



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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January 15, 2026

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn
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FROM: Eric Bates 
Interim Inspector General

SUBJECT: **SEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT BACK ON MEETING THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S OBLIGATIONS
UNDER SENATE BILL 1421
(ITEM NO. 13, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 15, 2022)**

INTRODUCTION

On February 15, 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) [passed a motion](#) aimed at strengthening the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Sheriff's Department) compliance with Senate Bill 1421 (SB 1421)¹ by, among other things, staffing and funding a unit within the Office of the County Counsel (County Counsel) tasked with processing SB 1421-related Public Records Act (PRA) requests. The motion directed County Counsel to draft an ordinance addressing disclosure of peace officer records and instructed the Inspector General, in consultation with County Counsel, to report back in writing to the Board every 180 days with an assessment of the implementation of that ordinance as well as the establishment of the unit within County Counsel with the responsibility for responding to PRA requests for

¹ In 2018, California enacted SB 1421, the Right to Know Act, which amended California Penal Code sections 832.7 and 832.8. The law, which went into effect on January 1, 2019, provides for public access to certain law enforcement records through a PRA request. In 2021, California further expanded public access to records with Governor Gavin Newsom's signing of Senate Bill 16 (SB 16), which added categories of peace officer records that must be provided in response to a PRA request. References to SB 1421 in this report include the categories added by SB 16.

records covered by SB 1421. The motion directs the Office of Inspector General to include in its report an assessment of the public's ability to access records covered by the ordinance. The public's ability to access records to which it should be entitled continues to be poor as [Los Angeles County Ordinance 2.170.020](#) is not yet operative and will not be until staffing of the responsible unit is complete and the unit has access to the records with the necessary information.²

ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIT WITHIN COUNTY COUNSEL TO RESPOND TO SB 1421 REQUESTS

Staffing

The biggest obstacle to full implementation of the ordinance is the staffing of the division within County Counsel established to respond to SB 1421 requests. County Counsel reports its Peace Officer Records Division (PORD), the County Counsel division tasked with eventually assuming control of and handling all Sheriff's Department and Probation Department SB 1421 requests is currently staffed with three attorneys, two supervising paralegals, three senior paralegals, and sixteen paralegals. Although the division has not hired any additional personnel since the Office of Inspector General's July 15, 2025 report, PORD continues to work towards staffing the approved budgeted positions by actively reviewing candidates, scheduling interviews, and conducting evaluations.

PORD continues to advise and assist the Sheriff's Department with its responses to SB 1421 PRA requests, including providing advice on complex and novel legal issues. Over the past six months, PORD reports it has taken a more active role in reviewing records responsive to SB 1421/SB 16 PRA requests. Specifically, PORD is handling the review and redaction of over 475 files responsive to over 67 PRA requests. Many of these files consist of hundreds of pages of records.

Training

PORD paralegals continue to be trained as needed. On December 10, 2025, County Counsel provided training for the Sheriff's Department's Special Victim's Bureau,

² [County Ordinance 2.170.020](#) requires the publication of records on a publicly-accessible website within 30 days of the creation of a Decisional Record as defined in the ordinance or within 30 days of a response to a PRA request. While the ordinance requires the Sheriff's and Probation departments to comply with these requirements, the ordinance specifically states "[t]his ordinance becomes operative once the funds are appropriated to fully staff the Office of County Counsel to fulfill the Departments' obligations under this section and the Office of County Counsel obtains the required access to the Departments' records." The ordinance was adopted on March 12, 2022, nearly four years ago.

Internal Affairs Bureau, and the Department's SB 1421 unit regarding the Public Records Act and the Department's obligations under SB 1421 and SB 16.

County Counsel reiterates that without a full staff it cannot take over the responsibility of responding to SB 1421 PRA requests and, as such, staff continues to work collaboratively with the Sheriff's Department's 1421 Unit to respond to requests.

Responses to PRA Requests to the Probation Department

PORD will also handle PRA requests pertaining to the Probation Department's SB 1421 records. To date, the Probation Department does not have a centralized computer database for all personnel records. Until the Department implements such a database and PORD is fully staffed, the Department continues to handle SB 1421 PRA requests for its records.

c: Robert G. Luna, Sheriff
Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer
Joseph M. Nicchitta, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Edward Yen, Executive Officer
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
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