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March 18, 2026

TO: Michael P. Dempsey
Monitor for California Department of Justice

FROM: Eric Bates 
Interim Inspector General

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for January 2026 on Internal Affairs Bureau Investigations, Closed-Circuit Television Review, and Searches at Barry J. Nidorf and Los Padrinos Juvenile Halls

This monthly report reviewing the Los Angeles County Probation Department's (Probation Department) compliance with the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) investigations, closed-circuit television review, and search mandates outlined in the Order Amending Stipulated Judgment (Amended Order) for the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) covers the month of January 2026.

Review of IAB Cases

The Amended Order in paragraph 18 requires the Office of Inspector General to report the number of new IAB referrals, open cases, and results of investigations conducted by the Probation Department. The Probation Department provided documentation to the Office of Inspector General indicating the following:

Summary of Amended Order Compliance

January 2026

Referrals ¹	Opened Cases ²	Results of Completed Investigations
9	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 3 investigations were <i>Sustained</i> (2 <i>criminal</i> and 1 <i>administrative</i>)▪ 1 investigation was <i>Not sustained</i>▪ 0 investigations were <i>Unfounded</i>▪ 6 <i>Bureau Determination</i>³ <p>(89 total number of current open cases - 69 <i>administrative</i>, 20 <i>criminal</i>).</p>

The Office of Inspector General did not review the underlying facts of the investigations to form an opinion as to whether the results were appropriate, or if the investigations were conducted properly.

Closed-Circuit Television

The Amended Order (paragraph 20) requires that the Office of Inspector General randomly select two days per month to determine the Probation Department's compliance with the Department's Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) review protocol. The Office of Inspector General is to review documentation and video recordings of use-of-force incidents and assess whether (1) the incident violates Department policies, the Amended Order or state law, (2) the incident has been properly identified and elevated to the appropriate Department staff and (3) the video recording was tampered with. Substantial compliance requires verification by the Office of Inspector General that

¹ New cases referred to IAB for consideration for investigation.

² Cases opened for investigation by IAB during the month of January 2026.

³ Cases rejected for investigation by IAB because they do not fit the criteria for a formal investigation and sent to the facility Bureau Chief at the facility to provide training or other non-disciplinary action to Probation Department staff.

the Department is compliant with its CCTV review protocol.⁴ The Office of Inspector General reviewed CCTV video recordings to assess proper documentation of use-of-force incidents as well as the identification by Department staff of possible violations of law, judgment, or policy, and the proper elevation of such incidents for review. The Office of Inspector General also reviewed CCTV logs and monitored Department compliance with its CCTV protocols.

Methodology

The Office of Inspector General constructed a sample of two days of CCTV video recordings relating to use-of-force incidents at BJNJH and LPJH for the month of January 2026. Office of Inspector General staff reviewed Physical Incident Reports (PIR), Safe Crisis Management Incident Reviews (SCM), as well as available CCTV video recordings. The Amended Order requires monthly verification by the Office of Inspector General that the Probation Department properly identifies and elevates use-of-force incidents that are not in compliance with its policies, the original stipulated judgment, or state law.

January 2026 – Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

Case Summary 1

Two youths started to fight near the school library.⁵ Youth 1 attacked Youth 2 and struck Youth 2 in the face with a book. A Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) issued verbal commands and intervened to separate the youths. Youth 1 was taken to the ground and placed in handcuffs, while Youth 2 was secured by a second DPO. Both youths were escorted to their living units. Youth 1 refused medical assessment twice and Youth 2 was medically assessed within the required timeframe following the incident. CCTV video for this incident was available.

⁴ The Amended Order does not provide a numerical value for determining compliance.

⁵ SCM LPJH-2026-0177.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
NO	N/A	NO

Case Summary 2

Two youths started to fight in a living unit.⁶ A Detention Services Officer (DSO 1) intervened and attempted to separate the youths, but Youth 1 continued to fight. A DPO secured Youth 1 from behind with a hold around the youth’s chest and escorted him out of the living unit to his room. A second DSO assisted and escorted Youth 2 out of the living unit to his room. The youths were medically assessed within the required timeframe following the incident. CCTV video for this incident was available.⁷

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
NO	N/A	NO

⁶ SCM LPJH 2026-0219.

⁷ Although the incident was captured by CCTV, the camera angle did not clearly capture the physical intervention. The available video recording captured staffs’ response and post-intervention movement consistent with documentation.

January 2026 – Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

Case Summary 1

Youth 1 was disruptive in a living unit and picked up a chair in a manner suggesting he was going to throw it at Youth 2.⁸ A Senior DSO responded and instructed DPO 1 and DPO 2 to deploy Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray on Youth 1. Prior to deploying the OC spray, Youth 1 put the chair down and was placed in a prone position on the floor and handcuffed by DPO 1. Youth 1 was then taken to a room for room confinement. Youth 1 was medically assessed within the required timeframe following the incident. However, the Physical Intervention Packet was incomplete. CCTV video for this incident was available.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
YES <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Physical Intervention Packet was incomplete.⁹	NO <ul style="list-style-type: none">The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.	NO

Case Summary 2

Two youths started to fight in a living unit.¹⁰ A DPO (DPO 1) intervened and gave an OC warning before deploying OC spray, which struck Youth 1. The youths separated and Youth 2 was taken out of the living unit by three DPOs (DPO 2, DPO 3 and DPO 4).

⁸ SCM BJN 2026-0012.

⁹ The Probation Department indicated that the Internal Force Review Team was able to receive a completed packet for review, within the requisite timeframe.

¹⁰ SCM BJN 2026-0047.

Youth 1 was taken out of the living unit by a fifth DPO (DPO 5) for decontamination.¹¹ Both youths were medically assessed within the required timeframe following the incident. However, the Physical Intervention Packet was incomplete.¹² CCTV video for this incident was available.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
<p style="text-align: center;">YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Physical Intervention Packet was incomplete. 	<p style="text-align: center;">NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations. 	<p style="text-align: center;">NO</p>

Search Logs

The Amended Order Detailed Plan in paragraph 25 requires the Office of Inspector General to review a randomly selected representative sample of searches conducted by the Probation Department to determine the Department’s compliance with its search policies and state law and that searches were accurately documented. The Amended Order mandates that the Department follow its policies and state law in 90% of all searches. The Department’s policy requires a *minimum* of *two* random searches of youths’ rooms on the living unit during the morning and evening work shifts (Required Searches).¹³ Based on this policy there should be four total searches per living unit per

¹¹ Youth 1 is seen on the video recording going into the restroom within 10 minutes of the incident, for what appears to be for decontamination.

¹² The Probation Department indicated that the Internal Force Review Team was able to receive a completed packet for review, within the requisite timeframe.

¹³ Detention Services Bureau (DSB) Manual 700, Section 715 and Secure Youth Treatment Facility Manual 700, Section 715 provides: Staff shall search youth’s rooms daily. At the minimum, two (2) random room searches shall be conducted per each AM and PM shift. Searches should be scheduled in a manner that does not create a pattern for the youth to predict such searches. During the search, if any weapons or contraband are found, staff shall

day. In addition, the Department conducts body scans of youths in its interdiction efforts.¹⁴

Methodology

The Office of Inspector General requested documentation relating to all searches conducted for all living units in both work shifts for the month of January 2026. In response, the Probation Department provided search logs for 1059 work shifts at BJNJH and 1128 at LPJH for January 2026.¹⁵

The Office of Inspector General randomly selected and reviewed four days of living unit searches conducted by Probation Department staff during morning and evening shifts for all units at BJNJH and LPJH.¹⁶ The Office of Inspector General determined compliance primarily based on information provided in the Department's search logs.

complete a Special Incident Report (SIR) and follow the procedures per the Crime Scene Evidence Preservation/Evidence Handling policy.

¹⁴ Directive 1519 provides: Staff members conducting the body-scan and those within sight of the visual display shall be of the same sex as the youth being scanned or adhere to the youth's stated gender search preference as indicated on the Unit Classification form (Penal Code § 4030; 15 CCR 1360). The body scanner viewing monitors shall not be in direct view of other youth.

¹⁵ The daily searches reviewed were conducted in all 18 units at BJNJH and all 18 units at LPJH. In addition to daily unit searches by unit staff, there are also occasional searches by Special Enforcement Operations (SEO) officers or unit staff, typically based on suspicion(s) and/or observed activities reported by unit staff. At BJNJH, SEO or unit staff conducted 5 such searches in January 2026, and 0 at LPJH.

¹⁶ The four days reviewed were January 4, 2026, January 17, 2026, January 19, 2026, and January 23, 2026. In constructing the samples described in this report, the Office of Inspector General followed current government audit standards to obtain a statistically valid sample and used a research randomizer to select incidents. (Off. of the Comptroller of the United States, U.S. Accountability Office (2018), <https://www.gao.gov/yellowbook>.)

Findings

Unit Searches

The Office of Inspector General found that with an 89% compliance rate BJJNH failed to meet the requirements for conducting the Required Searches, meaning the Probation Department is not in compliance with the Amended Order.¹⁷ After receiving a draft of this report on March 6, 2026, however, the Department provided the Office of Inspector General with documents missing from the initial production. A review of those documents indicated that BJJNH was in compliance with the Amended order. LPJH also met the requirements for conducting the Required Searches, with a 97% compliance rate.

Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

Of the sampled four days of unit searches at BJJNH in January 2026, the Probation Department conducted searches per unit as follows:

72 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> - 63 times; 88% of the sampled living units.
<i>3 searches per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>2 search per unit</i> - 4 times; 5% of the sampled living units.
<i>1 search per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>0 searched per unit</i> - 5 times; 7% of the sampled living units

¹⁷ After receiving a copy of the validation draft of this report, Probation Department staff advised that their records showed the compliance rate for unit searches at BJJNH was actually 99%. A review of all documentation by a Department supervisor determined that the Office of Inspector General staff was not provided with some of the documentation requested relating to the unit searches. Additional documentation showing compliance relating to the unit searches was provided to the Office of Inspector General staff within five days of receiving the Office of Inspector General's validation draft. However, because the documents had not been provided before the validation draft of this report was submitted to the Department, they were not considered by the Office of Inspector General for this monthly report.

The Office of Inspector General's review found that at BJNJH, the Probation Department conducted two searches per shift (four searches per day), as required by its policy in 88% of the sampled living units and is therefore not compliance with the Amended Order.

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

As noted above, the Probation Department policies require each living unit to be searched twice per morning and evening shifts, for a total of four (4) searches per day. Of the sampled searches at LPJH in January 2026, the Department conducted searches per living unit as follows:

74 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> - 72 times; 97% of the sampled living units.
<i>3 searches per unit</i> - 1 time; 1% of the sampled living units.
<i>2 searches per unit</i> - 1 time; 1% of the sampled living units.
<i>1 search per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>0 searches per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units. ¹⁸

The Office of Inspector General's review found that at LPJH the Probation Department conducted two searches per shift (four searches per day), as required by its policy in 97% of the sampled living units and is therefore in compliance with the Amended Order.

Body-Scan Searches

The Office of Inspector General requested documentation relating to all body-scan searches conducted in January 2026. Based on documentation provided, the Probation Department conducted 286 body scans at BJNJH and 734 at LPJH. The Office of

¹⁸ Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Inspector General selected and reviewed a representative sample of searches for January 2026: 8 for BJNJH and 43 for LPJH.

The Probation Department is required to document each body scan in its electronic Probation Case Management System (PCMS). In addition, each body-scan search is required to be conducted by a Department staff of the same sex/gender as the youth being searched.¹⁹

For BJNJH, based on the Office of Inspector General's review of PCMS records and body-scan documentation, the Probation Department entered body-scan information into PCMS in 5 of the 8 (63%) body scans conducted.²⁰ The Department conducted appropriate same sex/gender body scans in 8 of 8 (100%) of the body scans conducted on the youths. BJNJH is in compliance with the Amended Order regarding conducting same sex/gender body scans but not in compliance with properly entering body-scan information into PCMS.²¹

For LPJH, based on the Office of Inspector General's review of PCMS records and body-scan documentation, the Probation Department entered body-scan information into PCMS in 41 of the 43 (95%) sampled searches conducted. The Department conducted required same sex/gender body scans in 40 of 43 (93%) of the body scans conducted on the youths. LPJH is in compliance with the Amended Order regarding

¹⁹ Directive 1519 provides: Each youth's scan records shall be included in their file and PCMS to prevent exceeding annual scan limits upon transfer within juvenile facilities. Staff members conducting the body scan and those within sight of the visual display shall be of the same sex as the youth being scanned or adhere to the youth's stated gender search preference as indicated on the Unit Classification form (Penal Code § 4030; 15 CCR 1360). The body scanner viewing monitors shall not be in direct view of other youth.

²⁰ The Probation Department has reported that as a result of the Office Inspector General identifying this issue, the Department has revised the log to require a case note entry for each applicable record, and Department staff have been instructed to ensure a corresponding case note is created in the system and the log reflects verification of the entry.

²¹ The Office of Inspector General also noted that only 41% of the body scans were conducted by Probation Department staff with certification for conducting body scans.

conducting same sex/gender body scans of youths and properly entering body-scan information into PCMS.²²

Conclusion

The Office of Inspector General continues to recommend that the Probation Department: (1) continue to properly review CCTV video recordings for misconduct involving uses of force and investigating and determining whether staff engaged in misconduct, (2) conduct living unit searches as required by policy, (3) enter body-scan information into the PCMS system, (4) continue to ensure that body-scan searches are always conducted by a staff member of the same gender as the youth searched or the stated gender search preference of the youth, (5) ensure that medical assessments are conducted in a timely manner.

c: Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer
Joseph M. Nicchitta, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Edward Yen, Executive Officer
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission

²² Directive 1519 requires all staff members to complete comprehensive training prior to the operation of the body scanners. This comprehensive training includes a (2) hour course which addresses system operations, fundamental safety protocols and radiation safety, as well as hands-on training in scanning and camera operation. After certification, staff are also required to complete an annual refresher training. The Office of Inspector General noted that only 76.74 % of the body scans were conducted by Probation Department staff with certification for conducting body scans. The Probation Department reported that the training was conducted by an external vendor, and the staff training office does not currently have comprehensive records in order to confirm that all personnel assigned to BJNH received the training. The Department is currently determining whether additional records or documentation exist to verify staff training status. Any staff whose training cannot be confirmed will be temporarily suspended from conducting screenings until their training records are verified and they complete a new vendor-led training to ensure all required personnel are properly trained and certified. For LPJH, Department staff have been directed to identify all individuals whose training cannot be verified. Additional training sessions are being scheduled for those employees so they can obtain the required training and certification.