



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

312 SOUTH HILL STREET, THIRD FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90013
(213) 974-6100
<http://oig.lacounty.gov>

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July 15, 2026

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
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FROM: Eric Bates 
Interim Inspector General

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

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.

unit within County Counsel with the responsibility for responding to PRA requests for 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 in effect 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

The information in the following sections was provided to the Office of Inspector General by County Counsel.

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 assuming control of and handling all Sheriff's Department and Probation Department SB 1421 requests is currently staffed with three attorneys, two supervising paralegals, five senior paralegals, and seventeen paralegals with an additional paralegal scheduled to start in August 2026.

PORD attorneys continue 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. PORD and the Sheriff's Department report that since August 2025, PORD received 699 files from the Sheriff's Department. As of July 10, 2026, PORD's staff completed 315 files, processed an additional 169 files that were subsequently determined not to require further action, and has 215 files pending. Files are uploaded to and accessed from the Sheriff's Department SharePoint servers as County Counsel and the Department continue to work towards developing data storage and access

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 requestor. 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.

procedures for County Counsel to ensure confidentiality of the files. In the meantime, both departments continue to collaborate and establish protocols to govern how authorized County Counsel personnel can access sensitive and confidential information located on Sheriff's Department systems in compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

Responses to PRA Requests to the Probation Department

PORD will also handle PRA requests pertaining to the Probation Department's SB 1421 records. Until PORD is fully staffed, the Department continues to handle SB 1421 PRA requests for its records.

Recommendations

1. Fully fund and staff PORD in order that [Los Angeles County Ordinance 2.170.020](#) becomes operative.
 2. Consider directing the Office of Inspector to provide updates in its quarterly reports for the second and fourth quarters each year in lieu of this stand-alone report.
- c: Robert G. Luna, Sheriff
Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer
Joseph M. Nicchitta, Chief Executive Officer
Edward Yen, Executive Officer
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission