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May 15, 2026

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

FROM: Eric Bates 
Interim Inspector General

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for March 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 Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) covers the month of March 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

March 2026

Referrals ¹	Opened Cases ²	Results of Completed Investigations
1	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 3 investigations were <i>Sustained</i> (0 criminal and 3 administrative)▪ 2 investigations were <i>Not sustained</i> (0 criminal and 2 administrative)▪ 0 investigations were <i>Unfounded</i>▪ 8 <i>Bureau Determination</i>³ (90 total number of current open cases - 69 administrative, 21 criminal).

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 the Department is compliant with its CCTV review protocol.⁴ The Office of Inspector

¹ New cases referred to IAB for consideration for investigation.

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

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

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 March 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.

March 2026 – Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

Case Summary 1

Two youths started to fight in a gymnasium.⁵ Three Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) issued verbal commands to stop fighting and an Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray warning before intervening to separate the youths. The youths continued to fight, and DPO 1 deployed OC spray on Youth 1 and Youth 2 and DPO 2 deployed OC spray on Youth 1. The youths continued to fight until DPO 3 deployed OC spray on Youth 1 and Youth 2. The youths stopped fighting and were separated and secured by DPO 1 and DPO 2. A supervising DPO responded and assisted by escorting the youths to their living units. Both youths were decontaminated and medically assessed in a timely manner. CCTV video for this incident was available.

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

⁵ SCM LPJH-2026-0954.

Case Summary 2

Two youths started to fight in a living unit.⁶ Two DPOs issued verbal commands to stop fighting and issued an OC spray warning. The youths continued to fight and DPO 1 deployed OC spray on Youth 1 causing the youths to stop fighting. DPO 2 separated the youths and escorted Youth 1 to the living unit sink for decontamination and then to Youth 1's room for further decontamination. Youth 1 was medically assessed within the required timeframe, but Youth 2 was medically assessed 24 minutes beyond the required timeframe. 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">▪ Youth was secured in his room after being contaminated with OC spray.⁷▪ Youths were not medically assessed in a timely manner.⁸	<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>

⁶ SCM LPJH 2026-0959.

⁷ DSB section 1006 "Enhanced Supervision Observational Monitoring of Youth: In line with Title 15 Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities, Title 15 § 1357(b)(3), any youth exposed to OC spray "shall not be left unattended until that youth is fully decontaminated or is no longer suffering the effects of the OC spray." Immediately after the application of OC spray, regardless of where the incident occurred, and during the period where mechanical restraint, decontamination, clothing exchange, and medical assessment occurs, the youth shall be placed on L-3 status for no less than one hour in accordance with Enhanced and Specialized Supervision Requirements for Youth in Juvenile Facilities. In any instance wherein a youth upon whom OC spray was deployed begins to show signs of distress or other respiratory problems, the officer shall immediately summon medical assistance to the location. Under no circumstances shall the officer who deployed the OC spray be used to monitor the youth."

⁸ DSB Section 1008 (C) provides: "Any youth involved in a physical intervention incident in DSB facilities shall be referred to medical staff for assessment no later than thirty (30) minutes following containment of the occurrence." The Probation Department indicated that the delay in medical assessment was due to the occurrence of multiple incidents.

March 2026 – Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

Case Summary 1

A youth placed a mattress against the door of his room.⁹ Three DPOs instructed the youth to move the mattress but the youth refused. A Senior Detention Services Officer (Sr. DSO) responded and continued to instruct the youth to move the mattress. DPO 1 was able to open the door wide enough to enter the room and the youth exited the room and became combative. DPO 2 and DPO 3 secured the youth with the assistance of additional responding staff and brought him back inside the room. The youth was not medically assessed within the required timeframe following the incident.¹⁰ 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">▪ Child safety assessment was not conducted in a timely manner.¹¹▪ Youth was not medically assessed in a timely manner.	NO <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.	NO

⁹ SCM BJN 2026-0380.

¹⁰ The Probation Department reported that the nurse informed Department staff that the medical assessment would be conducted later when medical staff is providing medication to the youths in the building. The Office of Inspector General cannot confirm that the medical assessment was later conducted. The youth was reported to have later been “unresponsive” in a restroom, resulting in a medical emergency. It is unknown to the Office of Inspector General if the medical emergency was connected to the fight or use of OC spray.

¹¹ The Probation Department stated that the delay in completing the child safety assessment resulted from having to wait for the medical evaluation, which itself was postponed due to a nursing shortage.

Case Summary 2

Two youths started to fight in a living unit.¹² Two DPOs stepped between the youths and stopped the fight. The youths later attempted to reengage but were blocked by DPO 1 and DPO 2 and a third assisting DPO. DPO 1 and DPO 2 escorted Youth 1 to his room, and DPO 2 later escorted Youth 2 to his room. Both youths were medically assessed within the required timeframe following the incident. CCTV video for this incident was available.

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

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

¹² SCM BJN 2026-0381.

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 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

For this reporting period, the Office of Inspector General included Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK) in its continued review of the Department's compliance with its search policies and state law, and accurate documentation of searches. The Residential Treatment Services Bureau (RTSB) policy, to which CVK is subject, requires a daily search of youths' room or camp dorm area; including bed area, sheets, blankets, desks, any personal items that are in the room, door jams, windows and light fixtures.¹⁵ Per Department policy, these searches should be completed on each shift, and also include all areas that youth have access to (Required Searches). Based on this policy, there should be *two* total searches per living unit per day.

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 March 2026. In response, the Probation Department provided search logs for 1133 work shifts at BJNJH, 1100 at LPJH and 491 shifts at CVK for March 2026.¹⁶

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, LPJH and CVK.¹⁷ The Office of Inspector General determined compliance primarily based on information provided in the Department's search logs.

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 RTSB 1316 Searches in Detention Facilities.

¹⁶ 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 2 such searches in March 2026, and 2 at LPJH.

¹⁷ The four days reviewed were March 10, 2026, March 11, 2026, March 24, 2026, and March 25, 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 a 94% compliance rate at BJNJH, and a 96% compliance rate at LPJH, meaning the Probation Department is in compliance with the Amended Order for these two facilities. However, the Office of Inspector General found a 72% compliance rate at CVK, meaning the Probation Department is not in compliance with the Amended Order at this facility.

Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

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

72 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> – 68 times; 94% 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; 6% 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> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.

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 94% of the sampled living units and is therefore in 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 March 2026, the Department conducted searches per living unit as follows:

71 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> – 68 times; 96% of the sampled living units.
<i>3 searches per unit</i> – 2 times; 3 % 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.

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 96% of the sampled living units and is therefore in compliance with the Amended Order.

Campus Vernon Kilpatrick

Of the sampled four days of living unit searches at Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK) in March 2026, the Probation Department conducted searches per unit as follows:

36 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>2 search per unit</i> - 26 times; 72% of the sampled living units.

36 Sampled Living Unit Searches
1 search per unit - 10 times ¹⁸ ; 28% of the sampled living units.
0 searched per unit- 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.

The Office of Inspector General’s review found that at CVK the Probation Department conducted one search per shift (two searches per day), as required by its policy in 72% of the sampled living units and is therefore not in compliance with the Amended Order.¹⁹

Body-Scan Searches

The Office of Inspector General requested documentation relating to all body-scan searches conducted in March 2026. Based on documentation provided, the Probation Department conducted 175 body scans at BJNJH and 876 at LPJH. The Office of Inspector General selected and reviewed a representative sample of searches for March 2026: 30 for BJNJH and 170 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.²⁰

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

¹⁸ Documentation provided by the Department that failed to clearly identify an AM or PM search, or where the Office of Inspector General could not determine an AM or PM shift were calculated as “0”; indicating no search was conducted.

¹⁹ The Probation Department reported that as of May 2026, it has implemented a quality assurance process to ensure all necessary information relating to living unit searches is available to the Office of Inspector General for its compliance review.

²⁰ 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.

into PCMS in 21 of the 30 (70%) body scans conducted.²¹ In addition, the Department conducted appropriate same sex/gender body scans in 30 of the 30 (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.²²

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 165 of the 170 (97%) sampled searches conducted. The Department conducted required same sex/gender body scans in 169 of the 170 (99%) of the body scans conducted on the youths. LPJH is in compliance with the Amended Order regarding conducting same sex/gender body scans of youths and properly entering body-scan information into PCMS.²³

For CVK, the Probation Department did not provide documentation for body scan searches conducted, stating that there is no body scan unit at CVK and such searches are not applicable at the facility at this time.²⁴ The Department stated that it's not required to perform body scans but rather utilize the body scan units whenever it's reasonably practicable in place of a search, strip search or body cavity search. Directive 1519, the Department's body scan policy, provides:

“Body Scanning *may* be used at intake, after visiting, and other circumstances that can jeopardize the safety and security of the youth while respecting their dignity and rights.”

²¹ The Probation Department recently reported that it recognized the compliance issue and corrected in April 2026.

²² The Office of Inspector General also noted that 90% of the body scans were conducted by Probation Department staff with certification for conducting body scans.

²³ Directive 1519 requires all staff members to complete comprehensive training prior to the operation of the body scanners. This comprehensive training includes a two (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 39% of the body scans were conducted by Probation Department staff with certification for conducting body scans.

²⁴The Probation Department reports that it is not required to have a body scan unit at CVK and if there is a need to conduct a body scan, the youth would be transferred to BJNJH or LPJH.

However, it later provides:

- “The following requirements shall apply to the use of the Body Scanner:
- All youth, except those suspected or confirmed to be pregnant, *shall* undergo a body scan during the intake process. . .

 - Youth returning from any transportation outside the facility *shall* be scanned upon return to the facility prior to transfer to housing unit or being integrated with other youth.”

Based on the Probation Department’s policy, the Office of Inspector General believes it is unclear whether the Department’s policy requires body scans be performed at all facilities.

The Probation Department’s body scan policy does not contain language specifically excluding any Residential Treatment Services Bureau (RTSB) facility or camp from conducting such searches. Additionally, the Office of Inspector General did not identify any Department policies that exclude, prohibit, or absolve any RTSB facility or camp from conducting body scan searches. The Office of Inspector General believes that body scan searches at CVK are warranted because youth girls are now housed at the facility and recommends that a body scan unit is utilized at CVK and all youth are subject to body scans upon returning to the facility as provided in the Department’s policy.

Because a body scanner is not being used at CVK, the Office of Inspector General could not review body scanning documentation to determine compliance with its body scanner policy nor determine its compliance with the Amended Order on this topic.²⁵

²⁵ The Probation Department reported that it has not discovered any contraband at CVK and therefore, there’s been no need to log any relevant search information but will do so if contraband is found in the future. With respect to the body scanner policy, the Probation Department reported the policy was only intended to apply to those facilities with a body scanner and the requirements section of the policy therefore only applies when a facility uses a body scanner. However, the Department has reported that it has obtained an estimated cost for a body scanner and is in the process of purchasing it in the next fiscal year for the facility.

Michael P. Dempsey, Monitor

May 15, 2026

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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) continue to conduct living unit searches as required by policy; (3) continue to 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) utilize a body scan unit at CVK; (6) ensure that medical assessments are conducted in a timely manner.

c: Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer
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