

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL:
Fourth Quarter 2014**

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INSPECTOR GENERAL**

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Reporting

This fiscal year, in addition to this report, the Office of Inspector General has presented three reports in response to requests by the Board of Supervisors:

November 21, 2014 Analysis of the Legal Basis for X-ray Body Scanner Searches in County Jail Facilities

November 21, 2014 Summary of Force Allegation Investigative Procedures

September 8, 2014 A Preliminary Review of Sheriff Crime Statistic Reporting

A copy of each of these reports is attached.

The OIG has also prepared for presentation to the Board of Supervisors and the Department two additional reports:

December 31, 2014 Recommendation to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for Public Data Disclosure

January 20, 2015 2014 Fourth Quarter Status Report: The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Implementation of The Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence Recommendations

Each of these reports accompanies the Board memorandum to which this report is attached.

Oversight Activities

Monitoring of the jails has been the subject of special attention by the OIG since its inception. OIG staff has regularly visited each of the Los Angeles County jail facilities. Although the OIG staff has not yet obtained unescorted access to the jail facilities, during each jail visit OIG staff selected at random prisoners from the general population to interview and inspected housing conditions. As part of the OIG's continued monitoring of the implementation of the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence recommendations, OIG staff this quarter has also interviewed deputies,

custody assistants, supervisors and commanders throughout the Department (see the section on **Reports** below).

As part of its jail monitoring program, OIG staff responds to investigations of in-custody deaths, reported uses of significant force and major disturbances. This quarter the OIG responded to the investigation of one major disturbance at a jail facility. The OIG also responded on numerous occasions to jails to look into specific complaints received from prisoners, prisoners' friends and families, and community organizations regarding conditions of confinement or treatment by custody staff. During these visits OIG staff interviewed numerous prisoners, staff members and command staff when responding to specific complaints (see the section on **Complaints** below).

On December 23, 2014, the LASD conducted its first orientation for the OIG staff to qualify attending OIG staff for unescorted access to jail facilities. To accommodate new OIG staff, additional orientation sessions have been planned for January 2015.

Monitoring of patrol activities has also been an important activity of the OIG. OIG staff responds to the investigation of deaths of persons which occur while in the custody of the LASD, all deputy involved shootings which result in injury or death, all uses of force which are the proximate cause of a person's death, and other significant events, such as major disturbances in custody facilities. This past quarter, the OIG responded to the investigation of nine deputy involved shootings which resulted in injury or death, and one in-custody death.

As part of the OIG's oversight of Sheriff Department operations OIG staff regularly attended this past quarter Critical Incident Review and meetings of the Executive Force Review Committee, Custody Force Review Committee and Death Review Committee.

The OIG handled 155 individual complaints this quarter from members of the public, prisoners, prisoners' family members and friends and community organizations. Most of these complaints were regarding either the conduct of members of the Department or the level of service provided by the Department. These complaints were received by mail (93), through the OIG web-site (27), by telephone (32) and other means (3) such as personal contact. Each complaint was reviewed by OIG staff. Forty were referred to the appropriate Sheriff Department bureau or division. Fifty six were resolved by the OIG. Twenty one were referred to other agencies.

Community outreach has been an important part of the OIG's activities. On October 2, 2014, the OIG was a cosponsor with the Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in Los Angeles Jails and the LASD of a public town hall meeting at the Mercado La Paloma. On October 25, 2014, the Inspector General participated in a panel at East Los Angeles College on the subject of civilian oversight, also at the invitation of the Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in Los Angeles Jails. In September, the OIG presented the Public Safety & Justice Committee of the Empowerment Congress with an update and report on the OIG's activities. OIG staff members have appeared at less formal meetings of local community organizations and spoken individually to members of local organizations to hear concerns about LASD personnel and practices, including attending meetings of the National Association of Equal Justice in America. The OIG regularly attended the monthly meetings of the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee.

With the hiring of additional OIG personnel, it is planned that the OIG will sponsor or cosponsor, on a regular basis, community forums in each supervisorial district and attend all community forums to which the OIG is invited.

Implementation Activities

Personnel recruitment and selection has been a major focus of the OIG this past quarter. The executive staff identified, recruited and interviewed highly qualified individuals to staff the office. Six hundred ninety four candidates submitted applications for the twenty vacant ordinance positions within the OIG. Although seven OIG positions are frozen, sufficient candidates were identified through the recruitment and selection process to fill the ordinance positions when the OIG receives budget authority to fill these positions, with the exception of the Administrative Services Manager I (Statistician).

Position Status – Beginning of Quarter 10/01-12/31/2014

JOB TITLE	Ordinance	Budget	Vacant/ Ordinanced	Applicants
Inspector General	1	1		
Chief Deputy, Inspector General	1	1		
Assistant Inspector General	3	3		
Deputy Inspector General	5	4	2	91
Inspector, OIG	6	4	6	57
Investigator II (Monitor)	4	2	4	147
Senior Board Specialist (Community Liaison)*	2	1	2	15
Paralegal (Special Assistant)	1	1		
Administrative Services Manager I (Statistician)	1	0	1	0
Senior Management Secretary III	1	1	1	173
Management Secretary III	3	3	3	211
TOTALS	28	21	20	694

The Senior Board Specialist (Community Liaison) candidates were identified from an existing Senior Board Specialist list promulgated for the Executive Office. The remainder of the vacancies were bulletined and the candidates banded by the OIG

executive staff with the assistance of the Department of Human Resources. The selection interviews for the banded candidates were conducted by the Inspector General and his Chief Deputy. Because the incumbents of these positions will have unescorted access to the jails and access to Sheriff Department records candidates are subjected to a rigorous background check.

The executive staff engaged in an aggressive campaign to identify and recruit high quality candidates for the investigative positions within the OIG. Offers for the position of Inspector, OIG, in the Investigations and Audit branch of the OIG have been extended to, and accepted by, Lili Surber, who retired as Chief of Police from the City of Baldwin Park, and will join the OIG January 5, 2015; Jose Soltero, a forensic auditor who is joining the OIG on January 5, 2015, from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Bureau of Investigation; John Torres, who retired as Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and will join the OIG January 20, 2015; and Catharine Wright, an experienced investigating auditor from the Los Angeles County Auditor Controller's Office, who joined the OIG on December 1, 2015.

One Deputy Inspector General, one Investigator II, the Inspector General's Senior Management Secretary III, one Management Secretary and one Senior Board Specialist have also joined the OIG. Additional desirable candidates for the Investigator II positions have been identified and upon successful completion of the OIG's rigorous background check one will be offered a position.

Work Plans reflecting the duties and performance standards for each of the positions within the OIG were developed.

Policy and protocol development has been a priority for the OIG. To ensure that the Board of Supervisors and the public can have confidence that the business of the OIG is conducted free of improper influence, the executive staff developed and implemented specific policies covering the outside employment of and the acceptance of gifts and gratuities by Office of Inspector General personnel. These policies supplement County policy and AB 1234 requirements, and prohibit OIG personnel from engaging in any outside employment which creates or gives the appearance of a conflict and prohibits the acceptance of any gift or gratuity by OIG staff. Currently in the legal research and development stage are more stringent supplemental OIG policies and protocols on confidentiality, social media use and conflicts of interest.

Personnel training and development is critical to the ongoing efficacy of the OIG. Executive staff members have attended training by both the City of Los Angeles Police Commission and the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement on current standards and practices in the auditing of law enforcement agencies. The OIG has also developed four internal training programs for OIG attorneys, Inspectors and Investigators: Ethical Issues in Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement Agencies; California Legal Authority for Civilian Oversight of Sheriff's Departments in California; The Law Involved in Use of Deadly Force; and Video and Photographic Evidence. Applications are currently pending with the California State Bar for certification of these classes.

The OIG has also completed an application with the State Bar to become a recognized provider of continuing legal education to facilitate maintaining a highly trained legal staff.

Transitioning of Office of the Ombudsman Services to the Office of Inspector General commenced on September 11, 2014, and was completed on October 17, 2014, when Information Resource Management personnel were able to provide the OIG access to the database of the Office of the Ombudsman. The Office of the Ombudsman toll-free number was transferred to the OIG in September. The hard-copy files of the Office of the Ombudsman were retrieved by the OIG the first week of October and the Monitoring and Community Outreach Branch assumed responsibility for the active Office of the Ombudsman cases.

Database design and development is also a high priority for the OIG. OIG staff has met on numerous occasions with the Information Resource Management team this quarter. The final specifications for phase one of the OIG database were submitted to IRM on December 23, 2014, and the IRM team is scheduled to demonstrate the prototype on January 5, 2015.