



# Office of Inspector General County of Los Angeles

## **Review of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Response to the National Lawyers Guild Press Conference for Community Members Injured by Sheriff's Deputies**

**March 1, 2022**

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## Background

On September 11, 2020, a group of protesters gathered in a parking lot in South Los Angeles to hold a press conference. The press conference was hosted by the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and was intended to provide a public forum to allow people, who had reportedly been injured in their contacts with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff's Department) deputies, to share their experiences with the media. The parking lot was situated directly west of the South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station and north of the Centinela Area County Probation Office. The parking lot is owned by the County of Los Angeles.

After the conclusion of the press conference, a Sheriff's Response Team<sup>1</sup>(SRT) moved in with a contingent of deputies and ordered the remaining attendees to disperse. According to the Sheriff's Department, most of the attendees obeyed the order to disperse, but a small group of people refused to leave. NLG witnesses stated that they never heard an order to disperse from Sheriff's Department deputies. During the interaction between the SRT and the remaining attendees, a deputy grabbed the shoulders of an attendee in an attempt to arrest him.

This incident was the subject of a Los Angeles Times article entitled, "Deputies in riot gear surround peaceful news conference related to Kizzee shooting."<sup>2</sup> In this article, Sheriff's Department spokesperson then-Lieutenant John Satterfield<sup>3</sup> is quoted as saying that the SRT secured the parking lot of a business "at the request of a manager." However, Lieutenant Satterfield did not state which business made the request. The Office of Inspector General visited the parking lot where this incident occurred and determined that the only business adjoining the parking lot is an El Pollo Loco restaurant. The Office of Inspector General interviewed the manager of the El Pollo Loco restaurant who was working on the day of this incident. The manager stated that no one from the restaurant called the Sheriff's Department to request that the protestors be dispersed.

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<sup>1</sup> Sheriff's Response Team Functions and Missions - The Sheriff's Response Team (SRT) will be capable of performing the following missions: Crowd and riot control; Mass arrest and field booking; Ability to conduct disentanglement operations; Conduct passive or resistive protestor arrests; Provide security for fixed critical facilities or infrastructure; Force protection at a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive (CBRNE) incident; and Augmentation of jail emergency response teams in the event of a significant jail riot or disturbance. Sheriff's Department Manual of Policy and Procedures 5-06/150.10.

<sup>2</sup> See, Miller, Leila and Tchekmedyian, Alene "Deputies in riot gear surround peaceful news conference related to Kizzee shooting," *Los Angeles Times*, September 11, 2020. Accessed September 11, 2020. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-09-11/deputies-in-riot-gear-peaceful-press-conference-related-to-kizzee-shooting>

<sup>3</sup> John Satterfield has since been promoted to the rank of Captain. He is referred to as Lieutenant in this report.

On November 17, 2020, the Office of Inspector General sent an e-mail to Lieutenant Satterfield requesting the name of the business and the name of the manager to whom he referred to in the Los Angeles Times article. To date, the Office of Inspector General has not received a response to this request.

As a result, the Office of Inspector General conducted an independent review of this incident, including the following: a review of all available Sheriff's Department documentation of this incident; interviews of NLG witnesses, El Pollo Loco employees, and County Probation Department employees; a review of Los Angeles County Assessor's Parcel Records; and a review of Closed-Circuit TV (CCTV) video from the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation Department) and a video of the attempted arrest of an unidentified man.

## Findings

- The Office of Inspector General found no evidence to support the Sheriff's Department's claim that a call to disperse the crowd was received by the Department.
  - Sheriff's Department reports and records of this incident do not contain any reference to the business owner that reportedly requested the parking lot be cleared.
  - There is no documentation or recording of the call reportedly received by the Sheriff's Department requesting that the crowd be dispersed.
  - According to the manager of the El Pollo Loco restaurant, no one from the restaurant called the Sheriff's Department to request that the crowd be dispersed.
  - According to County Probation witnesses, no Probation employee called the Sheriff's Department to request that the crowd be dispersed.
- A video capturing the attempted arrest of the unidentified man shows that the deputies in the video were all wearing cloth badges that do not appear to include their identification number. In addition, none of the deputies seen in the video appear to be wearing nameplates.
  - The lack of a badge number, identification number, or name is a violation of California Penal Code section 830.10 that mandates

“Any uniformed peace officer shall wear a badge, nameplate or other device which bears clearly on its face the identification number or name of the officer.”

- The lack of readily visible names and badge numbers makes it difficult for the public to identify the Sheriff’s Department employees involved in alleged problematic incidents with deputies.
- The Sheriff’s Department reports of this incident do not indicate any efforts by the SRT members to mitigate the situation before moving forward to disperse the crowd.
  - There appears to have been no effort to identify a possible leader/spokesperson within the lingering group to whom deputies could explain what they wanted the crowd to do and to seek that person’s assistance in helping to disperse the crowd.
  - Although Sheriff’s Department reports indicate the crowd was told to leave, there is no documentation of the issuance of a formal dispersal order advising the crowd that it was in violation of unlawful assembly laws.<sup>4</sup>
  - The apparent plan to simply move the crowd from the county-owned portion of the parking lot into the adjacent parking lot controlled by the El Pollo Loco restaurant appears to be simply moving the problem from county property and onto private property. This appears to be in conflict with the Sheriff’s Department’s position that it was acting at the request of a business.

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<sup>4</sup> California Penal Code section 409: “Every person remaining present at the place of any riot, rout, or unlawful assembly, after the same has been lawfully warned to disperse, except public officers and persons assisting them in attempting to disperse the same, is guilty of a misdemeanor.”



## Review of Police Reports

Office of Inspector General personnel submitted a written request to the Sheriff's Department for any and all records and information related to this incident, including but not limited to audio recordings of phone calls coming into the South Los Angeles Station; audio/video recordings announcing an unlawful assembly; copies of all written reports; all log entries; audio/video footage; and all citizen complaints received by the Sheriff's Department.

The Sheriff's Department responded to this request by providing the Use of Force Report package consisting of an Incident Report, Supervisor's Report on Use of Force, Watch Commander's Use of Force and Incident Analysis, and Unit Commander's Use of Force and Incident Analysis. The Sheriff's Department later confirmed that there were no other materials responsive to the Office of Inspector General's request.

The following is a summary of the Sheriff's Department's Use of Force documentation and the Office of Inspector General's review and analysis of these reports.

## **Incident Report:**

The Incident Report memorializes the Sheriff's Department's investigation regarding the attempted arrest of an unidentified attendee for a violation of Penal Code section 148 (a)(1) – Obstructing a Peace Officer. The Incident Report is written by Sheriff's Department personnel. In sum, a SRT was sent to South Los Angeles Station to protect Sheriff's Department personnel and property during a press conference and protest taking place at that location. Upon arrival, the SRT observed approximately 35-40 "protestors" who had gathered in the north parking lot of the adjacent County Probation Department office. SRT deputies strung caution tape to block off and protect certain areas around the South Los Angeles Station.

Following the press conference, individuals wearing clothing marked with the word "ANTIFA" crossed over the taped off area. In the opinion of a SRT sergeant on scene, this action jeopardized the integrity of the protected space as well as the safety of the deputies and the participants. As a result, the SRT ordered the attendees to vacate the parking lot.<sup>5</sup>

Most of the attendees left the area without issue; however, a few participants remained. The SRT attempted to deploy a wire barrier to create distance between the deputies and the protestors to protect the deputies from being assaulted by the crowd. As the deputies attempted to move the wire barrier into place, an unidentified man wearing a dark suit reportedly began to shout obscenities at the deputies while holding a recording device.

According to Sheriff's Department reports, this person refused to move back or leave the area despite repeated commands. The unidentified man reportedly stood in the path of the deputies, stepped on the wire barrier, and attempted to push it back with his foot. He also reportedly kicked at the wire barrier in what was described as a "quick" and "inconspicuous" manner. According to Sheriff's Department reports, these actions amounted to obstructing the deputies' effort to continue moving the wire barrier – an alleged violation of Penal Code section 148 (a)(1)- Obstructing a Peace Officer.

At the instruction of a sergeant, deputies attempted to arrest the man. A deputy grabbed the man by the shoulders, but he was able to slip away from the deputy's grasp and flee. Deputies made no further attempts to pursue the man and stayed focused on moving the crowd back.

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<sup>5</sup> As stated above, Sheriff's Department reports do indicate that the crowd was told to leave; however, there is no documentation of the issuance of a formal crowd-wide dispersal order advising the crowd that it was in violation of unlawful assembly laws.

**Office of Inspector General Analysis:**

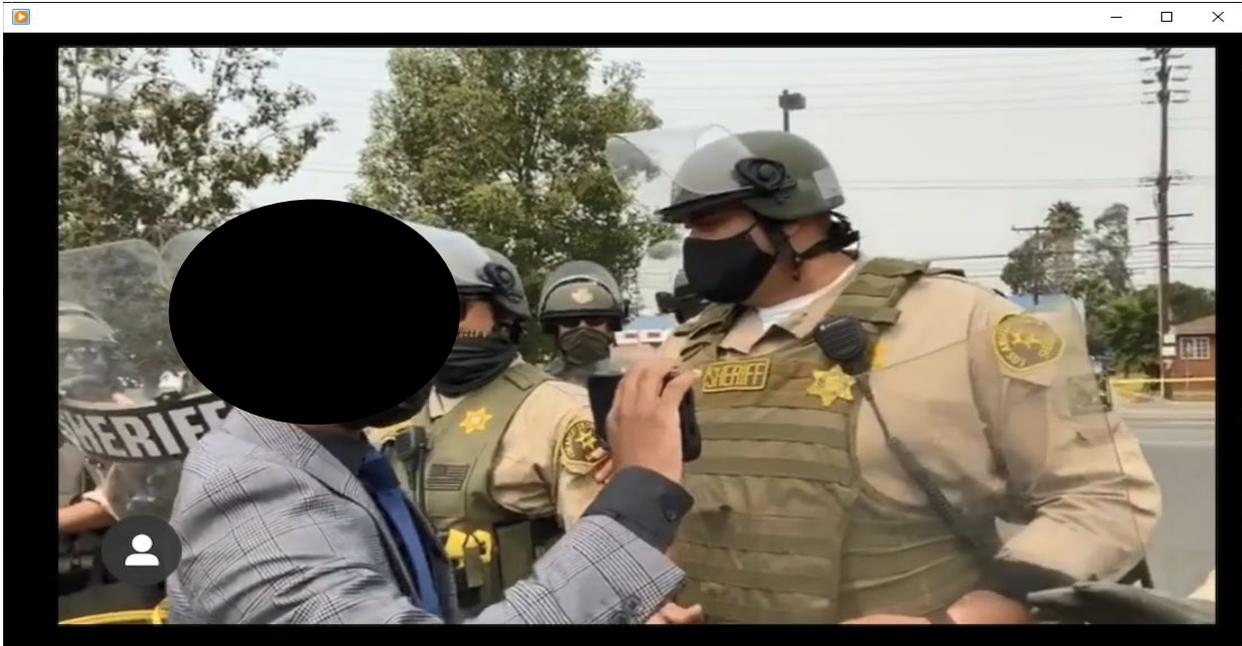
The Incident Report does not state who within the Department requested and/or authorized the presence of the SRT at this event. There is also no mention of a business owner calling the Sheriff's Department and requesting that the crowd be dispersed.

The Incident Report states that individuals wearing "ANTIFA" clothing crossed an area demarked by yellow law enforcement tape. The Incident Report identifies ANTIFA as "an autonomous group of militant individuals who aim to achieve objectives via non-violent and violent efforts." The report does not provide an estimation of the number of individuals who crossed the taped off area, nor does it identify any group behavior that could be described as "violent efforts." Once these individuals crossed the taped area, the Incident Report does not state where they went or how their actions compromised deputy safety.

The Incident Report states that the SRT reconfigured the wire barrier as protestors "refused to leave the area." The report does not state what specific actions the SRT took in formally advising the crowd that those remaining were deemed to be a part of an unlawful assembly, that a formal dispersal order was given, or whether the crowd was given a designated route to properly leave the area.

**Supervisor's Report on Use of Force:**

According to the Supervisor's Report on Use of Force (Force Report) prepared by a SRT Sergeant, the force used on the unidentified man was described as a "directed control hold" by two deputies at the order of a sergeant. The following photograph depicts the unidentified man interacting with deputies while holding what appears to be a mobile telephone:



The Force Report noted that “anti-law enforcement disruptive groups” that gathered on September 5, 2020, September 6, 2020, September 7, 2020, and September 8, 2020, had assaulted deputies with firework mortars, glass bottles, and other hard objects at the intersection of Normandie Avenue and Imperial Highway. That intersection directly fronts the El Pollo Loco restaurant and was very close to the parking lot where this incident took place. Due to the numerous violent protests occurring at the South Los Angeles Sheriff’s Station over the previous weeks, the area around the press conference was closed to the public. The SRT utilized a wire barrier and yellow police tape to mark off the closed areas.

At the conclusion of the press conference, the press and the speakers left the parking lot area. However, “numerous” individuals wearing “anti-law enforcement” clothing remained in the parking lot. The Force Report describes these individuals as a “disruptive group.” The Force Report notes that “in order to continue with our established structure protection protocol, the individuals in the parking lot were told the property was closed and they were ordered to leave.”

The SRT ordered the protestors to move into the “public” parking area immediately adjacent to the County parking lot – the parking lot of the El Pollo Loco restaurant. As a wire barrier was being set up, an unidentified man refused to back up and began filming SRT personnel with his mobile phone. SRT sergeants on scene repeatedly asked the man to comply with the order to leave, but he refused and continued filming the deputies.



Wire Barrier deployed at press conference as captured on the video of this incident.

The Force Report describes the unidentified man as “boisterous” and states that he “contemptuously” asked that the barrier be moved elsewhere. The Force Report states that the man placed his foot on the wire barrier and kicked the wire barrier “inconspicuously” with his left foot in order to prevent the deputies from moving the wire barrier forward. According to the Force Report, the man continued to refuse to comply with orders to leave and yelled at deputies in an “obvious” attempt to incite the other protestors and exacerbate the protestors’ anger toward law enforcement.

In response to the man’s actions and non-compliance with orders to leave, deputies devised a “tactical” plan to utilize control holds to arrest him. A sergeant directed a deputy to reach over the wire barrier to hold the man while an assisting deputy maneuvered over the wire barrier to complete the arrest. According to the Force Report, when the deputy grabbed the man’s shoulder area, the man crouched down and moved backwards out of the deputy’s grasp. The man was then grabbed by other “protestors” and pulled away from the deputies. Once the man was pulled away, he blended in with the crowd and fled from the area without being apprehended or identified.

Deputies did not pursue the man. The Force Report states that pursuing the suspect would have jeopardized the safety of deputies when the threat was no longer present. According to the Force Report, no complaints were filed with the Sheriff’s

Department regarding the use of force on the unidentified man. The man has never come forward or been identified.

The Force Report states that after the “tumultuous” period ended, an SRT sergeant contacted some individuals lingering in the parking lot and asked to speak with them in an attempt to obtain witness statements. These individuals reportedly “insulted” the law enforcement profession and “angrily” declined to cooperate or provide their names.

In reviewing SRT tactics, the Force Report notes that although the unidentified man’s actions met the elements of obstructing, delaying, or resisting a peace officer, in “hindsight 20/20,” it was possible that the man was intentionally “bait[ing]” SRT personnel to draw them into an enforcement incident. The Force Report concludes by stating that “although the constitution allows the freedom of speech, or the press, or the people’s right to assemble peacefully, law enforcement was granted grounds for intervention when Suspect Doe’s protest went from speech to action, referring to the obstruction of a peace officer.” It continues, “furthermore, grounds to move the wire barriers was only after the disruptive group crossed the marked area, thus, transitioning away from the peaceful assembly.”

#### **Office of Inspector General Analysis:**

When describing the scene and the SRT’s legal standing to disperse the crowd, the Force Report notes that at the conclusion of the press conference many of the remaining individuals were “wearing anti-law enforcement (disruptive group) clothing.” The Force Report appears to equate simply wearing “anti-law enforcement” clothing in some way with a justification for the actions that followed. The supervisor preparing the Force Report checked the box “Other” where it states, “Verbal threats against law enforcement personnel by protestors.” The Force Report provides no specific examples of these threats against law enforcement that were used to justify the actions of the SRT.

The Force Report states that the scene was not photographed or videotaped by the SRT due to the “the protestors’ irate behavior following our attempt to apprehend Suspect Doe at the time, coupled with our responsibility to maintain the integrity of the area . . .” However, the SRT was initially only monitoring the protest before the remaining protestors became irate. Therefore, the SRT should have had both the opportunity and the time to begin videotaping before making the tactical decision to move the crowd. The wording of the Force Report strongly suggests that the SRT had the capability to video and/or photograph their actions but chose not to do so.

The Force Report further states, “with hindsight 20/20, it is possible Suspect Doe intentionally baited SRT personnel to draw us into an enforcement incident.

Suspect Doe appeared to be recording/streaming during the encounter, thus his inconspicuous obstruction with his foot.” The use of force was directed by a supervisor on scene. This would suggest that the only person “baited” was the supervisor that authorized the use of force. This also suggests that the supervisor may have lacked a sufficient depth of understanding of interpreting crowd dynamics.

In fact, the Force Report states that the supervisor apologized to the deputies for the miscommunication and lack of clarity in his directions to the deputies. Based solely on the video, the unidentified man was verbally aggressive at most with no suggestion that he, or the remaining crowd, were being physically aggressive. The video does not capture the unidentified man kicking or pushing the wire barrier, although it is possible that he was doing so under the line of sight of the video camera. Nevertheless, it appears the SRT was still well in control of the situation. Therefore, clear and concise directions from the supervisor to the deputies should not have been an issue.

Lastly, the Force Report states that the decision not to pursue “Suspect Doe” was because of the “number of violent protestors on the other end would have jeopardized the safety of the deputies when the threat was no longer present.” The use of the term “number of violent protestors” seems incongruent with the evidence presented in both the Incident Report and the Force Report. At very least, one would expect the inclusion of the specific actions of the crowd and/or individuals justifying the SRT’s later tactical decisions.

### **Watch Commander’s and Unit Commander’s Review:**

The Watch Commander’s Review of this incident determined that the force used on the unidentified man was “objectively reasonable, justified, and consistent with Sheriff’s Department policy, procedures, guidelines, and training standards.” The unit commander agreed with these findings in the Unit Commander’s Review.

### **National Lawyers Guild**

On September 14, 2020, Office of Inspector General representatives met with a National Lawyers Guild (NLG) attorney at the site of the press conference. According to the NLG attorney, the NLG assisted in organizing the event and NLG staff were present during this incident. The September 11, 2020, press conference was intended to give a platform for those in the community who had been injured by deputies during their contacts with the Sheriff’s Department. The attorney said that there were approximately 20 members of the press and approximately 30 members of the public present.

The NLG attorney said that a “large number” of deputies dressed in riot gear assembled at the press conference. The attorney stated that the deputies were carrying what NLG staff believed were less lethal munitions. Deputies closed both east and west bound traffic on Imperial Highway directly fronting the parking lot. At some point, the deputies began to “corral” the crowd and move them southbound in the parking lot towards the Centinela Area County Probation Building (1330 W. Imperial Highway). According to this attorney, the NLG staff did not hear any orders to disperse or a declaration of an unlawful assembly.

During the interaction between the Sheriff’s Department and the attendees, a law student/legal observer was pushed by a deputy. Other than that interaction, NLG staff did not observe any other uses of force. NLG staff did not see any aggressive behavior by the crowd directed towards the deputies, for example, they did not see items being thrown at deputies. The NLG attorney stated that the only thing the crowd was doing was chanting “say his name” referring to Kizzee Dijon, a man who died as the result of a deputy-involved shooting, on August 31, 2020.

## **Video of Attempted Arrest**

The video of the attempted arrest of the unidentified man is 48-seconds in length.<sup>6</sup> The video is taken from the perspective of someone who is filming behind and to the right of the unidentified man.<sup>7</sup> The man is seen holding a cell phone in his right hand and it appears that he is filming the deputies who have formed a “skirmish” line in front of him that included a wire barrier separating him from the deputies.

A deputy can be heard telling the unidentified man that they are trying to move the barricade to which the man responds by saying, “why don’t you move it that way” and gestures with his left hand. It appears the person videotaping the unidentified man adds to this conversation by saying “so people can get to their vehicles and leave.” A deputy responds by saying, “we have a reason, alright” and “we will explain.”

At that point, the unidentified man is holding his mobile phone close to the face of the deputy that is standing directly in front of him. The deputy then hands his plexiglass riot shield to a sergeant as the man is then heard saying twice, “are you going to attack me?” The deputy then reaches over the wire barrier and grabs the man by his jacket shoulder area. The video is then redirected downward, and someone is heard, possibly the person videotaping the incident, saying multiple

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<sup>6</sup> The video of this incident was posted at <https://twitter.com/i/status/1305280182652006400> (accessed December 9, 2021).

<sup>7</sup> The Office of Inspector General believes this subject is Suspect Doe based on the description of the unidentified man provided in the police reports.

times -- "hey, no, and hell no." It appears that the deputy is then directed to move back by a sergeant and this sergeant then steps forward to the barrier. In the background, you can faintly hear someone repeating, "hold the line."

The video then pans to the right showing a deputy pointing towards what appears to be a less-lethal pepper ball weapon at the crowd. Someone then says, "you are pointing weapons at lawyers" and "this is insanity." A deputy responds, "get out of the way." The video then pans back to the left and you see an unidentified man standing and filming with his mobile phone. What sounds to be a woman's voice in the crowd says, "you are just proving the point." This statement is repeated by the person videotaping the incident. Another voice from the crowd says, "where is your lieutenant?" As the video concludes, you see a line of deputies stepping back from the crowd.

The video of the incident also shows that the deputies and sergeants are wearing cloth badges that do not identify them by an identification number nor are they wearing a nameplate, which is a violation of California Penal Code section 830.10. Penal Code section 830.10 clearly mandates that "[a]ny uniformed peace officer shall wear a badge, nameplate, or other device which bears clearly on its face the identification number or name of the officer."

### **Office of Inspector General Analysis:**

The video of the attempted arrest of the unidentified man appears to show that the deputies were all wearing cloth badges that do not appear to include their identification number. None of the deputies in the video appear to be wearing nameplates.

The lack of a badge number, identification number, or name is a violation of California Penal Code section 830.10 that mandates "Any uniformed peace officer shall wear a badge, nameplate or other device which bears clearly on its face the identification number or name of the officer." The lack of readily visible names and badge numbers makes it difficult for the public to identify the Sheriff's Department employees involved in allegedly problematic incidents with deputies.

This has been an issue at other protests.<sup>8</sup> The Office of Inspector General discussed this issue in depth in our Quarterly Report entitled "Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, January to March 2021."<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> City News Service, "L.A. County Sheriff's deputies accused of covering badges at protest." *The Antelope Valley Times*, November 29, 2020. Accessed November 30, 2021. <https://theavtimes.com/2020/11/29/l-a-county-sheriffs-deputies-accused-of-coveringbadges-at-protest/>

<sup>9</sup> See, *Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, January to March 2021*, pp. 15-21. [https://oig.lacounty.gov/Portals/OIG/Reports/1stQuarter2021ReformandOversight\\_Final.pdf](https://oig.lacounty.gov/Portals/OIG/Reports/1stQuarter2021ReformandOversight_Final.pdf).

## **Probation Department**

The Centinela Area Probation Office (1330 W. Imperial Highway) is located west of the South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station (1310 W. Imperial Highway), and south of the El Pollo Loco restaurant (1360 W. Imperial Highway). A review of Los Angeles County Assessor's records shows that the parking lot in which the press conference was held is owned by the County of Los Angeles with an address of 1326 W. Imperial Highway.

On September 15, 2020, Office of Inspector General Inspectors conducted a site visit that included impromptu meetings with three members of the Probation Department.

An employee, who was working on that day, estimated that the crowd numbered approximately 30 to 40 people. Probation employees would periodically walk outside to watch the activity. They heard "verbal bantering" and what they described as some of the participants "baiting" the deputies into a conflict. The employee said by 12:00 p.m., to 12:30 p.m., the crowd had thinned out. This employee said that deputies blocked off the northeast and west portions of the Probation Department's parking lot.

Another Probation Department employee stated that some in the crowd were "antagonizing" the deputies, such as displaying the middle finger. The employee believed some in the crowd were also "verbally abusive" towards the deputies. They concluded by stating that they saw a "brief commotion" but did not know what had occurred.

The Probation Department employees said that they were not aware of anyone from their office calling the Sheriff's Department to complain about those attending the press conference. However, some stated that they would have called the Sheriff's Department to assist with managing the crowd if the Sheriff's Department had not already responded.

## **Closed Circuit TV**

The Office of Inspector General conducted a walk-through of the exterior of the Centinela Area Probation Office looking for CCTV cameras that may have captured the event. Office of Inspector General staff identified four cameras in and around the building. They requested assistance from the Probation Department in reviewing the angles of these cameras to determine their evidentiary value. Ultimately, two cameras (#3 and #11) were determined to have no value – camera #3 was out of position, and the lens to camera #11 was damaged.

The only camera operated by the Probation Department that captured portions of the event was camera #5, and it was positioned in the northeast portion of the County's lot. This camera faced westbound and was situated at the driveway that provides access to the South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station from the county's lot. A review of the video showed the crowd gathering in and around the northeast portion of the lot for the press conference. It appeared that once the crowd started to dissipate, the Sheriff's Department deployed a contingent of deputies who ultimately moved the crowd in a southerly direction towards the Probation Department's office. Once the crowd was moved, they moved out of the camera's view and the camera did not capture any interaction between the deputy and the unidentified man. The video showed no notable behavior on the part of either the attendees or the deputies.

## **El Pollo Loco Restaurant**

The El Pollo Loco restaurant is located west of the parking lot where the press conference took place. A review of the Los Angeles County Assessor's records showed that their property line is delineated by concrete curbs/planters along their east and south borders which directly adjoins county-owned parking lots.

Office of Inspector General staff went to the El Pollo Loco restaurant located at 1360 W. Imperial Highway and met with the restaurant manager who was on-duty on the day of this incident. To the manager's knowledge, no restaurant staff member called the Sheriff's Department requesting that the crowd be dispersed on the date of this incident.

Office of Inspector General staff observed a CCTV camera positioned on the south side of their building facing eastbound; there was no recoverable video of the incident from this camera.

## **Conclusion**

After reviewing the provided documentation and supporting material, visiting the scene, and interviewing available witnesses, the Office of Inspector General makes the following observations with respect to the Sheriff's Department handling of this incident:

1. Sheriff's Department records do not identify the concerned business owner that reportedly called the Sheriff's Department to disperse the crowd.

This conflicts with the statement reported in the Los Angeles Times made by Lieutenant Satterfield to that the SRT secured the parking lot at the request of a business owner.<sup>10</sup>

Statements made to the press that cannot be substantiated create distrust in the community and call into question the intentions of the Sheriff's Department in dispersing the crowd.

2. Taking into consideration the heightened state of anxiety both the community and Sheriff's Department deputies found themselves in during this time, it would have served the Sheriff's Department well to have designated a videographer to capture both audio and video actions of the crowd to include specific individuals, and the Sheriff's Department response.
3. The Use of Force Report does not document any effort by Sheriff's Department supervisors at the scene to identify a possible leader(s) within the lingering group to explain what they wanted the crowd to do and to seek their assistance through negotiated management in helping disperse the crowd.
4. The Use of Force Report does not document a public announcement declaring that the crowd was engaged in an unlawful assembly followed by a lawful dispersal order.

As previously noted, a designated videographer would have captured these announcements if they were made.

5. Sheriff's Department documentation does not document the plan to disperse the crowd. The reports state, "the protestors were asked to move into the public parking area immediately adjacent to the county parking lot."

This suggests that their plan was simply to move the crowd off county property and onto the adjoining parking lot owned by El Pollo Loco. This would also seemingly conflict with the statement made in the Los Angeles

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<sup>10</sup> This is not the only instance in which Lieutenant Satterfield is accused of having made false or misleading statements to the press as the Sheriff's Department spokesperson. In a recorded interview of Sheriff's Department command staff, an individual identified by the Los Angeles Times (LAT) as Then-Lieutenant John Satterfield stated that he was not aware of any complaints that a deputy trainee was in a bar showing photographs of the Kobe Bryant crash. The LAT reported that prior to that interview, Lieutenant Satterfield had gone to the bar to obtain evidence related to the complaint. Lieutenant Satterfield later told the LAT that he did not consider an email from Ralph Mendez about the incident to be a formal complaint. Tchekmedyian, Alene; Winton, Richard; and Goffard, Christopher. "A deputy showed images in a bar of Kobe Bryant's body. Vanessa Bryant now wants justice," Los Angeles Times, December 21, 2021. Accessed January 5, 2022. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-12-21/vanessa-bryant-kobe-bryant-death-photos-lawsuit-la-county-sheriff>. Lieutenant Satterfield has since been promoted to Captain. The failure of the Sheriff's Department to categorize criticism of conduct as a complaint has been addressed previously in the Office of Inspector General's Report entitled *Review of August 7, 2020, Santa Clarita Incident*. <https://oig.lacounty.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Lkr-UjBHdkI%3d&portalid=18>.

Times article covering this event, where Sheriff's Department spokesperson Lieutenant Satterfield stated that the SRT secured the parking lot at the request of a business owner.

Further, the apparent plan to simply move the protestors "into the public parking area immediately adjacent to the county parking lot" may indicate that SRT supervisors may not have had adequate training in interpreting crowd psychology/dynamics, essential communication methods in high-stress environments, and the use of appropriate de-escalation methods.

6. The video of the attempted arrest of the unidentified man reveals that the deputies and sergeants in the video were all wearing cloth badges that do not appear to include their identification number and none of them were wearing nameplates. The lack of a badge number, identification number, or name is in violation of California Penal Code section 830.10 that mandates "Any uniformed peace officer shall wear a badge, nameplate or other device which bears clearly on its face the identification number or name of the officer."

The absence of these readily visible identifiers is a violation of law and makes it difficult for the public to identify Sheriff's Department employees especially in highly emotional events such as this press conference.

## **Sheriff's Department Response**

This report was sent to the Sheriff's Department on January 14, 2022, for review. The Office of Inspector General requested that any comments or concerns be provided by January 24, 2022. As of this writing, the Office of Inspector General has not received any response other than an acknowledgement on January 14, 2022, that the report was received.