR

ASSISTANT  
CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

**PATRICIA J. HUBER**  
**MALAIKA BILLUPS**  
**BEN CEJA**  
**YOLANDA CHAVEZ**  
**EDWIN GIPSON II**

October 30, 2024

0220-06259-0001

**Samantha P. Jessner**  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: LAW ENFORCEMENT USE OF FORCE INVOLVING RACIAL BIAS**  
**Report by the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury**

Dear Honorable Judge Jessner:

The City of Los Angeles acknowledges receipt of the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report regarding Law Enforcement Use of Force Involving Racial Bias, its findings, and recommendations. The City respectfully submits Attachment A as the City's formal response. The City's responses were prepared with assistance of knowledgeable staff working in the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew W. Szabo".

**Matthew W. Szabo**  
City Administrative Officer

*MWS:PJH:AT:11250047*

Attachment A: 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Recommendations for Law Enforcement Use of Force Involving Racial Bias

## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

**Subject:** 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Recommendations for Law Enforcement Use of Force Involving Racial Bias

**Recommendation 12.1** - The LAPD and the LASD should use training officers who have a more inclusive attitude toward other ethnic minorities and dissuade patrol training officers from passing on outdated and racially biased procedures. a. LAPD should source creative strategies and anti-racist curriculum for training officers. b. LASD should source creative strategies and anti-racist curriculum for training officers.

**Response:** *Has been implemented.* The Department has a selection process, training program, and multiple safeguards in place that ensure Field Training Officers (FTO) are conducting themselves in a professional manner, based on the law, Department policy, and constitutional policing standards, in all things, but particularly when training new officers. These steps are listed below:

**Interview Process:** The selection of an FTO for the Department begins with the oral interview. This interview is conducted by personnel with the rank of Sergeant or higher who are assigned to the geographic Area that has the FTO vacancy. Questions for the interviews are provided by Employee Selection Section, Personnel Division. Mandatory questions include those related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and conflict resolution. Additionally, raters seek responses that are guided by our core values, reverence for life, and Department policy, which includes the prohibition of biased policing.

Once the interviews are completed and scored, the results are given to the respective patrol and/or Area commanding officer to rank their selection. This selection is then submitted to the bureau commanding officer for another round of review. During this entire process, the candidate's performance during the interview, as well as their work history, is evaluated to make the best possible selection.

**FTO School:** Once an FTO is selected, they are required to attend a 40-hour Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified course before they can train probationary officers. In this course, the topics of bias, diversity, equity, and inclusion are taught and discussed (see Expanded Course Outline for FTO School 1850\_31725). The curriculum also includes Leadership, Ethics and Professionalism, legal matters, homeless issues, and guest speakers from the LGBTQ+ community.

Additionally, FTOs are required to attend a 24-hour FTO update training every three years. This training re-emphasizes the concepts from the 40-hour school.

The FTO Unit, Training Division, completes its mission using a variety of tools. They arrange for instructors from different backgrounds (both professionally and personally) to facilitate instruction. These instructors encompass all ranks and include POST certified Subject Matter Experts. All instructors conform to the Expanded Course Outline (ECO) for the course, while simultaneously basing their instruction on the Department's Core Values:

- Service to Our Communities;
- Reverence for the Law;
- Commitment to Leadership;
- Integrity in All We Say and Do;
- Respect for People; and,
- Quality Through Continuous Improvement.

The FTO Unit creates a positive training environment where students are allowed to express their current views. Meaningful and productive discussions are facilitated to address issues and provide different perspectives for various issues.

**Reporting:** Probationary police officers are required to complete an anonymous survey after each training cycle with a FTO regarding the quality of training, and if any misconduct occurred. These surveys are forwarded to the FTO Unit for review.

Finally, should an FTO commit misconduct or exhibit behavior that is unbecoming of the position, they may be deselected from the FTO program, upon a sustained allegation of misconduct, per Department Manual Section 3/763.90 (available online to the public at [www.lapdonline.org/lapd-manual/](http://www.lapdonline.org/lapd-manual/)).

**Recommendation 12.4** - LE oversight entities should do their jobs and be outraged at their own failing to hold LE officers and their commanders accountable for continued unwanted misuses of authority and to deprive citizens of fair treatment under the law.

**Response:** *This recommendation has several parts:*

1. *LE oversight entities should do their job;*
2. *LE oversight entities should be outraged at their own failing to hold officers accountable for continued unwanted misuses of authority;*
3. *LE oversight entities should be outraged at their own failing to hold officers accountable for depriving citizens of fair treatment under the law;*
4. *LE oversight entities should be outraged at their own failing to hold commanders accountable for continued unwanted misuses of authority; and,*
5. *LE oversight entities should be outraged at their own failing to hold commanders accountable for depriving citizens of fair treatment under the law.*

**Response to subset 1:** *Has been implemented.*

**Response to subset 2 - 5:** *Will not be implemented*

Please refer to the following documents which directly address Recommendation 12.4:

- Categorical Use of Force Administrative Process;
- Categorical Use of Force Review Process;
- Non-Categorical Use of Force Review Process;
- Office of the Chief of Staff Notice regarding Changes to Use of Force Review and Adjudication Process, dated August 18, 2008; and,
- Office of the Chief of Police Use of Force Directive, dated July 22, 2008.

**Background:** The Grand Jury's interpretation of *Graham v. Connor*, the officer-involved shooting (OIS) with Omar Gonzalez, and the OIS with Jermain Petit starkly contrasts with the adjudications from both the Department and the Board of Police Commissioners.

**Graham v. Connor (1989):** The Grand Jury Report cited the United States Supreme Court Case *Graham v. Connor* as an effort to "reign in" law enforcement. This case recognizes that an officer's actions during the course of a use of force should be judged by what that officer knew to be objectively reasonable at the time of the incident. The court went on to say:

All claims that law enforcement officials have used excessive force -- deadly or not -- in the course of an arrest, investigatory stop, or other "seizure" of a free citizen are properly analyzed under the Fourth Amendment's "objective reasonableness" standard, rather than under a substantive due process standard.

Contrary to what the Grand Jury Report implies, this court decision was not a restriction to Law Enforcement, rather it provided a legal framework that Law Enforcement agencies nationwide rely on for how to constitutionally use force.

**Omar Gonzalez (2016):** The Grand Jury Report cited a specific officer involved shooting incident during which Omar Gonzalez was shot in the back with no weapon in his possession. The source that the Grand Jury Report used for this allegation was an online news article published by ABC 7 news. The Grand Jury Report does not cite any other sources of information regarding this specific incident. Omar Gonzalez did, in fact, have a firearm in his possession that he was aiming at an officer at the time of the shooting.

Relying solely on online news articles as source documents could lead to conjecture being presented as fact. The Abridged Summary of Categorical Use of Force Incident and Findings by the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners this incident, OIS Case No 045-16 is available to the public. These documents allow for the public to access the facts of each categorical use of force and to read and interpret for themselves. This incident was found to be IN POLICY by The Board of Police Commissioners, and no charges were filed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (DA).

As cited in the Grand Jury Report, the same officer was involved in a second incident on August 9, 2016. The Grand Jury Report only stated that the subject involved in the shooting was a 14-year old boy. The fact that he was actively shooting a gun at an officer was omitted. The Abridged Summary of Categorical Use of Force Incident and Findings by the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners for OIS Case No. 053-16 is also publicly available. This incident was also found to be IN POLICY by the Board of Police Commissioners, and no charges against the officer were filed by the DA.

**Jermaine Petit (2022):** The Grand Jury Report cited this incident as a case illustrating racial bias. Once again, the source that the Grand Jury used for this case was an online news article. The facts of this incident, and the events leading up to it, directly contradict how the incident was portrayed in the Grand Jury Report.

The Abridged Summary of Categorical Use of Force Incident and Findings by the Los

Angeles Board of Police Commissioners for OIS Case. No 037-22 is available to the public. These documents allow the public to access the facts of each categorical use of force to read and interpret for themselves. The findings by the Board of Police Commissioners for this case were as follows:

- Tactics: Officers E, F, and Sergeant A to warrant Administrative Disapproval;
- Drawing and Exhibiting: Officers E, F, and Sergeant A to be IN POLICY; and,
- Lethal Use of Force: Sergeant A OUT OF POLICY and Officer E IN POLICY.

*Note: Both the Administrative Disapproval and Out of Policy findings had to do with tactics only and had nothing to do with racial bias.*

**The Los Angeles Police Department's Commitment to Transparency and Accountability:** Department Policy mandates that "video evidence in the Department's possession of Critical Incidents involving LAPD officers be released to the public within 45 days of the incident" (LAPD Manual 1/420.55). The Department Manual goes on to state that the video evidence "shall be accompanied by additional information to provide context based on evidence available at the time of the release" (LAPD Manual 1/420.55). This policy is in compliance with Assembly Bill No. 748 regarding peace officer video and audio recording disclosures.

The Mission of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) states:

It is the mission of the Los Angeles Police Department to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while working with the diverse communities to improve their quality of life. Our mandate is to do so with honor and integrity, while at all times conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.

The LAPD remains fully committed to its core values, including *Respect for People* and *Reverence for the Law*. As such, the LAPD has already implemented one of the most robust oversight systems in the country. Beyond review of all uses of force by Department personnel, the Department is also committed to ensuring that all of its personnel are held accountable for their actions.

The LAPD accepts complaints from any source, including third-party, non-percipient witnesses, but utilizing nearly any method. Anyone in the community can call, write, email, fax, or speak with a supervisor in-person to file a complaint. Also, a specific request for a complaint is not required: the mere recitation of an allegation that *could be* considered misconduct is sufficient to initiate a complaint investigation.

In addition to being fully responsive to community allegations of misconduct, the LAPD proactively audits its employees for adherence to constitutional policing principles by deploying undercover officers to test the performance of other officers. Any failures identified are addressed through the Department's discipline system.

Once a complaint is initiated, a thorough investigation is completed to determine what

occurred. The investigation is then presented to the employee's commanding officer to adjudicate the concern: this stage requires the commanding officer to weigh the evidence and determine if the act, as alleged, occurred. This recommended adjudication is transmitted to that commanding officer's bureau, at which time the bureau commanding officer reviews the investigation and recommends adjudication for appropriateness. Finally, the adjudication is routed to the Review and Evaluation Section, Professional Standards Bureau, for a final review of appropriateness before any sustained allegations are presented to the Chief of Police for penalty imposition. If an officer is found to have misused their authority or failed to deliver impartial policing, the officer is held accountable and appropriate corrective actions are taken.

The oversight process is layered with a series of internal reviews and structural checks and balances, culminating with process-wide monitoring by the independent Office of the Inspector General—an entity who reports only to the all-civilian Board of Police Commissioners.

**Correction**

The Civil Grand Jury's Required Responses seeks responses from City departments for R12.1, R12.2, R12.3, R12.5, and R12.6. But reviewing the Report indicates that only R12.1 and R12.4 relate to the City.



# LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

**BOARD OF  
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August 28, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Judge:

Enclosed, please find the Office of the Inspector General's response to the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury report entitled "Law Enforcement Use of Force Involving Racial Bias." Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Very truly yours,  
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "FYU".

FLORENCE YU  
Acting Inspector General  
Police Commission

Enclosures

## **RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

LOS ANGELES BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS –  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

### **2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT USE OF FORCE INVOLVING RACIAL BIAS**

#### **FINDING 12.1**

“Black and Brown communities are more heavily policed. LASD and LAPD show a clear pattern of engaging in higher UOF in Latino and Black neighborhoods.”

#### **RESPONSE**

While the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners (Commission) – Office of the Inspector General (OIG) partially disagrees with the finding, specific to Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD or Department), this is an issue that should be more appropriately addressed by LAPD directly, given that the Department maintains all data related to crime statistics and deployment throughout the City. The OIG generally does not provide input on how LAPD is making decisions regarding deployment of its internal resources.

Here is some information about how the LAPD tracks crime statistics. The Department regularly updates these statistics<sup>1</sup> -- <https://www.lapdonline.org/office-of-the-chief-of-police/office-of-special-operations/detective-bureau/crime-mapping-and-compstat/>

#### **FINDING 12.2**

“It has been reported that some California LE agencies hold back BWV from public release when the footage pertains to excessive UOF against civilians is recorded, especially when officer misconduct is suspected or involved. According to California State Law Assembly Bill 748, BWV is supposed to be released within 45 days unless the LE agency could substantiate if the public interest in withholding the video or audio clearly outweighs the public interest in releasing it.”

#### **RESPONSE**

The OIG wholly disagrees with this finding. The California Assembly Bill referred to in this finding was substantially modeled after the original 2018 LAPD policy pertaining to video release of all critical incidents. Here is the critical incident video release policy that was approved by the Los Angeles Police Commission in 2018 -- <https://www.lapdonline.org/newsroom/board-of-police-commissioners-critical-incident-video-release-policy/>

As the first law enforcement agency to regularly release body worn videos to the public, the LAPD continues to release comprehensive video compilations relating to all critical incidents, which include officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, and other incidents involving serious uses of force, well within 45 days of when these incidents occur. Generally, video is released within 30 days of the incident occurring. Here is the publicly available website where such videos are posted online -- <https://www.lapdonline.org/office-of-the-chief-of-police/professional-standards-bureau/critical-incident-videos/>

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<sup>1</sup> Normally these statistics are updated weekly, but the Department is currently in the process of transitioning to a new reporting system. As such, there may be a delay in obtaining the most current statistics during this transition.

### **FINDING 12.3**

“Many LACY LE officers who patrol and police Black and Latino neighborhoods do not live in or anywhere near the areas they work in.”

### **RESPONSE**

This finding, as written, does not specifically pertain to LAPD officers, as they are not Los Angeles County officers or deputies. However, one could apply a similar statement to many LAPD officers in that they do not necessarily live in the same geographical areas where they work. Although the Civil Grand Jury’s report cites to a 2001 statistic that only 23% of LAPD officers live in the City of Los Angeles, based on the latest information from the Department, the OIG is unable to determine a current accurate count of officers living within and/or outside the City of Los Angeles. Accordingly, we are not able to determine if the 23% figure is accurate.

### **FINDING 12.4**

“LE oversight entities 98% of the time do not charge LE officers with criminal offenses even where there is overwhelming evidence that the involved officers did not follow procedure, policy, and most importantly, the law. LACY LE has on a number of occasions falsified reports and even stalled investigations to assist LE officers who do not follow the law or policy. LACY LE continues to keep damaging evidence of wrongdoing by its officers from becoming public.”

### **RESPONSE**

This finding does not appear to specifically pertain to LAPD officers, given the broad reference to LACY LE. However, to the extent the Civil Grand Jury intended to include LAPD, the OIG wholly disagrees with the contents of this finding.

First, as a civilian oversight entity, the OIG does not have any authority to charge LAPD officers criminally. That authority to charge police officers with crimes rests with other federal, state, county, and local offices that possess prosecutorial power, such as the federal/state Attorney General, the District Attorney, and the City Attorney. However, automatic processes and notification protocols are in place such that the appropriate agencies with charging authority are immediately alerted or otherwise notified when high profile incidents occur, especially those involving categorical uses of force or serious misconduct.

Second, without direct knowledge of specific details regarding any alleged instances of LAPD officers falsifying reports, stalling investigations, and/or withholding results of any investigations that may contain damaging evidence against police officers, the OIG is not presently able to provide any formal position regarding these issues.

### **FINDING 12.5**

“LASD is not aware of what percentage of deputies live in the areas they patrol.”

### **RESPONSE**

This finding expressly does not pertain to LAPD officers. Accordingly, the OIG will not formulate any official position.

### **RECOMMENDATION No. R12.1**

“The LAPD and the LASD should use training officers who have a more inclusive attitude toward other ethnic minorities and dissuade patrol training officer from passing on outdated and racially bias[ed] [sic] procedures.

- a. LAPD should source creative strategies and anti-racist curriculum for training officers.”

### **RESPONSE**

The recommendation specific to officers having a more inclusive attitude is vaguely stated . To the extent the recommendation regarding creative strategies and anti-racist curriculum for training officers pertains to implicit bias and efforts to combat potential internal biases of officers, it has been implemented by LAPD.

From our extensive oversight of the LAPD and its policies and practices through various reports and audits over many years, the OIG has determined that LAPD has made significant inroads as far as including diversity, equity, and inclusion concepts into its overall training. Here is some evidence to support the notion that the Department has moved towards policies and practices to dissuade officers from acting on their own biases and also to dissuade training officers specifically from passing along outdated and racially biased methods of policing:

1. The Department implemented a Department-wide, mandated 8-hour implicit bias training course in 2017. Results and general impressions about this training can be found in the link here; as noted in the document, the training was generally favorably received overall -- [https://www.lapdpolicecom.lacity.org/042418/BPC\\_18-0144.pdf](https://www.lapdpolicecom.lacity.org/042418/BPC_18-0144.pdf)
2. In more recent years, the Department has also demonstrated a strong commitment to constitutional policing and consistently attempts to combat any potential officer bias that could interfere with the broader objective of conducting policing in a fair and impartial manner.<sup>2</sup>
3. The OIG has also commented—multiple times in past years—about the fact that the Department has had zero sustained biased policing complaint investigations despite there being many allegations of this nature. While this is a difficult issue to navigate, as far as there being difficulties in proving that officers are making decisions based on bias and have the specific intent to initiate police activities accordingly, the OIG continues to prioritize different ways of impacting this issue. Future OIG projects will aim to further address this topic.
4. A comprehensive training overview focusing on the concepts of procedural justice entitled “Strengthening Procedural Justice to Reduce Bias,” which was drafted in July 2022, is attached to this document. The overview includes a variety of ways in which LAPD has historically incorporated principles of procedural justice, implicit bias, and principled policing into its core training programs across various levels of the Department.

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<sup>2</sup> Please see this report published by LAPD in 2016, detailing the Department’s efforts to combat biased policing in extensive detail -- [https://www.lapdpolicecom.lacity.org/111516/BPC\\_16-0391.pdf](https://www.lapdpolicecom.lacity.org/111516/BPC_16-0391.pdf).

### **RECOMMENDATION No. R12.2**

“All LACY LED agencies and departments should follow California Assembly Bill 748 to the letter of the law. LACY LED oversight authorities should stop allowing LE to do whatever they please when it comes to releasing BWV.”

### **RESPONSE**

This recommendation has already been implemented by LAPD, as described below.

The OIG generally agrees with this recommendation, but wholly disagrees insofar as it implies that the Department is not following AB 748 and that the OIG is allowing the Department to “do whatever it pleases when it comes to releasing BWV.” Also, in addition to state law, we maintain that the Department is fully in compliance with its own policy pertinent to this issue.

As noted above specific to finding 12.2, LAPD releases video relating to all critical incidents, which include officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, and other incidents involving serious uses of force, well within 45 days of when these incidents occur. Generally, video is released within 30 days of the incident occurring. Here is the publicly available website where such videos are posted online -- <https://www.lapdonline.org/office-of-the-chief-of-police/professional-standards-bureau/critical-incident-videos/>

The California Assembly Bill referred to in this finding and recommendation was significantly modeled after the original 2018 LAPD policy pertaining to video release of all critical incidents - <https://www.lapdonline.org/newsroom/board-of-police-commissioners-critical-incident-video-release-policy/>

Also, the OIG maintains a substantial review function with regard to the scripts for the critical incident release videos, prior to their release. The OIG is able to review pre-production scripts, make edits and comments on such scripts, and change the content of such scripts if the proposed narrative does not match the facts of what occurred during the incident.

Although the critical incident release videos are typically edited and condensed by LAPD, in the OIG’s experience, the Department generally does a fair and effective job of selecting the most pertinent aspects of the videos for public consumption. Should the OIG feel that the Department left out a critical component of an incident, our office would ensure that the relevant portion be included for the public to see.

### **RECOMMENDATION No. R12.3**

“LACY LED agencies should make a more concerted effort to recruit officers who live in or near the areas they are assigned to patrol.”

### **RESPONSE**

The recommendation is vague as to what a “more concerted effort” would involve. To the extent this recommendation is requesting that the LAPD recruit and hire officers who live in the City of Los Angeles, then the recommendation has been implemented.

While the OIG does not oversee the Department’s recruitment function, the LAPD has been conducting extensive efforts to recruit officers from a wide range of diverse backgrounds, and these efforts have been well documented. The LAPD routinely reports to the Commission about its extensive recruiting efforts and the challenges it faces in growing its workforce. The OIG is not aware of qualified applicants who live within the City of Los Angeles being turned away from

the LAPD.

In addition, in 2022, the LAPD attempted to incentivize new recruits to live in the City of Los Angeles through a “Housing for Hires” program, which provided a \$24,000 signing bonus for new recruits to utilize towards housing costs. According to the LAPD, approximately 100 officers took advantage of the housing subsidy with varied results before the program ended in May 2024. The program was funded through a grant provided by the Los Angeles Police Foundation, a non-profit that is not under the control of the LAPD or the City of Los Angeles.

The OIG also notes that the California Constitution prohibits the LAPD from requiring officers to live in the City of Los Angeles. *See* Cal. Const. art XI section 10(b) (“A city or county, including any chartered city or chartered county, or public district, may not require that its employees be residents of such city, county, or district; except that such employees may be required to reside within a reasonable and specific distance of their place of employment or other designated location.”).

While it may be an ideal scenario that officers come from the areas in which they live and work, to impose such a requirement on police officers is not realistic. LAPD officers typically spend significant portions of their careers in different positions and assignments throughout the City of Los Angeles, a very large and expansive geographical area. It is not reasonable to expect that officers look for new housing and move their place of residence based on transitions and progressions in their careers, especially in the Los Angeles region, which maintains a consistently high cost of living and unpredictable housing market.

#### **RECOMMENDATION No. R12.4**

‘LE oversight entities should do their jobs and be outraged at their own failings to hold LE officers and their commanders accountable for continued unwanted misuses of authority and to deprive citizens of fair treatment under the law.’”

#### **RESPONSE**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor. It is also wholly inapplicable to the OIG.

Specific to this recommendation, the OIG can only speak on behalf of the City of Los Angeles/the LAPD/our own office rather than any other oversight agencies. It is inappropriate for the OIG to speak on behalf of other oversight entities because of the myriad ways in which other oversight agencies are structured. With respect to the LAPD, the Commission is the independent all-civilian body, appointed by the Mayor of Los Angeles, which makes policy for the Los Angeles Police Department, and the body to which the Chief of Police is subordinate. In addition to its policy making functions, the Commission is the direct supervisor of the Chief of Police, adjudicates serious uses of force by the sworn personnel of the Department, and the body to which the OIG reports.

The OIG is responsible for overseeing the Department’s entire disciplinary system.<sup>3</sup> Among other duties, we take part in high level briefings on a weekly basis which involve the most

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<sup>3</sup> For more details on how the OIG oversees the Department and holds the Department accountable, please see the report linked here, which was published in June 2024, in connection with recent efforts by the Los Angeles City Council to reform the Board of Rights system.  
[https://www.oig.lacity.org/files/ugd/b2dd23\\_7a814a9dfab4434fb5a105adcd038b20.pdf](https://www.oig.lacity.org/files/ugd/b2dd23_7a814a9dfab4434fb5a105adcd038b20.pdf)

serious investigations into employee misconduct. During these briefings, the OIG provides input, ask questions, and holds the Department accountable for how they are handling their most sensitive investigations. It is important to note that the OIG has unfettered access into all the Department's databases, records, and employees, from patrol officers up to the Chief of Police. Such access has given the OIG the authority and ability to hold the Department accountable, and to ensure that the Department is holding its employees accountable.

Our office is also charged with conducting all complaint investigations involving allegations of misconduct against the Chief of Police. Under the Los Angeles City Charter, the Board of Police Commissioners is the body responsible for adjudicating complaints of misconduct against the Chief of Police. To ensure that any investigation against the Chief of Police is conducted in a fair and thorough manner, the OIG acts as the investigative arm on behalf of the Commission, therefore outside the Chief of Police's chain of command. Such an arrangement removes any systemic conflicts of interest when the Chief is investigated for alleged misconduct. These critical investigations are always treated with the utmost seriousness and professionalism and are intended to hold the Department accountable via holding its chief executive responsible for his/her behavior and conduct.

Finally, OIG staff respond to the scenes of categorical uses of force (including officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, and other high-level uses of force) to ensure that the on-scene investigations conducted by the LAPD's Force Investigation Division (FID) – the LAPD's specialized division responsible for investigating such incidents) – are conducted in an objective and impartial manner. OIG staff also take part in all significant use of force proceedings and discussions between the time the incident occurs through the Board of Police Commissioner's adjudication of the Department's investigation (with regard to whether the substantially involved officer(s)'(s) actions comported with applicable policy and training). These proceedings include a 72-hour briefing, a Use of Force Review Board, and multiple other meetings with the FID. Again, as the investigative arm of the Commission, the OIG's report provides the Commission with objective information to allow the Commission to determine whether categorical uses of force are in or out of policy.

The OIG takes great pride in its work and makes considerable efforts to hold all levels and ranks of the LAPD accountable for alleged misconduct, especially in instances when allegations of such misconduct can be supported with evidence. Not only does the OIG post our reports containing various findings and recommendations online; we also revisit these recommendations regularly and make them repeatedly if appropriate.

As a final note, the OIG is disappointed to see this specific recommendation in the civil grand jury report articulated in such manner. For over a year, the OIG worked in close collaboration and shared extensive information with representatives of the civil grand jury before the publication of this report. The assertion that the OIG is not performing its duties is outrageous and contrary to the oversight performed, and continues to perform, by this office and its dedicated staff to hold the LAPD accountable for its actions.

\*\* It was requested that the OIG respond to recommendation No. R12.6; however, this recommendation was not included in the report we received.\*\*

# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



**DOMINIC H. CHOI**  
Chief of Police

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Los Angeles, CA 90030  
Telephone: (213) 486-0150  
TTY: (877) 275-5273  
Ref #: 1.2

**KAREN BASS**  
Mayor

August 21, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Presiding Judge,

Please find the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD or Department) response to the Los Angeles County Superior Court's Civil Grand Jury report titled, "*Law Enforcement Use of Force Involving Racial Bias.*" The Department has reviewed the report and supporting materials in their entirety and, pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, responds the Civil Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations. The Department welcomes and appreciates the opportunity to engage in this timely and important conversation.

## **Findings**

***Finding 12.1:*** "Black and Brown communities are more heavily policed. LASD and LAPD show a clear pattern of engaging in higher UOF in Latino and Black neighborhoods."

***Response: Disagree.*** The notion that a community is "more heavily policed" is an oversimplification of a series of factors. While LAPD activity may be higher in one area of the City as opposed to another, it must be weighed against crime statistics and trends that are occurring in that section of the City. Arbitrarily withholding Department resources or activity from one part of the City, while crime data supports the level of resources assigned, would be in direct conflict with the Mission of the Los Angeles Police Department to address crime.

***Finding 12.2:*** "It has been reported that some California LE agencies hold back BWV from public release when the footage pertains to excessive UOF against civilians is recorded, especially when officer misconduct is suspected or involved. According to California State Law Assembly Bill 748, BWV is supposed to be released within 45 days unless the LE agency could substantiate if the public interest in withholding the video or audio clearly outweighs the public interest in releasing it."

***Response: Disagree.*** The source cited for this assertion is a news report regarding a specific incident prior to the completion of the investigation of that incident. The Department thoroughly



investigated the allegation that evidence was planted and determined it to be Unfounded<sup>1</sup>. The finding incorrectly, and without empirical support, makes the assertion that the LAPD suppresses body-worn video and digital in-car video based upon a single inaccurate allegation. The Department has diligently complied with Assembly Bill 748 and has a dedicated section of personnel tasked with the responsibilities laid out in AB 478.

***Finding 12.3:*** “Many LACY LE officers who patrol and police Black and Latino neighborhoods do not live in or anywhere near the areas they work in.”

***Response: Disagree.*** The Department disagrees with the implication of this finding. Department personnel reside in the City and County of Los Angeles as well as the surrounding communities. The assertions made in the third paragraph of the Community Policing heading are opinion and do not account for an officer’s upbringing, place of birth, or where they were raised. This finding negates the diverse life-experiences of Department personnel. The Department is made up of a variety of ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. Below is a table illustrating the ethnic make-up of sworn personnel of the LAPD from the 2023 Use of Force Year End Review published by the LAPD.

Ethnicity	Number of Sworn Personnel	Percentage
American Indian	31	< 1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	738	8%
Black	800	9%
Filipino	221	2%
Hispanic	4,881	54%
White	2,252	25%
Other	42	< 1%
Total	8,965	100%

***Finding 12.4:*** “LE oversight entities 98% of the time do not charge LE officers with criminal offenses even when there is overwhelming evidence that the involved officers did not follow procedure, policy and most importantly, the law. LACY LE has on a number of occasions falsified reports and even stalled investigations to assist LE officers who do not follow the law or policy. LACY LE continues to keep damaging evidence of wrongdoing by its officers from becoming public.”

***Response: Disagree.*** The source cited in this finding is simply a website based interactive log of persons who were killed as a result of police related uses of force in Los Angeles County. The log does not indicate that the uses of force involved some sort of misconduct or illegal action by law enforcement. The portion of the report itself regarding this topic simply states that it is rare for the District Attorney to bring charges and that in 99 percent of cases officer actions were deemed to be lawful. The report does not offer the “overwhelming evidence” of misconduct and criminal action that would warrant charges being filed against officers.

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<sup>1</sup> Department policy defines “Unfounded” as: the investigation determined the allegation did not occur as described.

Furthermore, the assertions made in the rest of the finding are generalizations not supported by empirical data. The assertions such as “LE has on a number of occasions,” and “LACY LE continues to keep damaging evidence of wrongdoing...from the public” are overly-broad and not sufficiently supported beyond limited cases offered in the report.

***Finding 12.5:*** “LASD is not aware of what percentage of deputies live in the areas they patrol.”

***Response: Disagree.*** The Department does not have any factual information, outside of the information contained in this report, to provide an informed response to this finding.

### **Recommendations**

***Recommendation 12.1:*** *The LAPD and the LASD should use training officers who have a more inclusive attitude toward other ethnic minorities and dissuade patrol training officers from passing on outdated and racially bias procedures.*

- a. LAPD should source creative strategies and anti-racist curriculum for training officers.*
- b. LASD should source creative strategies and anti-racist curriculum for training officers.*

***Response: Has been implemented.*** The Department has a selection process, training program, and multiple safeguards in place that ensure Field Training Officers (FTO) are conducting themselves in a professional manner, based on the law, Department policy, and constitutional policing standards, in all things, but particularly when training new officers. These steps are listed below:

#### **Interview Process**

The selection of an FTO for the Department begins with the oral interview. This interview is conducted by personnel with the rank of Sergeant or higher who are assigned to the geographic Area that has the FTO vacancy. Questions for the interviews are provided by Employee Selection Section, Personnel Division. Mandatory questions include those related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and conflict resolution. Additionally, raters seek responses that are guided by our core values, reverence for life, and Department policy, which includes the prohibition of biased policing.

Once the interviews are completed and scored, the results are given to the respective patrol and/or Area commanding officer to rank their selection. This selection is then submitted to the bureau commanding officer for another round of review. During this entire process, the candidate’s performance during the interview, as well as their work history, is evaluated to make the best possible selection.

#### **FTO School**

Once an FTO is selected, they are required to attend a 40-hour Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified course before they can train probationary officers. In this course, the topics of bias, diversity, equity, and inclusion are taught and discussed (see

Expanded Course Outline for FTO School 1850\_31725). The curriculum also includes Leadership, Ethics and Professionalism, legal matters, homeless issues, and guest speakers from the LGBTQ+ community.

Additionally, FTOs are required to attend a 24-hour FTO update training every three years. This training re-emphasizes the concepts from the 40-hour school.

The FTO Unit, Training Division, completes its mission using a variety of tools. They arrange for instructors from different backgrounds (both professionally and personally) to facilitate instruction. These instructors encompass all ranks and include POST certified Subject Matter Experts. All instructors conform to the Expanded Course Outline (ECO) for the course, while simultaneously basing their instruction on the Department's Core Values:

- Service to Our Communities;
- Reverence for the Law;
- Commitment to Leadership;
- Integrity in All We Say and Do;
- Respect for People; and,
- Quality Through Continuous Improvement.

The FTO Unit creates a positive training environment where students are allowed to express their current views. Meaningful and productive discussions are facilitated to address issues and provide different perspectives for various issues.

### **Reporting**

Probationary police officers are required to complete an anonymous survey after each training cycle with a FTO regarding the quality of training, and if any misconduct occurred. These surveys are forwarded to the FTO Unit for review.

Finally, should an FTO commit misconduct or exhibit behavior that is unbecoming of the position, they may be deselected from the FTO program, upon a sustained allegation of misconduct, per Department Manual Section 3/763.90 (available online to the public at [www.lapdonline.org/lapd-manual/](http://www.lapdonline.org/lapd-manual/)).

**Recommendation 12.2:** *“All LACY LE agencies and departments should follow California Assembly Bill 748 (AB 748) to the law. LACY LE oversight authorities should stop allowing LE to do whatever they please when it comes to releasing BWV.”*

**Response:** *Has been implemented.* The Department's Media Relations Division (MRD) has diligently abided by Assembly Bill (AB) 478 since it was passed into law in July 2019. The MRD has fully complied with the law and has released all Critical Incident Community Briefing videos in less than 45 days from the occurrence of the incident. Additionally, MRD internally tracks all pending Critical Incident Community Briefing videos to ensure that they are posted promptly and in compliance with AB 478.

The Department also maintains a California Public Records Act (CPRA) compliance unit to review and process all CPRA requests from the public and media. These CPRA requests include

BWV which are individually evaluated and appropriately released, if permissible. Furthermore, the Media Relations Division Handbook explicitly details Assembly Bill 478 and its provisions. This handbook is required knowledge for supervision and is available to all officers and the public on LAPDonline.org.

***Recommendation 12.3:*** “*LACY LE agencies should make a more concerted effort to recruit officers who live in or near the areas they are assigned to patrol. LASD should collect racial data on officers to include for consideration when assigning officer patrol location.*”

***Response:*** *Has been implemented.* The LAPD is responsible for policing a 498 square-mile area. According to 2022 Census results, the City of Los Angeles is comprised of 36 percent Hispanic/Latino residents, 21 percent White, 6 percent Black/African American, 9 percent Asian, 1 percent Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 9 percent two or more races, and 18 percent other race. Comparatively for the same year, LAPD Personnel Division reported that 53 percent of sworn employees were Hispanic/Latino, 26 percent were White, 9 percent were Black/African American, 8 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander, 3 percent were Filipino, and 1 percent were other race.

For calendar year 2023, the Department hired 11.804 percent Black/African American officers, 69.933 percent Hispanic/Latino, 7.350 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, 9.800 percent White, and 1.114 percent Filipino.

In 2024, year to date, the Department has hired 245 recruit officers. Of those, 7.8 percent are Black/African American, 67.3 percent are Hispanic/Latino, 7.8 percent are Asian/Pacific Islander, 15.9 percent are White, and 1.2 percent are Filipino. The Department’s hiring and employment demographics are consistent with the community demographics for the City of LA.

The Department is committed to recruitment efforts within historically marginalized communities and to creating new partnerships with community-based organizations. Our 2023 Strategic Plan, specifically *Goal 7 – Increase Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in the Workforce*, highlights these efforts with several key activities, which include recruiting candidates of diverse gender, ethnic and racial backgrounds.

Additionally, Recruitment and Employment Division (RED) conducts recruiting events at area colleges and job fairs in order to reach individuals from all areas of Los Angeles.

The Department has, and continues to, recruit from within the City limits, as a large majority of our recruiting events are held in Los Angeles and in neighboring cities. Specifically, the Department hosts hiring seminars and functions throughout the City of Los Angeles, to include Community Safety Partnership Bureau sites, which consists of parks and housing developments in historically-disadvantaged areas of Los Angeles. These events are conducted in order to bring recruitment efforts directly to individuals who live in the areas the Department patrols.

However, due to a shortage of viable candidates, and due to the low hiring rate, the Department welcomes diverse candidate applicants from all areas.

In addition, RED currently markets our job opportunities to the greater Los Angeles Metro area including LA, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties, with a specific focus to

hire more Black/African American, Asian-American/Pacific Islander, and female officers. These traditional recruiting efforts are in addition to online events, which make our hiring process more accessible to all who may not have the time or ability to attend events in person.

***Recommendation 12.4:*** “*LE oversight entities should do their jobs and be outraged at their own failing to hold LE officers and their commanders accountable for continued unwanted missuses of authority and to deprive citizens of fair treatment under the law.*”

*This recommendation has several parts:*

- 1. LE oversight entities should do their job;*
- 2. LE oversight entities should be outraged at their own failing to hold officers accountable for continued unwanted missuses of authority;*
- 3. LE oversight entities should be outraged at their own failing to hold officers accountable for depriving citizens of fair treatment under the law;*
- 4. LE oversight entities should be outraged at their own failing to hold commanders accountable for continued unwanted missuses of authority; and,*
- 5. LE oversight entities should be outraged at their own failing to hold commanders accountable for depriving citizens of fair treatment under the law.*

***Response to subset 1:*** *Has been implemented.*

***Response to subset 2 - 5:*** *Will not be implemented*

Please refer to the following documents which directly address Recommendation 12.4:

- Categorical Use of Force Administrative Process;
- Categorical Use of Force Review Process;
- Non-Categorical Use of Force Review Process;
- Office of the Chief of Staff Notice regarding Changes to Use of Force Review and Adjudication Process, dated August 18, 2008; and,
- Office of the Chief of Police Use of Force Directive, dated July 22, 2008.

## **Background**

The Grand Jury’s interpretation of *Graham v. Connor*, the officer-involved shooting (OIS) with Omar Gonzalez, and the OIS with Jermain Petit starkly contrasts with the adjudications from both the Department and the Board of Police Commissioners.

### **Graham v. Connor (1989)**

The Grand Jury Report cited the United States Supreme Court Case *Graham v. Connor* as an effort to “reign in” law enforcement. This case recognizes that an officer’s actions during the course of a use of force should be judged by what that officer knew to be objectively reasonable at the time of the incident. The court went on to say:

All claims that law enforcement officials have used excessive force -- deadly or not -- in the course of an arrest, investigatory stop, or other "seizure" of a free citizen are properly

analyzed under the Fourth Amendment's "objective reasonableness" standard, rather than under a substantive due process standard.

Contrary to what the Grand Jury Report implies, this court decision was not a restriction on Law Enforcement, rather it provided a legal framework for the constitutional standard to be applied to a police use of force.

### **Omar Gonzalez (2016)**

The Grand Jury Report cited a specific officer involved shooting incident during which Omar Gonzalez was shot in the back with no weapon in his possession. The source that the Grand Jury Report used for this allegation was an online news article published by ABC 7 news. The Grand Jury Report does not cite any other sources of information regarding this specific incident. Omar Gonzalez did, in fact, have a firearm in his possession that he was aiming at an officer at the time of the shooting.

Relying solely on online news articles as source documents could lead to conjecture being presented as fact. The Abridged Summary of Categorical Use of Force Incident and Findings by the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners this incident, OIS Case No 045-16 is available to the public. These documents allow the public to access the facts of each categorical use of force to read and interpret for themselves. This incident was found to be IN POLICY by The Board of Police Commissioners, and no charges were filed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (DA).

As cited in the Grand Jury Report, the same officer was involved in a second incident on August 9, 2016. The Grand Jury Report only stated that the subject involved in the shooting was a 14-year old boy. The fact that he was actively shooting a gun at an officer was omitted. The Abridged Summary of Categorical Use of Force Incident and Findings by the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners for OIS Case No. 053-16 is also publicly available. This incident was also found to be IN POLICY by the Board of Police Commissioners, and no charges against the officer were filed by the DA.

### **Jermaine Petit (2022)**

The Grand Jury Report cited this incident as a case illustrating racial bias. Once again, the source that the Grand Jury used for this case was an online news article. The facts of this incident, and the events leading up to it, directly contradict how the incident was portrayed in the Grand Jury Report.

The Abridged Summary of Categorical Use of Force Incident and Findings by the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners for OIS Case. No 037-22 is available to the public. These documents allow the public to access the facts of each categorical use of force to read and interpret for themselves. The findings by the Board of Police Commissioners for this case were as follows:

- Tactics: Officers E, F, and Sergeant A to warrant Administrative Disapproval;
- Drawing and Exhibiting: Officers E, F, and Sergeant A to be IN POLICY; and,

- Lethal Use of Force: Sergeant A OUT OF POLICY and Officer E IN POLICY.

**Note:** Both the Administrative Disapproval and Out of Policy findings had to do with tactics only and had nothing to do with racial bias.

### **The Los Angeles Police Department's Commitment to Transparency and Accountability**

Department Policy mandates that “video evidence in the Department’s possession of Critical Incidents involving LAPD officers be released to the public within 45 days of the incident” (LAPD Manual 1/420.55). The Department Manual goes on to state that the video evidence “shall be accompanied by additional information to provide context based on evidence available at the time of the release” (LAPD Manual 1/420.55). This policy is in compliance with Assembly Bill No. 748 regarding peace officer video and audio recording disclosures.

The Mission of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) states:

It is the mission of the Los Angeles Police Department to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while working with the diverse communities to improve their quality of life. Our mandate is to do so with honor and integrity, while at all times conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.

The LAPD remains fully committed to its core values, including *Respect for People* and *Reverence for the Law*. As such, the LAPD has already implemented one of the most robust oversight systems in the country. Beyond review of all uses of force by Department personnel, the Department is also committed to ensuring that all of its personnel are held accountable for their actions.

The LAPD accepts complaints from any source, including third-party, non-percipient witnesses, but utilizing nearly any method. Anyone in the community can call, write, email, fax, or speak with a supervisor in-person to file a complaint. Also, a specific request for a complaint is not required: the mere recitation of an allegation that *could be* considered misconduct is sufficient to initiate a complaint investigation.

In addition to being fully responsive to community allegations of misconduct, the LAPD proactively audits its employees for adherence to constitutional policing principles by deploying undercover officers to test the performance of other officers. Any failures identified are addressed through the Department’s discipline system.

Once a complaint is initiated, a thorough investigation is completed to determine what occurred. The investigation is then presented to the employee’s commanding officer to adjudicate the concern: this stage requires the commanding officer to weigh the evidence and determine if the act, as alleged, occurred. This recommended adjudication is transmitted to that commanding officer’s bureau, at which time the bureau commanding officer reviews the investigation and recommends adjudication for appropriateness. Finally, the adjudication is routed to the Review and Evaluation Section, Professional Standards Bureau, for a final review of appropriateness before any sustained allegations are presented to the Chief of Police for penalty imposition. If an

officer is found to have misused their authority or failed to deliver impartial policing, the officer is held accountable and appropriate corrective actions are taken.

The oversight process is layered with a series of internal reviews and structural checks and balances, culminating with process-wide monitoring by the independent Office of the Inspector General—an entity who reports only to the all-civilian Board of Police Commissioners.

Recommendation 12.6 was not contained in the report and therefore the Department was unable to respond to that portion of the report.

## **Conclusion**

The LAPD enforces the law guided by constitutional policing principles. Police stops and detentions shall only be conducted based on legitimate, articulable facts, consistent with the standards of reasonable suspicion and probable cause. The Department's guiding principle when using force is reverence for human life. The Department exemplifies this principle with Directive No. 16, which provides a framework for officers to use so that they might de-escalate any given situation.

Unfortunately, officers cannot control the actions of individuals unwilling to comply with lawful arrests or detentions, which necessitates the use of force. When LAPD officers use force, it is a matter of critical concern for both the public and law enforcement community. The Department has checks and balances in place to guard against bias and discrimination, specifically an anti-bias policy and a Biased Policing Complaint system. The mechanisms that the Department has in place to investigate and adjudicate these complaints are thorough and concise.

In 2022, out of 1,159,568 public encounters with LAPD officers, only 31 incidents or .0002 percent, resulted in an officer-involved shooting. The United States Supreme Court case *Graham v. Connor*, indicates that an officer's actions during uses of force should be judged by what that officer knew to be objectively reasonable at the time of the incident. The aforementioned 31 incidents adhered to Department processes and were evaluated by a Use of Force Review Board, the Chief of Police, the Office of the Inspector General, and the Board of Police Commissioners.

The Department recognizes that it receives its legitimacy as a law enforcement organization from its community members, stakeholders, and elected officials. The Department remains committed to being a leader in 21<sup>st</sup> Century policing. The Department's commitment to transparency with regard to critical incidents, and matters concerning to the public, ensure our commitment to earning the public's trust and respect.



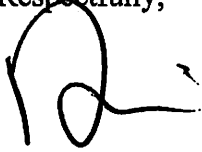
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California

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1.2

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Chief of Staff at (213) 468-8760.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Choi', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

DOMINIC H. CHOI  
Chief of Police

Enclosures

**EV CHARGING IN LA COUNTY**  
The “Shocking” Story



**2023 – 2024**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

No LH

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS; INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EV CHARGING IN LA COUNTY: THE "SHOCKING" STORY

### SUMMARY

"This report identifies and puts forth recommendations to assist in EV (Electric Vehicle) drivers' experiences when charging their vehicle throughout Los Angeles, including methods and practices to handle most problems found at County-owned EVCS (Electric Vehicle Charging Stations) parking facilities. This report addresses these problems and offers practical and workable solutions that could be modeled everywhere."<sup>12</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.1a**

Increase the number of EV Charging Stations at all large parking facilities that currently have less than ten percent of their total parking spaces set up as EV charging stations.

### RESPONSE

Agree. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The County, through the coordination of its Department Public Works (DPW) and its Internal Services Department (ISD) will work to increase the number of EV charging stations to 10 percent of the total parking spaces by 2027.

ISD has been working with all County departments to install EVCSs (Electric Vehicle Charging Stations) to meet County Fleet, employee, and visitor charging demands, including replacing over 300 old stations on various networks to streamline the user experience. Recent focus has been on Justice40 communities as this has been the priority of local utilities, State, and federal funding. The pace of installations is dependent on numerous factors, including available County and grant/incentive funding, as well as the availability of equipment, which has been impacted ever since the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.1b**

Request that funding from the BOS for the EV Charging Infrastructure be tripled to six million dollars annually at LAC controlled parking facilities.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. This recommendation requires further analysis, as part of the annual County budget process. The County and its Internal Services Department (ISD) agree with the need for increased investments to meet established goals and targets in this funding area. However, there are many needs and priorities that must be considered during the annual County budget process.

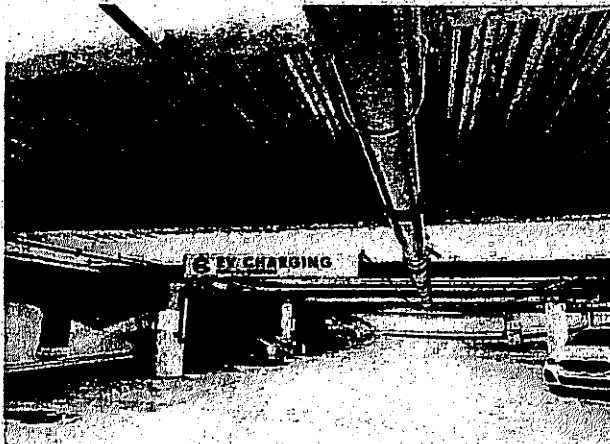
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<sup>12</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, EV Charging in LA County: The "Shocking" Story, pp. 258-259.

When investigating the request for funds for EV charging stations in parking facilities under the control of the County during the next budget cycle, there will also be an exploration of any funds that can also be leveraged with federal/State/utility grant or incentive dollars. For example, in the budget for FY 2024-25, the adopted County budget for EV infrastructure was increased to \$3.8 million and is expected to leverage approximately \$8 million in utility incentives, as well as several more million in grant funding.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.2**

At the entrance of each large parking facility, install the following signage: "Follow green line to EV Charging Stations", as well as install a green line from each entrance of the parking facilities to charging stations as seen in the (example) photo below:



(Example provided by Committee member)

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Currently, signage is posted at various locations when entering garages, along with the signage at the EV stations themselves. Signage will be reviewed for visibility and wayfinding to help guide customers to EV charging stations. Current signage will be supplemented with additional signage and wayfinding measures, as appropriate. Applicable signage standards will be followed for all EV charging stations that are installed by 2027.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.3**

Install an EV-Only sign and paint the ground "EV-Charging Only" at each charging station.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD) works closely with host Departments on signage. Some departments choose to have some parking spots with EV charging stations to be EV-optional. Many County parking facilities are parking space constrained, and the host department may choose to only dedicate some of the parking spots to be EV-only while some others could be EV-optional. The mix of EV-optional to EV-only parking spots will change over time as demand for EV-only parking spots increases.

This is especially true at sites where ISD purposefully installs more charging stations than immediate demand for charging stations would warrant. This is done to anticipate future demand and recognize that the cost to add additional infrastructure later on can be non-linear, as most of the cost can lie in the undergrounding and electrical switchgear.

As such, many large County parking facilities with EV infrastructure are initially designed to accommodate EV-optional parking with the anticipated change to EV-only in the future when the demand for EV-only spots warrants that transition. In the meantime, applicable signage standards will be followed for all EV charging stations that are installed by 2027.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.4**

Train parking personnel to regularly monitor EV Charging Stations and report broken or missing signs and missing or problematic QR codes to ISD management.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented in the future. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), works with facility managers to address signage or QR code issues, as well as matters of maintenance. ISD has also established an email address ([evsupport@isd.lacounty.gov](mailto:evsupport@isd.lacounty.gov)) where ISD staff can be contacted about the resolution of maintenance issues, as a supplement to the PowerFlex support phone and email contacts to ensure timely responses to issues that arise. There are also plans to provide staff training on regular monitoring of EV charging stations, as well as educational materials for employees and the public on how to use these charging stations.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.5**

Refresh EV-Only ground signs when they are difficult to read.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented in the future. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD) and its Department of Public Works (DPW), works to refresh such EV-Only ground signs when they become difficult to read. This includes routine evaluation of signage, striping, and ground stencils to maintain visibility. When these elements become difficult to see, they are updated and/or refreshed.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.6**

Enforcement policy of EV Only laws need to be done on a case-by-case basis. Train parking personnel to recognize that if no EVCS are available, we recommend a paper warning sign be placed under the windshield wiper of the gas-powered vehicle stating that their vehicle is in violation of the EV Charging statutes. If an EV is not connected to charging Station, then a similar notice should be placed under the windshield wiper of the EV not charging. *See Appendix 2 and 3 full page layout.*

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation will continue to be implemented in the future. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD) and Department of Public Works (DPW), currently provides for parking citations in the enforcement of parking management. Parking personnel are trained to recognize violations and follow protocols to issue warnings accordingly, whether for gas-powered vehicles or EVs not connected to charging stations. Ongoing review of the procedures for EV charging enforcement will be done to ensure that the procedures are updated, as needed, for staff issuing citations to address appropriate parking and use at EV stations.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.7**

It is recommended that after paper warning has been placed on a specific vehicle for violation of the EV statute, the next offense should be enforced with a \$100 ticket or that their car be towed or that a boot be placed on the vehicle tire.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's protocol involves issuing warnings for initial violations, in accordance with established procedures. However, the County will review current enforcement levels for consideration of any changes to further compel compliance with existing parking policies.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.8**

ISD management to train parking personnel on parking enforcement protocols.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County's Internal Services Department (ISD) already train their staff on parking enforcement protocols. ISD will monitor warnings issued to vehicles to improve the escalation process, ensuring a more effective review of infractions, including those that may be from repeat offenders. Ongoing review of the procedures for EV charging enforcement will be done to ensure that the procedures are updated, as needed, for staff issuing citations to address appropriate parking and use at EV stations.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.9a**

It is recommended that a Wi-Fi extender (strengthens Wi-Fi signal) be placed in areas where repeated Wi-Fi issues occur. The optimal solution is to install a Wi-Fi booster or repeater to increase Wi-Fi strength to those areas with poor reception.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented, since the PowerFlex system hardware does not operate over Wi-Fi. The PowerFlex user app is designed to initiate a charge session even if the user's cell phone does not have cellular service or Wi-Fi while the user is in the parking facility. Once the user walks outside the parking facility and can re-establish a connection to a cellular or Wi-Fi network, the app will allow the charge session to continue.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.9b**

It is recommended that the EV-Optional signs be placed in areas of the weakest Wi-Fi signal for those parking facilities that have reversible signs reading EV-Optional on one side and the 4-hour limit with the violation codes on the other side.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented, since the PowerFlex system hardware does not operate over Wi-Fi. The PowerFlex user app is designed to initiate a charge session even if the user's cell phone does not have cellular service or Wi-Fi while the user is in the parking facility. Once the user walks outside the parking facility and can re-establish a connection to a cellular or Wi-Fi network, the app will allow the charge session to continue.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.9c**

ISD to examine the feasibility placing Wi-Fi booster or repeater in areas with poor reception.

**RESPONSE**

Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented, since the PowerFlex system hardware does not operate over Wi-Fi. The PowerFlex user app is designed to initiate a charge session even if the user's cell phone does not have cellular service or Wi-Fi while the user is in the parking facility. Once the user walks outside the parking facility and can re-establish a connection to a cellular or Wi-Fi network, the app will allow the charge session to continue.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.10**

It is recommended that when a charging project is slated to begin that data be collected and recorded on an excel spread sheet. The following information would facilitate incremental improvements to the installation process:

- Actual start date of EV charger project at (address of location).
- Actual completion date of installation of charging stations.
- Actual date the charging stations come online and are available for charging.
- Actual date when wall signs are installed.
- Actual date when ground signs are installed.

### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), currently tracks relevant dates for project management of new EVSE (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment)/EVCS (Electric Vehicle Charging Station) installations. Additionally, the County's Department of Public Works (DPW) is planning to implement an inventory system by 2027 that will include tracking the actual start date, completion date of installation, availability for charging, and installation dates of wall and ground signs at each location.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.11**

It is recommended that a contract be established with at least one to three reliable repair contractors so that an independent service provider can respond to a problem if PowerFlex is not able to respond within 48 hours.

### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is being implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), is in the process of setting up a contract with such Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) maintenance contractors. Additionally, a contract with PowerFlex is already in place and if PowerFlex is unable to respond within 48 hours, County departments coordinate on the repairs to the PowerFlex-enabled equipment.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.12**

It is recommended that all DC fast chargers in publicly accessed parking facilities be removed and replaced Level 2 chargers. The DC Fast Chargers should be used primarily for emergency response electric vehicles, police electric vehicles, public transportation electric vehicles and the LAC Sheriff's electric vehicles.

### **RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation has been partially implemented. The County's Department of Public Works (DPW) only utilizes Level 2 chargers in publicly accessed parking facilities and does not have any DC fast chargers, though DPW does not have any vehicles that are primarily used for emergency response.

However, the County partially disagrees with the recommendation because there are different use cases for employees and consumers that warrant a possible mix of technological solutions. As such, the inventory of EV chargers will continue to be re-evaluated, to make any necessary updates to best meet current demand.



**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.13**

Education is needed for the EV owner to understand how to use the EVCSs. A QR code could be created for EV owners to provide them with the education that they need to make their EV driving and charging experience seamless and enjoyable.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. Consumer education is needed, and this information is currently provided by the County's Internal Services Department (ISD) through the PowerFlex user guide/video(s), signage (as appropriate to each location), and onsite outreach. ISD has hosted several community events to increase awareness, showcase various EV models, and teach users how to use the app and charging stations. Additionally, the County's Department of Public Works (DPW) is in the process of providing a QR Code at EV charging stations, by 2027, to help direct consumers to a website with relevant educational content.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.14a**

At 145 N. Broadway Los Angeles (Parking Lot 10), the Committee recommends that either the wall and ground signs be removed, or additional chargers be installed to replace the ones that have been removed.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), has removed the EV signs as of July 22, 2024. The ground signs were removed by the end of July 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.14b**

At 11705 Alameda St. in Lynwood. Either install EV Chargers where the signs are or remove the signs.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), has installed "EV Charging Inside" signs at the parking booth as of July 19, 2024. The existing EV signs are for EV vehicle (preferential) parking, not EV charging.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.14c**

At 8300 S. Vermont, Los Angeles. Install an additional 10-20 EVCS.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County, through its Internal Services Department (ISD), installed 20 new PowerFlex chargers to replace a broken EVConnect network, which was fully commissioned in January 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.15**

ISD and DPW work together to include EVCS when new or upgraded parking facilities are being planned.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has already been implemented. The County's Internal Services Department (ISD) and Department of Public Works (DPW) worked together on the deployment of EV infrastructure at new parking facilities. EVSE (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment) installation is a code requirement for new parking facilities. ISD and DPW are working together to install chargers in parking lots to achieve compliance with County of Los Angeles Building Code Sections R401.4.1 through R401.4.4 (IRC N1101.15.1 through IRC N1101.15.3).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 13.16**

Training of parking facilities managers by ISD is recommended. This training would include: Things to watch for like broken or damaged signs, peeling QR codes on EV Chargers, EVs parked at charging stations but not charging their vehicle, gas vehicles parked in EV Charging spots. All problems should be reported to parking management who in turn report to ISD management.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is currently being implemented. The County's Internal Services Department (ISD) has already shared a preventive maintenance checklist for County departments and their facility staff. ISD has conducted onsite training of facility staff and has established an email address ([evsupport@isd.lacounty.gov](mailto:evsupport@isd.lacounty.gov)) for the intake of maintenance issues, such as the ones mentioned in this recommendation. As part of these implementation efforts, ISD will internally clarify roles and responsibilities for oversight, as needed.

**ARTISTS AND CIVIC PLACEMAKING**  
Creative Strategists Supporting Non-Arts Government Functions



**2023 – 2024**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARTISTS AND CIVIC PLACEMAKING: CREATIVE STRATEGISTS SUPPORTING NON- ARTS GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

### SUMMARY

"This report focuses on Creative Strategists, artists engaged in a process to support non-arts government functions. This report found that the Creative Strategist program is investing in process-based solutions, legacy frameworks, and forward-looking placemaking projects related to non-arts government functions. The research of this report found a lack of funding, programing staff, and resource infrastructure. The report advocates for a more robust Creative Strategist program as part of cross-sector initiatives and the Countywide Cultural Policy (CCP)."<sup>13</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.1 (a)**

BOS direct CEO to find funding to meet the staffing needs of the DA&C.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. This request for funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process. Departmental budget requests are prepared and submitted for consideration to the Chief Executive Office (CEO) annually. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 29040, each budget submission should include a base budget and an official budget request reflecting critical and unmet needs. The Recommended Budget is the first step in the County's multi-part budget process, which includes Public Hearings in May; deliberations leading to Board of Supervisors (BOS) approval of the Adopted Budget in June; and the Supplemental Budget culminating with BOS approval of the Final Adopted Budget in the fall.

For context, the Department of Arts and Culture's (DA&C) budget has increased by \$3.858M and 13.0 positions in the three fiscal years (FY) from FY 2020-21 through FY 2023-24, as seen in the following chart:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Final Adopted Budget</u>	<u>Budgeted Positions</u>
FY 2020-21	\$15,233,000	39.0
FY 2023-24	\$19,091,000	52.0

<sup>13</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Artists and Civic Placemaking: Creative Strategists Supporting Non-Arts Government Functions, pp. 307-343.

Additionally, the following are the Net County Cost (NCC) amounts and positions approved for DA&C, from FY 2021-22 through FY 2023-24:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>NCC</u>	<u>Positions</u>
FY 2021-22	\$1,771,000	3.0
FY 2022-23	\$1,494,000	9.0
FY 2023-24	\$593,000	1.0

Any new requests can be revisited during the County’s annual budgeting process and considered along with requests from other departments and Board priorities.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.1 (b)**

DA&C should report to BOS and CEO with staffing requirements; with special consideration towards creating foundational program infrastructure and accounting for future opportunities for the Department.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented by the County’s Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) through the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan ([https://www.lacountyarts.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdfs/cultural-policy-strategic-plan\\_7-1-f.pdf](https://www.lacountyarts.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdfs/cultural-policy-strategic-plan_7-1-f.pdf)).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.3**

DA&C should use sole source contracts to rehire those Creative Strategists with incomplete and easily revived projects.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. In general, the County’s preference is for open competitive solicitations for contracting, rather than sole source contracts. Per Board Policy No. 5100, County Departments are to solicit the maximum number of bids/proposals for a service from the largest relevant market and select contractors on a competitive basis. This is done to ensure equity in the consideration of potential contractors that the County does business with (including business owners who are minorities, women, and/or disabled veterans), while also seeking the best price for the services the County contracts for. The County continues to analyze the potential of designing certain solicitations in a way that smaller community-based organizations (CBOs), businesses, and nonprofits can access contract opportunities. However, DA&C has implemented this finding on a small scale, limited basis for single projects when funding was available.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.4 (a)**

BOS should direct CEO to find funding for unaddressed Strategies outlined in the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This request for funding would need to go through the County’s annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a). The County has previously undertaken efforts to find funding for implementing key strategies in the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan, including increased funding for the Organizational Grant Program (OGP), in support of Strategy 1 (Expand Grants to Organizations Serving Diverse Communities) (<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/172226.pdf>).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.4 (b)**

BOS should direct CEO to find remaining funding for partially-funded Strategies outlined in the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This request for funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a). The County has previously undertaken efforts to find funding for implementing key strategies in the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan, including increased funding for the Organizational Grant Program (OGP), in support of Strategy 1 (Expand Grants to Organizations Serving Diverse Communities) (<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/172226.pdf>).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.4 (c)**

BOS should direct all Department Heads to engage DA&C to incorporate Countywide Cultural Policy goals, such as, but not limited to, allocating resources to engage Creative Strategists and other programs.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) continues to implement this finding through the Countywide Cultural Policy, with existing funding and staffing resources. Annual reporting on the progress of County Departments and agencies in incorporating the arts in Countywide plans, initiatives and projects for the purposes of greater cultural inclusion and belonging, as outlined in the Countywide Cultural Policy, is already underway (<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/157546.pdf>). Departments may also submit requests for funding through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.5 (a)**

BOS should direct all Department Heads to explore incorporating Cultural Policy goals, and especially a Creative Strategist, into their operations or service models. Internal surveys, open calls and program evaluations can help make this determination for allocating departmental resources to engage DA&C programming.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) continues to implement this finding through the Countywide Cultural Policy, with existing funding and staffing resources. Annual reporting on the progress of County Departments and agencies in incorporating the arts in Countywide plans, initiatives and projects for the purposes of greater cultural inclusion and belonging, as outlined in the Countywide Cultural Policy, is already underway (<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/157546.pdf>). However, the County departments may also submit a request for funding (including funding to meet staffing needs) through the County's annual budgeting process (as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a)), as part of this exploration into where this incorporation would make sense in their specific operations and service models.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.5 (b)**

BOS should direct all Department Heads to engage with DA&C for guidance, recommendations, and development during this exploratory period. BOS direct CEO and DA&C to designate anticipated staffing and funding needs to properly interface with other departments regarding the Countywide Cultural Policy.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) continues to implement this finding through the Countywide Cultural Policy, with existing funding and staffing resources. Annual reporting on the progress of County Departments and agencies in incorporating the arts in Countywide plans, initiatives and projects for the purposes of greater cultural inclusion and belonging, as outlined in the Countywide Cultural Policy, is already underway (<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/157546.pdf>). The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) has provided the anticipated funding and staffing needs in Strategy 14 (Administer the Countywide Cultural Policy) of the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan. County departments may also submit a request for such funding through the County's annual budgeting process (as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a)).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.5 (c)**

DA&C should create necessary infrastructure (program availability, educational materials, vendor lists, resource lists, individualized compliance blueprints and inter-departmental relations person). We recognize this recommendation cannot be implemented unless DA&C received additional staff positions.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. However, creation of the necessary infrastructure mentioned (i.e., program availability, educational materials, vendor lists, individualized compliance blueprints, and inter-departmental relations person) will require additional funding, the request for which would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.6**

DA&C should expand preparatory period timelines from six to twelve months, given the project's scope. Build in clause to allow for additional time if necessary, recognizing that Creative Strategists should be engaged for a minimum of two years.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. Contracts with Creative Strategists and host departments have already included clauses to allow for such additional time, if necessary. Strategy 15 (Place Creative Strategists in Residence in County Departments to Address Social Challenges) of the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan details the staffing and funding needs for this recommendation. However, any request for such funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.7 (a)**

BOS should direct CEO to find funding to meet the staffing needs for DA&C's cross-sector work to enable the necessary infrastructure to be set in place.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This request for funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.7 (b)**

DA&C report to BOS and CEO with staffing requirements to fully-support the cross-sector division; ensure special consideration regarding potential opportunities for future expansion.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented by the County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) through the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan ([https://www.lacountyarts.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdfs/cultural-policy-strategic-plan\\_7-1-f.pdf](https://www.lacountyarts.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdfs/cultural-policy-strategic-plan_7-1-f.pdf)). DA&C also updates the BOS quarterly on the Creative Strategist Program as a whole. Any requests for the funding to fulfill these staffing requirements would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.7 (c)**

BOS and CEO should refer to Strategy 15 in DA&C's 2022 Countywide Cultural Strategic Plan for funding and staffing considerations.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. Strategy 15 (Place Creative Strategists in Residence in County Departments to Address Social Challenges) in the Countywide Cultural Strategic Plan sets forth the resource needs for one-time and ongoing costs for implementation. However, any request for such funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.8**

BOS should direct CEO to find funding to adopt DA&C's Strategic Plan Strategy 15.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. While Strategy 15 (Place Creative Strategists in Residence in County Departments to Address Social Challenges) in the Countywide Cultural Strategic Plan sets forth the resource needs for one-time and ongoing costs for implementation, any request for such funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).



**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.9 (a)**

BOS and CEO assist departments in reallocating funding and resources to engage a Creative Strategist in their priority projects. Direct departments to find outside sources, if necessary, with consultation with DA&C.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. Exploration of this reallocation of funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a) if County Departments are interested in engaging a Creative Strategist in their priority projects. The exploration of outside (non-County) sources of funding can be done on an ongoing basis, whenever County Departments decide to engage a Creative Strategist in one or more of their priority projects.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.9 (b)**

BOS direct all departments to allocate resources to use the Creative Strategist program as intended.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This resource allocation request would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.10 (a)**

Our Committee understands that fully funding the Strategic Plan and/or the Creative Strategist program cannot happen overnight. In the interim, BOS direct CEO to find funding to rehire via sole source contract process Creative Strategists identified by DA&C whose projects would benefit from expansion into all five districts.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. In general, the County's preference is for open competitive solicitations for contracting, rather than sole source contracts, as previously described in the response to Recommendation 14.3. Additionally, this request for funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.10 (b)**

Our Committee understands that fully funding the Strategic Plan and/or the Creative Strategist program cannot happen overnight. In the interim, DA&C should review the completed Creative Strategist residencies and assess which projects could be re-implemented.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. However, this recommendation cannot be implemented without additional funding and any request for such funding would need to go through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.11**

BOS should direct CEO to find funding for a non-arts funding grant writer staff position. Much of the Countywide Cultural Policy situates DA&C in the role of arts facilitator or cultural programming administrator, not as a creative entity itself.

*Although, through our many inquiries, our Committee would argue for an unofficial classification based on the ingenuity and artistic approach current staff use to problem solve.*

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. Finding the funding for such staffing is done through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.12**

BOS and DA&C should direct Los Angeles County Arts Commission (LACAC) to assemble a working group to explore potential outside financial opportunities; fundraising, fund-matching, grant partners etc...

*Commissioners can utilize their professional experience working in the County's creative economy to guide the Department towards guaranteed sources.*

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) does not have authority to direct LACAC to create a workgroup to explore potential outside funding opportunities. However, the BOS can direct LACAC to investigate such alternative funding sources through the assembly of such a working group, which DA&C can request and provide support to. In the interim, the Civil Grand Jury report was shared with the LACAC, for the Commissioners to review, should they independently decide to assemble such a working group, before receiving such direction.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.13**

BOS should direct CEO to find funding for cross-sector continuity staffing position.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. Finding the funding for such staffing is done through the County's annual budgeting process, as described in the response to Recommendation 14.1 (a).

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.14**

DA&C and LACAC should explore expanding relationships with major studio entertainment foundations and explore cross-sector collaboration.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. The exploration of expanding such relationships and collaboration will occur, as such opportunities arise.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.15 (a)**

DA&C should build out a paid 'item menu' of specialized services (ex. Cross-sector local jurisdictional exchange); including but not limited to expansion of impact and grant-matching.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is already being implemented and will continuously be implemented in both the Creative Strategist program and other cross-sector initiatives and programs where County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) is partnering with other County departments. This includes the Arts Education and Youth Development Division programs where DA&C is developing partnerships, leveraging public and private funds (including non-arts funding sources), contracting with community-based organizations, and delivering arts for youth with the County departments and Offices, including Probation, Child and Family Services, Office of Child Protection, Mental Health, Parks, and other County partners.

DA&C will explore re-communicating its current opportunities and services to fellow County departments whenever staffing resources are available via the Cultural Policy. If there are any staffing needs, a request for funding may be submitted through the County's annual budget process.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.15 (b)**

DA&C should direct LACAC to investigate alternative funding sources (Galas, benefits, bond measures, percentage tax allocations).

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. The County's Department of Arts and Culture (DA&C) does not have the authority to direct LACAC to investigate alternative funding sources. However, the BOS can direct LACAC to investigate such alternative funding sources, which DA&C can request and provide support to. In the interim, the Civil Grand Jury report was shared with the LACAC, for the Commissioners to review, should they independently decide to investigate such funding sources, before receiving such direction.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 14.16**

Regarding DA&C's need for an entrepreneurial pivot, BOS should direct all departments to consult with DA&C to evaluate whether a Creative Strategist shall be utilized or engaged for any and all proposed third-party consulting contracts.

*Adding an artist would provide grassroots, people-focused engagement as a compliment to the top-down, analytical lens of a FUSE Fellow's report recommendations. Their pairing would directly support the Cultural Policy's robust vision for the future of County governance.*

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. Adding a Creative Strategist could be beneficial and complement some FUSE fellowships. However, it is unclear whether tying this requirement to every third-party consulting contract (or every FUSE fellowship) is the most effective or efficient way to expand the Creative Strategist program and its impact. Further analysis of the specific contracts where such an evaluation (of Creative Strategist engagement) could be beneficial would be needed. There may be situations when this sort of engagement could be useful in a consulting contract,

**EARTHQUAKE SAFETY READINESS**  
How to Survive the Big 'One'!



**2023 – 2024**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

City of Alhambra  
Fire Department



*Proudly Serving the  
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Since 1906*



*Gateway to the  
San Gabriel Valley*

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

December 12, 2024

Civil Grand Jury 2023-2024  
222 South Hill Street, Suite 670  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Whom This May Concern:

In regard to R15.16 (see below), the Alhambra Fire Department agrees and is compliant. Within the last 12 months, we have taught three CERT classes. Two have been in English, and one has been in Mandarin:

R15.16 All Fire Departments within the county should grow their CERT training so that one out every 2,000 residents in their jurisdiction is trained each year. Repeat this level of training for at least three years. Attempt to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English. Add "refresher" classes for those who were previously trained. (When responding, please indicate the languages that would be included.) By August 1 each year, report the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained during the previous 12 months to the County's Chief Sustainability Office (in the Department of the County CEO). The Department of Sustainability should include this information in their annual reports.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Ragusa  
Fire Chief

JDR:dma

*LETTERS: CIVIL GRAND JURY - CERT TRAINING*

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Fire Chief

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Administration  
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570-5190

Community Risk  
Reduction  
626  
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# City of Arcadia

## Fire Department

Chen Suen  
Fire Chief

710 South Santa  
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Arcadia, CA 91006  
(626) 574-5100  
(626) 446-7410 (fax)

December 10, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-3-3  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Written Response to County of Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury

To Whom It May Concern:

As related to the findings of the report that are applicable to the city of Arcadia, the Arcadia Fire Department agrees with the findings.

In response to the grand jury recommendations that are applicable to the Arcadia Fire Department, the following actions are reported:

Recommendation R15.16

*"The recommendation requires further analysis..."*

The city of Arcadia currently does not have a CERT program. However, prior to publication of this report, there were preliminary discussions about creating one as part of the city's ongoing efforts to better prepare for disasters. We are in the process of drafting policies and procedures for the creation of a CERT program and researching various funding sources to support its implementation. The development of such program will require dedicated city personnel for both the program's launch and its ongoing coordination and management.

Although we are approaching the six-month timeframe outlined in California Penal Code 933.05(b)(3), the Arcadia Fire Department requires additional time to finalize the drafting of policies and procedure and secure an ongoing funding source for the CERT program. We appreciate the recommendation and look forward to developing our CERT program to meet these standards.

If you have any questions or further follow up, please contact me at (626) 574-5101 or email me at [csuen@arcadiaca.gov](mailto:csuen@arcadiaca.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chen Suen  
Fire Chief

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS  
445 N. REXFORD DRIVE  
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210-4817



GREG BARTON  
FIRE CHIEF  
(310) 281-2700  
FAX: (310) 278-2449

February 13, 2025

To: M. Wayne Metcalf, Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury  
From: Trevor M. Richmond, Fire Marshal, Beverly Hills Fire Department  
Subject: Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury request 2023/24 Final Report  
Recommendations

Mr. Metcalf,

Regarding our telephone conversation on February 13, 2025, the Beverly Hills Fire Department is providing the following information based on Recommendation 15.16 that states,

*All Fire Departments within the County should grow their CERT training so that one out of every 2,000 residents in their jurisdiction is trained each year. Repeat this level of training for at least three years. Attempt to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English. Add "refresher" classes for those who were previously trained. (When responding please indicate the languages that would be included.) By August 1 each year, report the number of trainees and language in which they were trained during the previous 12 months to the County's Chief Sustainability Officer (in the Department of County CEO). The Department of Sustainability should include this information in their annual report.*

Beverly Hills Fire Department CERT Program (current program numbers)

Current population of Beverly Hills – 34,000 (approximate)

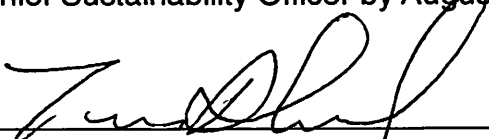
Current number of active CERT/BERT Volunteers – 44 trained in 2024. 170 trained since 2020.

Current languages other than English utilized to recruit volunteers – Spanish, Farsi

Current refresher classes and enhanced training – 2 refresher courses in 2024.

Pursuing call-out teams and fire patrols over the next year.

We are aware of the directive and will comply with reporting requirement to the County's Chief Sustainability Officer by August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

  
Trevor M. Richmond, Fire Marshal  
Beverly Hills Fire Department



**FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

311 E. Orange Grove Ave.  
Burbank, CA 91502  
818-238-3473  
[Burbankfire.us](http://Burbankfire.us)

September 30, 2024

Honorable Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple St., 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rm 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Earthquake Safety Readiness for Residents of Cities in Los Angeles County

Dear Hon. Presiding Judge,

The City of Burbank is in receipt of the 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury report on Earthquake Safety Readiness, dated June 28, 2024. Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933, the Burbank Fire Department provides the following comments to Recommendation 15.16 regarding Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs.

**“All Fire Departments within the county should grow their CERT training so that one out of every 2,000 residents in their jurisdiction is trained each year. Repeat this level of training for at least three years.”**

This recommendation has been implemented. The Burbank Fire Department's Emergency Management Division facilitates CERT classes in effort to teach citizens self-sufficiency in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Conducted in collaboration with the Burbank Fire Corps, a volunteer program that plays a non-hazardous support role to the Fire Department, CERT classes are offered twice a year in the spring and fall. Prior to the COVID pandemic, this program consistently attracted 50 to 75 people per year, or approximately 1 out of every 2,000 Burbank residents. Post-pandemic enrollment has averaged eight to 12 people per class, and to encourage an increase in participation, the Burbank Fire Department has waived its reimbursable enrollment fee. The program also makes efforts to accommodate individuals with a full work week as classes are scheduled on the weekends in a condensed four-meeting format. The Department is exploring opportunities to advertise and raise interest in the program by coordinating with other City departments and community organizations and will continue to offer at least two sessions annually in effort to reach pre-pandemic levels of participation.

**“Attempt to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English.”**

This recommendation has not been implemented but is anticipated to be implemented in the future. The Burbank CERT program does not currently have any certified instructors that can facilitate these classes in a language other than English. Since the program



utilizes a train-the-trainer format in which peer instructors are often former CERT graduates, the ability to conduct these classes in other languages that are prevalently used in the Burbank community, such as Armenian or Spanish, is contingent on the availability of multilingual volunteers and certified instructors. In the meantime, the Department is working on updating its website, which will contain translation services, and can create multilingual flyers and program materials should citizens need to reference CERT resources in a language other than English.

**“Add ‘refresher’ classes for those who were previously trained.”**

This recommendation has been implemented. The Burbank Fire Department allows former CERT graduates to attend current classes as a refresher on the skills they gained in the program. Program coordinators will continue to reach out to those who voluntarily sign up to the Department’s contact list to inform them of upcoming classes, and CERT graduates often join the Fire Corps to assist in teaching or facilitating the program.

**“By August 1 each year, report the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained during the previous 12 months to the County’s Chief Sustainability Office (in the Department of the County CEO). The Department of Sustainability should include this information in their annual reports.”**

This recommendation can be implemented. The Burbank Fire Department maintains a roster for each CERT cohort and a record of attendance for each class. The Department can report the requested statistics regarding the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained to the County each year.

The Burbank Fire Department understands the value of CERT programs in training and organizing community members to prepare for and respond to emergencies. As the Department continues to implement and grow its CERT program, it aims to meet the above recommendations and ultimately give the Burbank community greater-than-average resilience in the event of a disaster or major incident.

Thank you,



Danny Alvarez  
Fire Chief  
Burbank Fire Department

cc: [REDACTED]



# CITY OF INDUSTRY

February 27, 2025

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteen Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**SUBJECT: City of Industry’s Response to Earthquake Safety Readiness, Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report 2023-2024**

Dear Presiding Judge:

In accordance with Section 933(c) of the California Penal Code, the following responds to the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Earthquake Safety Readiness Report (“Report”). Per Section 933.05(a), the City of Industry (“City”) partially disagrees with the finding as follows.

Please update Table 1 on Page 376 to read (revisions shown in both *italics and shading*):

City	Year Incorp	Population	Soft Story	Non-Ductile Cement	Unreinforced Masonry	Steel Frame	Back to Business Plan
City of Industry	1957	264	<i>Plan*</i>	<i>Plan*</i>	<i>2010**</i>		Rec

*\*Pursuant to City of Industry Municipal Code Section 15.04.010.A, “[e]xcept as hereinafter provided, Title 26 Building Code, of the Los Angeles County Code, as amended and in effect on January 1, 2023, adopting the California Building Code, 2022 Edition (Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations) is incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth below and shall be known and may be cited as the building code of the City of Industry.” Given that the City of Industry adopts the County of Los Angeles Building Code by reference, and that the County of Los Angeles is drafting regulations to address these matters, the City is taking actions to plan for the retrofit for both soft story and non-ductile cement.*

*\*\*By reference, Section 15.04.010 of Title 15 of the City of Industry Code adopted Chapter 96 of Title 26 Building Code of Los Angeles County, which provides regulations for unreinforced masonry construction.*

In addition to information contained in the report, the Earthquake Preparedness Committee made certain recommendations. The following responds to each of those recommendations, pursuant to Section 933.05(b) of the California Penal Code:

- **R15.11 (and comment on page 378)– The Cities of Industry and Vernon should consider having a Back to Business program to benefit the large number of businesses in their cities and to help the economy recover.**

As outlined on Page 373 of the Report, "Back to Business" programs allow businesses to be voluntarily inspected now and, if meeting current code, after a major earthquake, those businesses would be the first buildings to be re-inspected, with the intention of encouraging owners to voluntarily retro-fit now to avoid excess damage later while also re-opening their businesses sooner. The City contracts with the Los Angeles County Department Public Works (the "Department") for building and safety services and needs to consult with that Department to understand the feasibility of implementing such a program, with consideration to matters such as cost, availability of resources, regulatory changes, and contract amendment, if necessary. Therefore, the City reports that this recommendation has not been implemented, pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05(b)(3), and that the recommendation requires further analysis, with completion of this analysis likely requiring six (6) months from the date of publication of the grand jury report for discussion with the City Council and any necessary action.

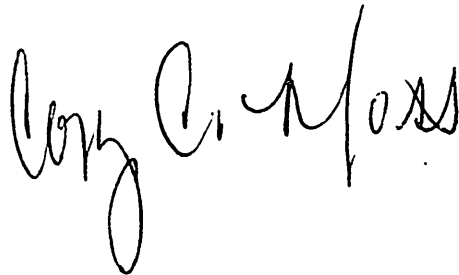
- **R15.15 – If there is a lot of damage to buildings, more building inspectors would be needed. Plan for how temporary inspectors will be obtained and how they will be assigned, keeping in mind that businesses in the medical field should be inspected first, followed by those who were enrolled in the Back to Business program.**

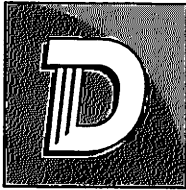
Since the City contracts with the Department for building and safety services, the City would coordinate with that Department for provision of additional building inspectors. Under the Safety Assessment Program of the California Office of Emergency Services, the Department has indicated their intent to utilize volunteers and mutual aid resources to provide professional engineers, architects, and certified building inspectors to assist with safety evaluation of the City's built environment in the aftermath of a disaster. Therefore, the City reports that this recommendation has been implemented, pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05(b)(1).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bing Hyun, Assistant City Manager, at (626) 333-2211 or by email at [bhyun@cityofindustry.org](mailto:bhyun@cityofindustry.org).

Sincerely,

Cory C. Moss  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cory C. Moss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.



# City of Downey

September 10, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Template Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Response to Earthquake Safety Readiness Grand Jury Report Recommendation

Dear Presiding Judge:

Please accept this letter as the City of Downey's response to Recommendation No. R15.16 contained in the Earthquake Safety Readiness Grand Jury Report by the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury. Recommendation R15.16 provides the following:

*R15.16 All Fire Departments within the county should grow their CERT training so that one out [of] every 2,000 residents in their jurisdiction is trained each year. Repeat this level of training for at least three years. Attempt to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English. Add "refresher" classes for those who were previously trained. (When responding, please indicate the languages that would be included.) By August 1 each year, report the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained during the previous 12 months to the County's Chief Sustainability Office (in the Department of the County CEO). The Department of Sustainability should include this information in their annual reports.*

The City of Downey's existing CERT program already meets the recommendation in the report. Annually, the Downey CERT Program conducts 3-4 trainings a year; three classes in English and a fourth in Spanish. Downey has a population of 114,355 (per the United States Census 2020), and per the recommendation, approximately 58 individuals should be trained in CERT each year. Downey exceeds the recommendation, graduating approximately 90-110 students a year. Additionally, the City provides monthly refresher trainings for CERT graduates.

In the past years, several attempts have been made to provide the CERT Class in Spanish (second-most spoken language in the City). A Spanish

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## Future Unlimited

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CIVIC CENTER  
11111 BROOKSHIRE AVE.  
PO BOX 7016  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90241-7016  
562-869-7331  
[www.downeyca.org](http://www.downeyca.org)

LIBRARY  
11121 BROOKSHIRE AVE.  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90241-7016  
562-904-7360  
[www.downeylibrary.org](http://www.downeylibrary.org)

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
10911 BROOKSHIRE AVE.  
PO BOX 7016  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90241-7016  
562-861-0771

PARKS & RECREATION  
7850 QUILL DR.  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90242  
562-904-7238

UTILITIES DIVISION  
9252 STEWART & GRAY RD.  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90241-7016  
562-904-7202

MAINTENANCE SERVICES  
12324 BELLFLOWER BLVD.  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90242  
562-904-7194

Earthquake Safety Readiness  
September 5, 2024  
Page 2

class was offered in 2018 with 14 graduates. Classes were offered in 2019 and 2022, but failed to garner enough students for a class (less than 5 students). CERT Classes (English and Spanish) were cancelled from 2020- 2021 due to the COVID Pandemic. Efforts will continue to be made to offer CERT Classes in Spanish.

The City will continue to implement Recommendation No. R15.16 and will report the required training information to the County's Chief Sustainability Office on an annual basis.

Sincerely,

CITY OF DOWNEY  
Fire Department

Dan Hurlock  
Fire Chief



**CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA**  
Management Services

613 E. Broadway, Suite 200  
Glendale, CA 91206-4308  
Tel. (818) 548-4844 Fax (818) 547-6740  
glendaleca.gov

December 12, 2024

Via U.S. Mail and Email

Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury  
222 S. Hill St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 670  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: City of Glendale Response to the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Grand Jury Report entitled "Earthquake Safety Readiness: How to Survive the Big 'One'!"**

To Whom it May Concern:

On June 17, 2024, the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury requested the City of Glendale respond to certain recommendations made in its report on Earthquake Readiness.

The specific recommendations in the Report and the City of Glendale ("City") official responses are set forth below.

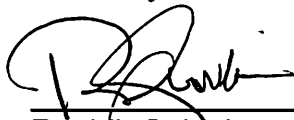
**Recommendation R15.10:** Long Beach, Santa Clarita, Glendale, Lancaster, and Palmdale should inventory their buildings to determine if they have enough need in their city for retrofitting buildings of certain types. If so, create appropriate ordinances.

**Response:** With respect to Civil Grand Jury Recommendation R15.10, the City agrees with this recommendation, and it is in the process of being fully implemented. The City is currently drafting an action plan that will be heard by its City Council. The action plan will provide a cost-benefit analysis of several options to address soft story buildings within the City's jurisdiction. City staff estimate they will be able to bring the action plan forward to the City Council for a hearing prior to the end of the 2024 calendar year. Once approved, City staff anticipate conducting an inventory of buildings within the City's limits to identify those that may require retrofitting, particularly focusing on soft-story buildings and other vulnerable structures. This inventory is anticipated to be completed by the end of the current fiscal year, and based on the findings, the City will consider the adoption of relevant ordinances to address identified needs.

**Recommendation R15.15:** If there is a lot of damage to buildings, more building inspectors would be needed. Plan for how temporary inspectors will be obtained and how they will be assigned, keeping in mind that businesses in the medical field should be inspected first, followed by those who were enrolled in the Back to Business program.

**Response:** With respect to Civil Grand Jury Recommendation R15.15, the City agrees that there is a need for a comprehensive plan to deploy temporary building inspectors in the aftermath of a significant seismic event, and is in the process of fully implementing this recommendation. The City is in the process of finalizing a plan that will allow the City to coordinate with neighboring cities and the County of Los Angeles to establish a shared pool of qualified inspectors. This plan will prioritize inspections of critical infrastructure and businesses, especially those in the medical field. Additionally, the City currently has the recommended "Back to Business" program. The "Back to Business" program is currently geared toward large corporations, however, City staff is in discussions with the Glendale Chamber of Commerce regarding the feasibility of scaling the program for smaller businesses.

Sincerely,



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Roubik Golanian  
City Manager

cc: Glendale City Council  
Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney  
Bradley Calvert, Director of Community Development  
Ara Sargsyan, Building Official

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

Matthew W. Szabo  
CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

ASSISTANT  
CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

PATRICIA J. HUBER  
MALAIKA BILLUPS  
BEN CEJA  
YOLANDA CHAVEZ  
EDWIN GIPSON II

October 30, 2024

0220-06259-0000

Samantha P. Jessner  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: EARTHQUAKE SAFETY READINESS  
Report by the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury**

Dear Honorable Judge Jessner:

The City of Los Angeles acknowledges receipt of the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report regarding Earthquake Safety Readiness, its findings, and recommendations. The City respectfully submits Attachment A as the City's formal response. The City's responses were prepared with assistance of knowledgeable staff working in the Department of Building and Safety (DBS), Department of Water and Power (DWP), Information Technology Agency (ITA), and Fire Department (LAFD). On September 12, 2024, the Harbor Department (Port of Los Angeles) submitted a response addressing recommendation 15.14 of the report.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Szabo  
City Administrative Officer

MWS:PJH:AT:11250046

Attachment A: 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Recommendations for Earthquake Safety Readiness



## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

Subject: 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Recommendations for Earthquake Safety Readiness

**Recommendation 15.8** - The City of LA is requested to comment on each of its 18 goals in their "Resilience By Design Plan" as to any misunderstandings the Civil Grand Jury may have had as well as progress that has been made that was not mentioned. This is meant to help those who build on this in the future.

### **DBS Response:**

Goal 1 and Goal 2: As of 8/15/2024, 9,744 buildings have been retrofitted (combined SS and NDC) with 2,566 soft-story and 969 non-ductile concrete buildings remaining to be retrofitted. Overall, 96% of all soft-story buildings have plans submitted and about 15% of all non-ductile concrete buildings have plans submitted.

Goal 3: The Department is not in a position to establish a building seismic rating system.

Goal 4: The Department of Building and Safety (DBS) in collaboration with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) have an existing protocol for after earthquake assessment of damaged buildings. DBS can prioritize assessment based on need.

### **ITA Response - Resilience by Design document - Telecommunication section:**

#### **Maintain Internet Access After Earthquakes:**

The Information Technology Agency is not aware of any negotiated contracts in place with Internet Service Providers to share bandwidth and allow free public Wi-Fi access during an emergency.

#### **Protect the Power System at Fault Crossings:**

The Information Technology Agency has not been a part of the Southern California Utility Resiliency Consortium that is described in this item.

#### **Create a Citywide Backup Internet System:**

The Information Technology Agency has not been a part of the solar-powered Citywide Wi-Fi system described in this item.

#### **Fortify Cellular Towers:**

The Information Technology Agency has not been a part of any discussions related to the amending of building codes for cellular towers.

#### **Advancement of Earthquake Early Warning:**

The City of Los Angeles (Mayor's Office, Emergency Management Department, and Information Technology Agency), AT&T, Annenberg Foundation, and U.S. Geological

Survey developed an earthquake early warning app known as ShakeAlertLA. The City released the ShakeAlertLA Earthquake Early Warning App in 2019. After over 750,000 downloads, the features of the ShakeAlertLA app were subsequently included in the statewide MyShake app, which is currently available on the Apple store and on Google Play Store. The ShakeAlertLA Mobile App was retired on December 31, 2020. Residents have been directed that the ShakeAlertLA app is retired and to receive earthquake early warning notifications through the MyShake app. Android and Apple operating systems have since incorporated several earthquake early warning features into the smartphone operating systems as a result of the success of the ShakeAlertLA app.

**Other Enhancements Not Listed In Resilience By Design Document:**

The City of Los Angeles through the Information Technology Agency has implemented additional safeguards for critical services to improve resilience after an earthquake. This includes:

- Fully functional primary and backup 911 dispatch centers
- Public safety radio system redundancy across Los Angeles
- Redundant City of Los Angeles Internet connections between Los Angeles Civic Center and Van Nuys City Hall.
- Resilient Fiber Optic Network that supports police stations and LAPD dispatch
- Redundant cross-connects between the City data network and Cloud providers (Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud Platform)
- Backup domain controllers for the Emergency Operations Center
- Subscriptions to the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS), which provides subscribers with priority cellular and landline phone access during emergency incidents

**Recommendation 15.9** - The City of LA's DWP should continue to work on water transport and storage, especially in regards to putting out fires.

**DWP Response:** *The recommendation is currently being implemented.* LADWP continues to develop and implement emergency response plans to address a significant earthquake and other emergencies as the availability of water for storage and transport for both our customers and emergencies, such as fires, are constantly being evaluated.

The City of Los Angeles and LADWP has the goal of achieving a redundant and resilient water supply to ensure not only a sustainable supply, but also to enable the City to provide drinking water and fire protection during emergencies. Through the development of local water supplies, LADWP has increased the access to storage within the Metro area. The construction of three groundwater facilities will enable LADWP to utilize previously unavailable storage in the San Fernando groundwater basins. The next phase of increasing the local water supplies is the development of facilities to utilize recycled water to replenish the groundwater basin. To this end, construction of the advanced water treatment facility at the Donald C. Tillman Plant is anticipated to begin in late 2024/early

2025.

Regarding storage for firefighting purposes, the LADWP maintains several out of service, in-city reservoirs from which the LAFD currently is able to fill their helicopters. LADWP also provides access to 28 helispots for air operations during firefighting activities. LADWP has approximately 100 tanks and reservoirs throughout its system, most of which has storage capacity that is maintained for emergencies, while also balancing water quality issues. Additionally, the LADWP has a rigorous program of replacing major trunklines with earthquake resistant ductile iron pipe (ERDIP) and replacing distribution mainlines to develop a resilient network to ensure sufficient water supplies to both customers and hydrants for firefighting purposes.

Finally, LADWP has Mutual Aid Agreements in place for personnel, equipment and materials for rapid short-term deployment of emergency support in case of an emergency such as natural disasters. LADWP is able to access and utilize State Water Project and Colorado River water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) through various emergency connections.

**Recommendation 15.16** - All Fire Departments within the county should grow their CERT training so that one out every 2,000 residents in their jurisdiction is trained each year. Repeat this level of training for at least three years. Attempt to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English. Add "refresher" classes for those who were previously trained. (When responding, please indicate the languages that would be included.) By August 1 each year, report the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained during the previous 12 months to the County's Chief Sustainability Office (in the Department of the County CEO). The Department of Sustainability should include this information in their annual reports.

**LAFD Response:** The goal of providing CERT training to one in every 2,000 residents annually has been successfully implemented. According to the 2020 United States Census Bureau, the City of Los Angeles has a population of 3,898,747, translating to a target of 1,949 residents completing CERT training each year. In 2024, 3,588 Los Angeles residents completed the CERT program. In 2023, 7,813 residents completed the training, while 2,558 residents completed it in 2022, largely due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions that complicated in-person delivery. Over the three-year period, 13,951 residents were trained, surpassing both the annual goal of 1,949 and the three-year goal of 5,847, despite the challenges in 2022. With continued strategies, the goal for 2025 is to train 5,000 CERT participants, with 30% in non-English languages. The 2035 goal is to train 10,000 CERT participants, with 40% in non-English languages, in alignment with the 2019 LA County Sustainability Plan, "Our County."

Efforts were made to deliver 30% of the training in languages other than English. In 2024 and 2023, 14% of the training was conducted in Spanish, and 3% in other languages (Mandarin and Armenian), totaling 17%, which falls short of the 30% goal. The LAFD CERT Unit has 8 full-time firefighters delivering the training, but only one is bilingual in Spanish. To meet the 30% goal, additional bilingual positions are needed. In the absence of these positions, the CERT Unit will seek to partner with community organizations for translation services and explore using interpreters from other City Departments to

enhance language diversity.

The LAFD CERT Unit conducts four refresher training sessions annually, aiming for 600 participants each year. In 2024, 186 people received the refresher training, falling short of the 600-target. In 2023, 436 individuals received refresher training, and 236 were trained in 2022. The transition from COVID-19 restrictions in 2022 and staffing limitations on weekends have impacted the number of CERT training deliveries and refresher training. Weekends are typically preferred for these sessions, but current staffing only supports weekday training.

To strengthen the CERT program, each of the 14 geographical battalion CERT coordinators holds monthly meetings with the goal of engaging 30-60 participants, which is consistently met. These meetings serve to enhance team cohesion, reinforce CERT skills, and explore further opportunities to expand the program within their respective areas. Additionally, the LAFD Disaster Preparedness and CERT programs support the Earthquake Country Alliance initiatives, align with Emergency Management Department functional exercises and operational annexes for earthquake preparedness, and conduct annual training in conjunction with the Great ShakeOut, held on the third Thursday in October.

# RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICE; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS; FIRE DEPARTMENT; INTERNAL  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT; MEDICAL EXAMINER

## 2023-2024 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EARTHQUAKE SAFETY READINESS: HOW TO SURVIVE THE BIG 'ONE'!

### SUMMARY

"This report focuses on earthquake preparedness. The Committee found many useful studies, projects, and maps that explain what is already known about earthquakes and how some steps have already been taken towards mitigating their impact, especially in the area of retrofitting of buildings. This report ends with recommendations so that agencies and cities can be better prepared for earthquakes than they are today."<sup>14</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.1**

County should draft an ordinance for retrofitting soft-story first floor buildings.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. This recommendation requires further analysis for implementation. In 2022, the County adopted an ordinance with provisions for voluntary seismic improvements to wood-frame residential buildings with soft stories. Currently, the County, through its Department of Public Works (DPW), is performing an inventory analysis for soft-story structures (specifically, all wood-framed multi-unit residential soft-story buildings in the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles, under County of Los Angeles jurisdiction), which is targeting completion in January 2026.

The results of the inventory analysis will be used to guide public policy on mandating retrofit for soft-story buildings in the unincorporated areas of the County. DPW will provide the Board of Supervisors (BOS) with analysis and policy recommendations, and the BOS will consider how best to proceed, in terms of the drafting and implementation of such an ordinance. Additionally, it should be noted that all references in the findings of this investigative report to the term "non-ductile cement" should be updated to the term "non-ductile concrete."

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.2**

County should extend the proposed non-ductile retro-fit to buildings of every height, not just those over 75 feet.

### RESPONSE

Partially disagree. Extending the ordinance to all buildings will require further analysis and may have significant financial impacts to the County and its residents. An inventory analysis of all non-ductile concrete buildings in the County's unincorporated jurisdiction would be needed. The results of the inventory analysis

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<sup>14</sup> 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Earthquake Safety Readiness: How to Survive the Big 'One!', p. 358.

could then be used to guide public policy on extending the non-ductile concrete building retrofit ordinance to buildings of every height in the unincorporated areas of the County.

The timeframe required to produce such an inventory analysis, determine the economic impact of extending the proposed mandatory retrofit ordinance to all non-ductile concrete buildings, and develop economic incentives for building owners will exceed 6 months. Additionally, it should be noted that all references in the findings of this investigative report to the term "non-ductile cement" should be updated to the term "non-ductile concrete."

In the County, high-rise non-ductile concrete buildings over 75 feet in height pose a greater risk, so the County is already addressing these first. It is anticipated that an ordinance related to this matter will be submitted for approval by the BOS by the end of the year (2024). The County is also developing a multi-year seismic retrofit program to address all multi-story County-owned non-ductile concrete buildings, even those below 75 feet.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.3**

LAC PW should complete design phase for earthquake safety retrofit for Hall of Administration.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The design phase is underway and is currently at 90 percent of the Construction Documents.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.4**

Once the design phase for the earthquake safety/seismic retrofit is complete for the Hall of Administration LAC PW should develop a project schedule.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. A project management team has already been hired to facilitate the design process, and a project schedule is in development.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.5**

Once the design phase for the Hall of Administration is complete LAC PW should obtain a cost estimate.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. A preliminary cost estimate was developed by the Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR). The CMAR was selected, and the BOS approved the pre-construction services contract in July 2022. The CMAR has been assisting DPW and the project design team in developing cost estimates throughout the design phase.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.6**

Once the cost estimate is complete LAC PW should develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) to gain detailed cost estimates. Once the RFP is complete LAC CEO should solicit bids for Hall of Administration retrofit project and chose winning bidder.

### **RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The CMAR has been assisting DPW and the project design team in developing detailed cost estimates. The BOS approved the CMAR contract for pre-construction services in July 2022, and the construction contract will go the BOS for approval once the design is complete and the final guaranteed maximum price has been developed by the CMAR.

### **RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.7**

LAC CEO should develop an earthquake recovery/resilience plan.

### **RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. The County has two plans, a Concept of Operations and Earthquake Annex that address earthquake recovery and resilience. The Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan addresses multi-hazards that could occur in the County and specifies steps to address short- and long-term recovery. The Earthquake Annex that sought input from community groups, local jurisdictions, private sector, and all levels of government addresses earthquake assumptions, response, and recovery operations. The Concept of Operations Plan addresses immediate actions to be taken immediately following an earthquake by government officials, monitoring, responding, and recovering from the earthquake.

Los Angeles County Operational Area Recovery Framework discusses organization, coordination with State and Federal partners, information collection, analysis, communication, and transition to long term recovery. It addresses the restoration of essential services in the County.

The County of Los Angeles All-Hazards Mitigation Plan addresses an earthquake identification profile that addresses the major fault lines in the County and the magnitude range for each of those faults. It takes account of the seismic hazard impact on land areas, and it identifies the seismic hazard impact on vulnerable populations, which assists in decision making in restoring lifelines in a community. This plan also engages various levels of government and community partners through community meetings.

Each of these plans have elements of restoring, rebuilding, repairing damages, and reestablishing services to the community, all important elements of recovery.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.12**

The Medical Examiner should make/update their emergency plans to include no ground access to the Antelope Valley (Lancaster, Palmdale). Where will autopsies and exams be done? Where will mutual aid volunteers from other medical examiners work, eat, park their vehicles? How can people work without water or electricity?

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. A senior disaster service analyst has been requested in the current (FY 2024-2025) budget and this analyst will be the coordinator for emergency response, including the planning and development of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Building Emergency Plan (BEP), Department Operation Center (DOC) activation protocols, and the development of a Countywide Mass Fatality Plan (MFP).

The plans require the design, coordination, and sustaining of remote refrigerated storage of decedents and remote storage of decedent property, alternate options for medical examinations, toxicological testing, and transportation of decedents. They will address generator capabilities, establishing mobile options (including mobile sleeping quarters and base camps), Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORT) operations, Coroner/Medical Examiner Mutual Aid, and coordination of assistance through the department emergency operations center. DMORT was activated during the recent Maui fires, an example of a situation where coordination could be improved with the presence of a senior disaster service analyst.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.13**

The County should buy enough radio or satellite phones so that each agency and city referenced in the Responses section has at least two phones. ISD should track who the phones are assigned to, provide video or written training for how to use the phones, and ask that the agency or city use them in their annual ShakeOut Drill as well as report their success/failure to ISD each year.

**RESPONSE**

Partially disagree. This recommendation is in the process of being implemented. The County's Internal Services Department (ISD) has provided emergency radio equipment and training resources to other County departments and has also supported the distribution of an additional 188 radios to various incorporated cities within the County.

The ISD Radio Systems shop is responsible for the programming and banding of all County Wireless Integrated Radio System (CWIRS) radios issued to the County departments. In addition, ISD provides radio maintenance, standard operating procedures (SOP), and training support for these departments. Each department has a designated Department Emergency Coordinator (DEC) that is responsible for the tracking, general upkeep, and testing of their department issued CWIRS radios.

The 188 CWIRS radios that were issued to incorporated cities were issued to city emergency operations centers (EOCs), city emergency coordinators, and Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMACs). At least two radio units were provided per entity and each city's EOC and/or DMAC is responsible for the tracking, general



upkeep, and testing of the CWIRS radios they were issued. Whenever requested, ISD provides support for these 188 radios and multiple DMACs conduct testing monthly with their jurisdictional cities.

Additional analysis would be necessary to understand long-term cost share, authority, and practical implementation of providing satellite phones to all County departments and incorporated cities. This could be done as part of the annual budget process for the County.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.15**

If there is a lot of damage to buildings, more building inspectors would be needed. Plan for how temporary inspectors will be obtained and how they will be assigned, keeping in mind that businesses in the medical field should be inspected first, followed by those who were enrolled in the Back to Business program.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. In the event of a major disaster, the County's CEO - Office of Emergency Management (CEO-OEM) will activate County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works' (DPW) County Building Evaluation Team (CBET) to conduct safety evaluations of County owned and leased buildings. Acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities will be inspected by the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI). Inspections of private commercial and residential buildings will be conducted by local building officials, including DPW for the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles. If local jurisdictions and agencies do not have enough building inspectors, Safety Assessment Program (SAP) certified evaluators may be requested through the County to the California Office of Emergency Services.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.16**

All Fire Departments within the county should grow their CERT training so that one out every 2,000 residents in their jurisdiction is trained each year. Repeat this level of training for at least three years. Attempt to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English. Add "refresher" classes for those who were previously trained. (When responding, please indicate the languages that would be included.) By August 1<sup>st</sup> each year, report the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained during the previous 12 months to the County's Chief Sustainability Office (in the Department of the County CEO). The Department of Sustainability should include this information in their annual reports.

**RESPONSE**

Agree. The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (Fire District) has partially implemented this recommendation, but it will not be implementing the portions that are non-jurisdictional to the Fire District.

The Fire District is a dependent special district and one of 29 fire departments within the County of Los Angeles. The Fire District provides fire protection and life safety services to 60 contract cities and all unincorporated areas of the County, including the City of La Habra (located in Orange County). The Fire District serves a population of 4 million residents across 2,311 square miles.

September 24, 2024

Samantha P. Jessner, Presiding Judge  
Los Angeles County Superior Court  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
Los Angeles County Grand Jury  
210 West Temple Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: EARTHQUAKE SAFETY READINESS

Dear Presiding Judge Jessner:

The City of Long Beach (City) received a request from the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) to provide a response to the recommendations published in the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report (Final Report) regarding earthquake safety preparedness. Please find below the Community Development Department's (Community Development) response to the Earthquake Preparedness Committee's (EPC) recommendations.

**EPC Recommendation:** Long Beach ... should inventory their buildings to determine if they have enough need in their city for retrofitting buildings of certain types. If so, create appropriate ordinances.

**Response:** Community Development agrees with the findings of the Grand Jury. Prior to the receipt of the Final Report, Community Development has proactively taken steps to identify seismically vulnerable buildings in the City. A Seismic Resiliency Study (Study) was performed in 2021 by a consultant firm specialized in structural engineering (Consultant) to identify best practices for the City to consider in updating existing seismic retrofit programs or developing a new seismic strengthening program that improves resiliency of these vulnerable buildings. The Study discussed various vulnerable building types, including but not limited to unreinforced masonry, soft, weak, or open-front (SWOF), rigid wall and flexible diaphragm, non-ductile concrete, pre-Northridge steel moment frames, and cripple wall building types that the City could consider for retrofitting.

The City, during the 1990s, took steps to address unreinforced masonry buildings. By the early 2000s, all unreinforced buildings were either retrofitted or demolished. The City, during the 2010s, took additional steps to create several voluntary seismic retrofitting ordinances to provide standards to address the other vulnerable building types identified in the Final Report. Currently, the City is focusing on seismic resiliency efforts toward SWOF buildings. Based on the Study, Community Development believes that SWOF buildings are the most



Earthquake Safety Readiness

September 24, 2024

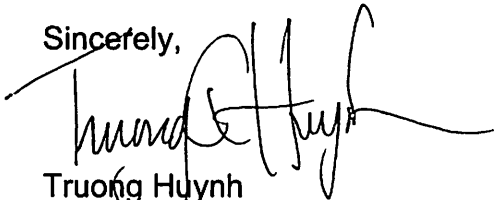
Page 2

common vulnerable building type in the City and present the most potential impact on housing in the event of a significant earthquake in the Los Angeles basin area.

A SWOF Inventory Survey (Survey) was performed by the Consultant to identify residential buildings that exhibited characteristics of a SWOF building. The result of the Survey is currently being used to develop a Building Seismic Resiliency Program (BSRP) to educate and encourage building owners to voluntarily retrofit and strengthen their SWOF buildings. The BSRP, once completed, will include an update to the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) outlining technical recommendations for seismic strengthening of SWOF buildings while addressing the concerns and feedback of various community stakeholders including building owners and tenants.

If Community Development can be of any further assistance, please contact our technical lead Gregory Bowser, Senior Structural Engineer, at 562-570-6834 or Gregory.Bowser@longbeach.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Truong Huynh', written over a horizontal line.

Truong Huynh  
Community Development Deputy Director

CC: ERIN WEESNER-MCKINLEY, PRINCIPAL CITY ATTORNEY  
CHRISTOPHER KOONTZ, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
REX RICHARDSON, MAYOR

TH/gb



June 27, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shorridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Recommendations for 2023-2024 Earthquake Safety Readiness

Dear Irene Shandell-Taylor,

In response to the recommendation letter received on Monday, June 17, 2024, regarding Earthquake Safety Readiness, the Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD) would like to submit the following information as our written response to page 401, section R15.16:

- Over of a period of the last twelve months:
  - 114 community members completed the LBFD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program.
    - The initial training courses were held in May and August of 2023 and February and April of 2024.
  - 279 community members participated in CERT refresher training courses.
    - The monthly refresher classes were held in May, June, August, September, October, and December of 2023, and February, April, May, and June of 2024.
  - All classes were conducted in English.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (562) 570-2509.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Buchanan".

Dennis Buchanan  
Fire Chief





Port of  
**LONG BEACH**  
THE PORT OF CHOICE

September 12, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Los Angeles Superior Court  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Subject: 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Grand Jury Report  
Earthquake Safety Readiness**

Dear Presiding Judge:

On behalf of the Port of Long Beach, and in accordance with California Penal Code Section 933.05, the undersigned responds to "Recommendation 15.14," found on page 400 of the Los Angeles County Grand Jury Report.

The original recommendation was as follows:

R.15.14 - The Los Angeles and Long Beach ports should make/update plans for cargo that needs to be moved, especially perishables, when roads and railways out of the county may be damaged. They also need to create/update their plans for damage in their harbors, including things that can possibly fall over.

Please note that the Port of Long Beach has already implemented the recommendations.

Very truly yours,

Sean Gamette, P.E.  
Managing Director, Engineering Services Bureau

cc: William Baerg, Deputy City Attorney, City of Long Beach  
Noel Hacegaba, Chief Operating Officer, Port of Long Beach  
Casey Hehr, Managing Director, Commercial Services, Port of Long Beach  
Sam Joumblat, Managing Director, Finance & Administration, Port of Long Beach  
Eleanor Torres, Managing Director, Strategic Advocacy, Port of Long Beach  
Heather Tomley, Managing Director, Planning & Environmental Affairs, Port of Long Beach



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JC

425 S. Palos Verdes Street Post Office Box 151 San Pedro, CA 90733-0151 TEL 310-SEA-PORT portoflosangeles.org

Karen Bass Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Board of Harbor Commissioners

Lucille Roybal-Allard President

Michael Muñoz Commissioner

Edward R. Renwick Commissioner

I. Lee Williams Commissioner

Eugene D. Seroka

Executive Director

September 12, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Letter from the Executive Director to Presiding Judge Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

Dear Judge,

This letter is in response to the Civil Grand Jury report Earthquake Safety Readiness dated June 17, 2024, and is made in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933.05 (a) and (b).

SECTION 933.05 (a)

Our response falls under Subsection (2). We partially disagree with Recommendation R15.14. The Port of Los Angeles (POLA) uses the landlord business model for a port. The terminals are leased to business operators and these entities make the arrangements for the offloading and transportation of imported goods. POLA is not directly involved in these business dealings, and therefore cannot directly affect the decisions made regarding methods selected for cargo movement following a disaster. POLA does have a role to play as a facilitator in this scenario. Should a disaster occur, POLA staff members would engage with all the various entities involved in cargo movement, both government agencies and private businesses, and would share information and provide coordination. These measures are included in the POLA Port Recovery Plan. POLA does have direct involvement with restoration of damage to the port caused by a natural disaster, so the second sentence of this recommendation is applicable.

SECTION 933.05 (b)

Our response falls under Subsection (2). POLA will complete an update to our Port Recovery Plan within six months. This update will include a review of existing planning for post-disaster response regarding both the facilitation of cargo movement and restoration of damage to the port's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

EUGENE D. SEROKA  
Executive Director  
TEG:RA:GC



PALMDALE  
a place to call home

October 7, 2024

AUSTIN BISHOP  
Mayor

RICHARD J. LOA  
Mayor Pro Tem

ANDREA ALARCÓN  
Councilmember

LAURA BETTENCOURT  
Councilmember

ERIC OHLSEN  
Councilmember

38300 Sierra Highway

Palmdale, CA 93550-4798

Tel: 661/267-5100

TDD: 661/267-5167

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Judge,

I am writing in response to the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury report, specifically addressing recommendations R15.15 and R15.10.

R15.15: The City of Palmdale's building inspectors will submit a resource request for additional SAP inspectors to assist with building inspections through the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Regarding the Palmdale Regional Medical Center, the hospital will manage its own inspectors, as they operate under a different mandate requiring specialized oversight for their systems. Should the hospital encounter challenges in securing an inspector, its EOC will coordinate with the City's EOC to request assistance. In such cases, the City's EOC will facilitate the procurement of a specialized inspector via the 213 RR (resource request) process.

R15.10: The City of Palmdale plans to conduct evaluations of city buildings over the next three fiscal years. For the first phase of the seismic evaluation, we will request a budget allocation for the FY26 fiscal year. Priority will be given to buildings based on age and usage.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Austin Bishop  
Mayor



**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

February 27, 2025

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Judge:

Pursuant to the California Penal Code 999(c), the City of Pasadena's Fire Department is required to respond to recommendations under the 2024-2025 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury. The City of Pasadena Fire Department submitting its response:

**Recommendation 15.26**

All Fire Departments within the County should grow their CERT training so that one out of every 2,000 residents in their jurisdiction is trained each year. Repeat this level of training for at least three years. Attempt to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English. Add "refresher" classes for those who were previously trained. By August 1 each year, report the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained during the previous 12 months to the County's Chief Sustainability Office. The Department of Sustainability should include this information in their annual reports.

**Response**

Agreed. The City of Pasadena has partially implemented this recommendation by holding our first two CERT two classes since the COVID-19 Pandemic. The classes were well received by our public and are currently in demand. The City of Pasadena has also start preparing for a CERT IN Spanish course by gathering the needed materials. Pasadena has also started gathering materials in Chinese. During October 2024 class, Pasadena Fire Department also included ASL interpretation to accommodate a resident interested in taking the course. Pasadena Fire Department commits to tracking all CERT courses hosted in the City and will report the number of trainees numbers every 12 months to the County's Chief Sustainability Office.

Respectfully,

Nallely Procopio, Emergency Services Manager





**PATRICK ISIDORO BUTLER**  
FIRE CHIEF AND HARBOR MASTER

February 18, 2025

**TO:** County of Los Angeles – Civil Grand Jury

**FROM:** Patrick I. Butler, Fire Chief

**SUBJECT:** **Redondo Beach Fire Department Response to Civil Grand Jury Report – Recommendation R15.16**

In response to the Civil Grand Jury report issued on June 28, 2024, the Redondo Beach Fire Department (RBFD) addresses recommendation R15.16, which calls for expanding C.E.R.T. training to reach one out of every 2,000 residents annually for at least three years. Additionally, 30% of training should be conducted in languages other than English, and refresher courses should be provided. The annual report must include the number of trainees and the languages used in training.

### **Redondo Beach C.E.R.T. Training Overview**

- **Population:** ~68,000 residents (2020 Census)
- **Primary Language:** English (87–90%)
- **Other Languages:** Spanish, Indo-European
- **Training Goal:** 34 residents per year
- **Current Training Capacity:**
  - **Academies:** 2 per year
  - **Class Size:** 25 per session
  - **Total Trained Annually:** 50 residents
  - **Refresher Courses:** 2 per year

Since the launch of the RBFD C.E.R.T. Academy in April 1996, over 1,800 individuals have completed the training. The department's current structure, with two full academies per year, allows us to train 50 residents annually—exceeding the Civil Grand Jury's recommended target of 34. Additionally, RBFD uniquely welcomes non-residents who lack access to C.E.R.T. programs in their own communities.

## **Language Accessibility**

Given that nearly 90% of Redondo Beach residents identify English as their primary language, attracting non-English-speaking participants has been challenging. While RBFD remains committed to inclusive outreach, achieving the 30% non-English training requirement presents difficulties due to the city's limited non-English-speaking population. However, efforts will continue to offer training in Spanish and Indo-European languages where feasible.

## **Commitment to Disaster Preparedness**

The C.E.R.T. program enhances community resilience by equipping trained individuals with the skills needed to assist themselves, their families, and their neighbors in emergencies. Led by experienced Redondo Beach firefighter instructors, training covers critical topics, including:

- Disaster preparedness
- CPR & First Aid
- Disaster medical operations
- Damage assessment
- Fire extinguisher use
- Light search and rescue
- Disaster psychology & team organization

RBFD remains dedicated to exceeding training targets while working toward greater accessibility and inclusivity.



Patrick I. Butler  
Fire Chief

CC: Mike Witzansky, City Manager



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

23920 Valencia Boulevard • Santa Clarita, California 91355-2196  
Phone: (661) 259-2489 • FAX: (661) 259-8125  
[www.santa-clarita.com](http://www.santa-clarita.com)

August 11, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shorridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Tempie Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Presiding Judge:

Cameron Smyth  
Mayor

SUBJECT: Response to the Earthquake Safety Readiness Report by the 2023-24 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

I am writing to respond to the 2023-24 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury report entitled "How to Survive the 'Big One'!" related to earthquake safety readiness. As requested, below is the City of Santa Clarita's (City) response to R15.10 and R15.15.

**R15.10** – *Long Beach, Santa Clarita, Glendale, Lancaster, and Palmdale should inventory their buildings to determine if they have enough need in their city for retrofitting buildings of certain types. If so, create appropriate ordinances.*

The recommendation to implement a mandatory seismic retrofit ordinance for certain types of buildings has been considered by the City. Formed in 1987, Santa Clarita is one of California's newer cities, with a majority of buildings constructed under modern building codes. Older buildings within the City have withstood the 1971 San Fernando earthquake and 1994 Northridge earthquake. These buildings generally demonstrated adequate performance. While many buildings suffered damage during these events, collapse was avoided and repairs were completed. Current building codes implement a "collapse prevention" standard for Risk Category II structures. These types of structures comprise the great majority of buildings in the City.

In light of these facts, the City has opted not to implement a mandatory seismic retrofit ordinance. The City currently does not have the capacity to inventory buildings in a manner that would accurately identify high-risk structures. Construction records are lacking for many older buildings, and a visual inspection of the exterior of a building is often insufficient to conclusively determine whether a structure is high risk. A site-specific evaluation of each building by a licensed Professional Engineer would be required. This would often include the removal of building finishes to reveal the structural components, displacing residents and placing a large financial burden on building owners. Therefore, the City does not find it feasible or needed to perform an inventory of existing buildings to determine potential earthquake risks.

Nonetheless, the City is dedicated to enforcing the seismic provisions of the California Building Code for new construction, additions, and alterations. In 2013, Santa Clarita City Hall was retrofitted to comply with the Risk Category IV requirements for an Emergency Operations Center (EOC).



Additionally, the City's Building & Safety division prioritizes and expedites building permits for seismic retrofit projects.

**R15.15** – *If there is a lot of damage to buildings, more building inspectors would be needed. Plan for how temporary inspectors will be obtained and how they will be assigned, keeping in mind that businesses in the medical field should be inspected first, followed by those who were enrolled in the Back to Business program.*


Through times of natural disasters and emergencies, the City would utilize the Safety Assessment Program (SAP), created by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. SAP provides experienced professionals such as volunteer certified engineers, inspectors, or other qualified positions, to assist with building inspections in the event of a declared disaster. These volunteers can quickly evaluate damaged structures identifying those buildings that people can return to, while marking those that are unsafe or have restricted use. SAP has been used successfully in responding to disasters such as the Northridge earthquake. The SAP operates much like any other mutual aid system at other levels of government; however, their services would need to be requested by Los Angeles County on behalf of the City to stay in compliance with the Standardized Emergency Management System.

Locally, we can call on building inspectors from neighboring local jurisdictions and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LADPW) as part of our mutual aid system outlined in the City's Emergency Operation Plan. The request for additional building inspectors would come from the City's EOC as a resource request for personnel, submitted to the County's Operational Reporting System. From there, LADPW or other local agencies who have the ability to satisfy the request can send staff to assist with Santa Clarita's response.

The City's Building Official would distribute information as to what work would be assigned, but it would mirror the City's building inspection protocol. Assignments will be determined based on several factors including location and severity of the incident in order to render services.

Should you or your staff require any further information regarding my response, please feel free to contact Intergovernmental Relations Officer, Masis Hagobian, at (661) 286-4057 or [mhagobian@santaclarita.gov](mailto:mhagobian@santaclarita.gov).

Sincerely,



Cameron Smyth  
Mayor

CS:MH:sk

s:\ms\masis\letters\ Civil Grand Jury - Earthquake Readiness

cc: Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager  
Frank Oviedo, Assistant City Manager  
Joseph Montes, City Attorney  
Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Officer



**SIERRA MADRE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
242 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024 | Phone: (626) 355-3611 | Fax: (626) 355-3611

**To:** Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

**Subject:** Response to Recommendation R15.16 of the 2023-2024 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

**Date:** August 5, 2024

**Introduction:**

In accordance with the requirements under California Penal Code section 933(c), 933.05(a), and 933.05(b), the Sierra Madre Fire Department respectfully submits the following response to the findings for expanding Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training within our jurisdiction.

- 933.05(a) – The respondent agrees with the finding.
- 933.05(b)(2) – The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.

**Compliance and Feasibility with CY 2024:**

**1. Training Targets:**

- The Sierra Madre Fire Department acknowledges the directive to train one out of every 2,000 residents annually for three consecutive years. Based on our current population, this target is both ambitious and essential for community preparedness. We are committed to meeting these targets and are in the process of enhancing our training programs to ensure that we can achieve this goal.

**2. Multilingual Training:**

- We recognize the importance of accessibility in training and are prepared to conduct 30% of our CERT training in languages other than English. The specific languages we will include are determined based on the 5% demographic threshold within our jurisdiction. The potential languages identified are:
  - **Spanish** (exceeding 5% of the population)
  - **Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)** (exceeding 5% of the population)
  - **Korean** (exceeding 5% of the population)

We will continue to monitor demographic shifts and adjust our multilingual training offerings as necessary to ensure they align with the 5% threshold per demographic.

**3. Refresher Courses:**

- In addition to new trainee sessions, we will implement "refresher" classes for previously trained individuals to ensure their skills remain current and effective. This will be an ongoing effort integrated into our annual training schedules.

**Reporting:**

- By August 1 each year, the Sierra Madre Fire Department will submit a report to the County's Chief Sustainability Office, outlining the number of trainees and the languages in which they were trained over the previous 12 months. This report will be compiled in alignment with the guidelines provided.



## SIERRA MADRE FIRE DEPARTMENT

242 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024 | Phone: (626) 355-3611 | Fax: (626) 355-3611

### **Conclusion:**

The Sierra Madre Fire Department is committed to the safety and preparedness of our community. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the countywide effort to enhance CERT training and will continue to work diligently to meet the established goals.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

**Respectfully,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Bartlett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brent Bartlett

Fire Chief, Sierra Madre Fire Department

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-52**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
SIERRA MADRE, CALIFORNIA, RESPONDING TO THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY'S  
RECOMMENDATION TO EXPAND COMMUNITY  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINING**

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury issued a report titled "Earthquake Safety Readiness: How to Survive the Big 'One'!" ("Report");

**WHEREAS**, recommendation R15.16 states, "All Fire Departments within the county should grow their CERT training so that one out every 2,000 residents in their jurisdiction is trained each year. Repeat this level of training for at least three years. Attempt to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English. Add 'refresher' classes for those who were previously trained. (When responding, please indicate the languages that would be included.) By August 1 each year, report the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained during the previous 12 months to the County's Chief Sustainability Office (in the Department of the County CEO). The Department of Sustainability should include this information in their annual reports";

**WHEREAS**, California Penal Code sections 933(c), 933.05(a), and 933.05(b) mandate that the governing body of a city respond to the findings and recommendations of the Report within 90 days;

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Chief of the City of Sierra Madre issued his response to the Report's recommendation concerning the expansion of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training within the City of Sierra Madre; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Penal Code section 933(c) the City Council submits this response to recommendation R15-16 of the Report.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05, the City Council agrees with the findings and notes the recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

**SECTION 2. Training Targets:** The Sierra Madre Fire Department is directed to train one out of every 2,000 residents annually for three consecutive years. This target is essential for enhancing community preparedness.

**SECTION 3. Multilingual Training:** The Sierra Madre Fire Department is directed to make CERT training accessible to all residents and conduct 30% of CERT training in languages other than English. The identified languages, based on the demographic threshold of 5% within the City of Sierra Madre, include Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), and Korean. The City will continue to monitor demographic changes and adjust our multilingual training offerings as necessary.

**SECTION 4. Refresher Courses:** In addition to new training sessions, the Sierra Madre Fire Department is directed to implement ongoing "refresher" courses for individuals who have previously received CERT training. This initiative will be incorporated into the annual training schedules to ensure that all participants maintain current and effective skills.

**SECTION 5. Reporting:** The Sierra Madre Fire Department is directed to submit an annual report to the County's Chief Sustainability Office by August 1st. This report will include the number of trainees and the languages in which they were trained over the previous 12 months, in accordance with the provided guidelines.

**SECTION 6. Certification:** Pursuant to Government Code Section 36932, the City Clerk shall certify the passage, approval, and adoption of this Resolution by the City Council.

**SECTION 7. Records:** Pursuant to Government Code Section 40801, proof of certification and publication shall be entered in the book of Ordinances of the City Council.

**SECTION 8. Effective Date:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this 10th day of September, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Krjebis, Mayor

I HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre, California, at a regular meeting held on the 10th day of September, 2024, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Mayor Kelly Kriebs, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Parkhurst, and Council Members Edward Garcia, Gene Goss, and Kristine Lowe

**NOES:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ABSTAINED:** None.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Aguilar, City Clerk





David Dumais  
Fire Chief

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# CITY OF TORRANCE

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Torrance Fire Department  
Community Risk Reduction Division

September 24, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**SUBJECT: TORRANCE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CIVIL GRAND JURY, EARTHQUAKE READINESS, SECTION R15.16**

Dear Presiding Judge:

The City of Torrance was only required to respond to Recommendation R15.16 of the Recommendations contained in the Civil Grand Jury Report. The Torrance Fire Department, Community Risk Reduction Division has read and implemented Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program modifications to comply with the recommendation Section R15.16.

Section R15.16 recommends the following:

**R15.16 All Fire Departments within the county should grow their CERT training so that one out every 2,000 residents in their jurisdiction is trained each year. Repeat this level of training for at least three years. Attempt to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English. Add “refresher” classes for those who were previously trained. (When responding, please indicate the languages that would be included.) By August 1 each year, report the number of trainees and the language in which they were trained during the previous 12 months to the County’s Chief Sustainability Office (in the Department of the County CEO). The Department of Sustainability should include this information in their annual reports.**

According to the United States Census Bureau the City of Torrance has a resident population of 143,000. R15.16 requires one out of every 2,000 residents to be trained annually in CERT. Per this recommendation the City of Torrance Fire Department will need to train 72 residents in CERT on an annual basis. It also recommended to conduct 30% of the training in languages other than English. The City of Torrance Fire Department currently provides two CERT training

sessions and two CERT Refresher training sessions annually. Starting in 2025 Torrance Fire will expand the CERT training sessions to four with two CERT refresher training session annually for at least three years. All CERT training will done with at least one bilingual instructor in Spanish. Our first reporting will be done on August 1, 2025.

Additionally, the City of Torrance would like to comment on the Table 1 found on page 376 of the Grand Jury Report. Table 1 needs to be updated as it relates to the City of Torrance. On April 11, 2023, the City of Torrance City Council adopted a seismic retrofit ordinance under Ordinance Number 3916, which is codified in the Torrance Municipal Code as section 815.1.010 *et seq.* The ordinance covers soft-story, steel, concrete and tilt-up buildings. For reference, the link below will provide you access to Ordinance No. 3916.

<https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Torrance/ords/3916.pdf> .

In addition, on December 15, 1987, the City adopted Ordinance Number 3215 to address unreinforced masonry buildings. All unreinforced masonry buildings were retrofitted to comply with ordinance. Ordinance No. 3215 is codified in the Torrance Municipal Code section 811.1.1 *et seq.*, which can be found by using the following link

<https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Torrance/#!/Torrance08/Torrance0811.html#811>.

The table on page 376 needs to be updated to reflect current information regarding the seismic retrofit ordinance and the unreinforced masonry ordinance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time, thank you.

Respectfully,



Richard Kazandjian  
Fire Marshal  
City of Torrance Fire Department



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September 23, 2024

Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles  
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center  
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Sir or Madam:

The City of Vernon is in receipt of the correspondence dated June 17, 2024 from the 2023-2024 County of Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury), regarding the portion of the Grand Jury report which includes recommendations for the City of Vernon. Specifically, findings R15.11 and R15.15 in the section on Earthquake Safety Readiness – How to Survive the 'Big One'! require a response from the City. The City's responses to the recommendations are as follows:

**Recommendation R15.11:** The Cities of Industry and Vernon should consider having a Back to Business program to benefit the large number of businesses in their cities and to help the economy recover.

**Response:** The respondent agrees with the findings. The City of Vernon has through its municipal code been promoting voluntary seismic strengthening of structures for decades. The recommendation requires further analysis and Public Works staff will contact the City of Glendale regarding that city's Back to Business program. Public Works will report those findings to the City's Business and Industry Commission at its February 2025 meeting to determine if there is a need or desire to establish a similar program in Vernon. Should the Business and Industry Commission recommend that a Back to Business program should be established in Vernon, staff will develop a Back to Business program for proposed adoption by the City Council no later than July 2025.

**Recommendation R15.15:** If there is a lot of damage to buildings, more building inspectors would be needed. Plan for how temporary inspectors will be obtained and how they will be assigned, keeping in mind that businesses in the medical field should be inspected first, followed by those who were enrolled in the Back to Business program.

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**Response:** The respondent agrees with the finding. The recommendation has been implemented. The City of Vernon has contracted for on-call building inspection services through Interwest, a consulting firm with 200 building and safety professionals in California, and nationally an additional 1,700 employees outside of the state. These inspectors along with the City's employee building inspectors will be dispatched to inspection sites through the City's Emergency Operations Center. Should the Back to Business program become established in Vernon, priority would be given to businesses enrolled in the program after businesses in the medical field have been inspected.

Sincerely,

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Daniel Calleros  
Interim City Administrator