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Los Angeles • Mt. Baldy Area • Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro • Pasadena Area • Santa Clarita Valley  
Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier

October 3, 2021

Re: Agenda Item 50-6 Taking Action: Further Protections for Surviving Families from Law Enforcement Harassment and Retaliation

Dear Supervisors Kathryn Barger, Sheila Kuehl, Janice Hahn, Holly Mitchell, and Hilda Solis:

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has consistently demonstrated an understanding of the needs of the communities in its care and a desire to improve the lives of Los Angeles County's residents. Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County looks to the Board to recreate a Sheriff's Department committed to ensuring the safety of all residents in Los Angeles County that the public can trust and respect.

Decades of reform efforts by the Department and oversight bodies to end the existence of secret subgroups within LASD have been a failure. Deputy gangs generate and enforce their own code of departmental and public conduct which is contrary to that of the Department's stated positions.

We urge you to ask California Attorney General Rob Bonta to intervene and put an end to the deputy gangs that have been operating for decades.

Suggested reforms which could be implemented immediately:

- Institutionalize procedural justice through training, performance, and accountability. (As indicated in the Rand Report under the Summary recommendations: [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RRA616-1.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA616-1.html))
- Promote openness to change, adaptability, and learning. (As indicated in the Rand Report under the summary recommendations: [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RRA616-1.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA616-1.html))
- Pass an ordinance to outlaw deputy gangs within the Sheriff's department and increase transparency of deputy conduct,
- Clarify and strengthen the role of the Office of the Inspector General,
- Improve the disciplinary system for deputy sheriffs to address serious misconduct,
- Strengthen the Civilian Complaint Process and the Oversight Commission.

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The League of Women Voters holds many public policy positions and uses its voice to advocate for the marginalized and disenfranchised. Our California League's positions on Criminal Justice include calls to:

- Build public trust and positive community relationships through police engagement with community members.
- Provide police accountability via independent citizen oversight of law enforcement and publicly available data on officer conduct.

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County participated in the call to root out the corruption and conditions in the men's central jail a decade ago. We now call for your support for responsible government by addressing this long running corruption within the Department decisively and finally. By implementing these reforms, the fatal use of force by law enforcement officers could be significantly reduced.

Thank you.



Fatima Malik, President  
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

(Two (2) pages enclosed.)