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July 30, 2025

TO: Mike Dempsey
Monitor for California Department of Justice

FROM: Eric Bates 
Assistant Inspector General

**SUBJECT: Monthly Report for June 2025 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 June 2025.

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

June 2025

Referrals	Opened Cases	Results of Completed Investigations
12	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 investigations were <i>Substantiated</i> (1 administrative) (1 criminal)0 investigations were <i>Unsubstantiated</i>0 investigations were <i>Inconclusive</i>4 investigations were <i>Insufficient evidence</i> (4 administrative) <p>(181 total number of current open cases - 154 administrative, 27 criminal).</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. The Office of Inspector General continues to recommend that the final determination of misconduct not be decided by the investigator, but rather a disciplinary committee. The Department continues to report that it is in the process of changing its process such that the alleged misconduct will no longer be decided by the investigator. An implementation date has still not been provided.

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.¹

¹ The Amended Order does not provide a numerical value for determining compliance.

As noted in the last report, the Probation Department does not have a protocol or policy for reviewing CCTV. Again, because there is no policy regarding review of CCTV, there is no way to measure compliance with Departmental policies that do not exist.² 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.

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 June 2025. The Office of Inspector General staff reviewed Physical Incident Reports (PIR), 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.

June 2025 – Los Padrinos

Case Summary 1

A youth grabbed a radio from the belt of a Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) and walked away.³ The DPO attempted to retrieve the radio and forced the youth to the floor. A second DPO assisted, recovered the radio, and the youth was escorted to his room where he was later medical assessed. CCTV video for this incident was available.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
YES	NO	NO

² The Department has a *Video Review* form to note whether a video recording a use-of-force incident was reviewed by a supervisor, but there are no specific policies or directives regarding the utilizing CCTV for review of possible misconduct.

³ LPJH-2025-2681

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Youth was not medically assessed in a timely manner.⁴▪ Missing Video Review Form.▪ Physical Intervention Packet was incomplete.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.	

Case Summary 2

A youth was reportedly seen smoking in a living unit and was questioned by a DPO (DPO 1).⁵ The youth denied having contraband and refused to be searched by DPO 1. The youth was subjected to a body scan that indicated the youth had an object in his anus. DPO 1 asked the youth to take off all his clothes to do a visual search, but the youth only took off his shirt, exposing a second shirt being used as underwear. DPO 1 instructed the youth to remove the unauthorized underwear, but the youth refused. DPO1, with assistance from other DPOs, forced the youth onto a bed and removed the unauthorized underwear and gave the youth department-approved underwear. The youth was then handcuffed and escorted by the DPOs for a second body scan, which again indicated the youth was secreting contraband. The youth was taken to holding room where he later willingly handed DPO 1 the contraband. The youth was then taken for a medical assessment. CCTV for this incident was not available.

⁴ 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.”

⁵ LPJH 2025-3107.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
YES <ul style="list-style-type: none">A DPO failed to report in the Physical Intervention Report the use of handcuffs on the youth.	NO <ul style="list-style-type: none">The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.	N/A

June 2025 – Barry J. Nidorf

Case Summary 1

Two youths were arguing in a living unit and Youth 1 threw napkins at Youth 2.⁶ A Detention Services Officer (DSO) intervened and stepped between the two youths and used an extended arm to separate the youths. Youth 1 attempted to strike Youth 2 and inadvertently struck the DSO in the face. The DSO gave the youths a warning that Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray would be used if the youths did not stop fighting. Youth 2 walked away, and the youths were instructed to go to their respective rooms. The youths continued to fight, resulting in the DSO deploying OC spray toward both youths. The youths were then taken for a medical assessment. CCTV for this incident was available.

⁶ SCM No. BJNH 2025-0852

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

Case Summary 2

Two youths were in a living unit and Youth 1 slapped Youth 2, who responded by striking Youth 1 in the face with a closed fist.⁷ A DPO (DPO 1) intervened and stepped between the two youths and gave the youths a warning that OC spray would be used if the youths did not stop fighting. The youths stopped fighting and a second DPO (DPO 2) assisted DPO 1 and escorted Youth 1 to his room. Youth 2 remained in the living unit but ultimately went to his room after repeated requests by the DPOs. The youths were medically assessed. CCTV video for this incident was available.

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

⁷ SCM No. BJNJH 2025-0944.

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).⁸ 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.⁹

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 June 2025. In response, the Probation Department provided search logs for 660 work shifts at BJNJH and 1059 work shifts at LPJH for June 2025.¹⁰

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.¹¹ The Office of Inspector General determined compliance primarily based on information provided in the Department's search logs.

⁸ Detention Services Bureau 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ The daily searches reviewed were conducted in all 12 units at BJNJH and all 21 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 7 such searches in June 2025, and 0 at LPJH.

¹¹ The four days reviewed were June 2, 2025, June 4, 2025, June 14, 2025, and June 17, 2025. 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 Probation Department staff at BJNJH and LPJH met the requirements of the Amended Order, which requires that the Department comply with its search policy when conducting the Required Searches in living units at LPJH and BJNJH. The Office of Inspector General, however, did find that both juvenile halls accurately documented the searches they conducted, and therefore the Probation Department is in compliance with the Amended Order for accurate documentation of searches.

Barry J. Nidorf

Of the sampled four days of unit searches at BJNJH in June 2025, the Probation Department conducted searches per unit as follows:

50 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> - 48 times; 96% of the sampled living units.
<i>3 searches per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>2 searches per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% 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> - 2 times; 4% of the sampled living units.

The Office of Inspector General's review found that at BJNJH, the Probation Department conducted two (2) searches per shift (four (4) searches per day), as

required by its policy in 96% of the sampled living units and is therefore in compliance with the Amended Order.¹²

Los Padrinos

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 June 2025, the Department conducted searches per living unit as follows:

84 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> - 80 times; 95% of the sampled living units.
<i>3 searches per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>2 searches per unit</i> - 3 times; 4% 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> - 1 time; 1% of the sampled living units.

The Office of Inspector General's review found that at LPJH, the Probation Department conducted two (2) searches per shift (four (4) searches per day), as required by its policy in 95% of the sampled living units and is in compliance with the Amended Order.

Body-Scan Searches

The Office of Inspector General requested documentation relating to all body-scan searches conducted in June 2025. Based on documentation provided, the Probation Department conducted 234 body scans at BJNJH and 858 at LPJH. The Office of Inspector General selected and reviewed a representative sample of searches for June 2025: 41 for BJNJH and 117 for LPJH.

¹² Effective June 12, 2025, the facility added living units G & H, and on June 13, 2025, the facility removed units Y1 & Y2 as living units, and added additional living unit T. These changes are reflected in the sample size reviewed for the month.

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.¹³

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 38 of the 41 (93%) body scans conducted.¹⁴ In addition, the Department conducted appropriate same sex/gender body scans in 41 of 41 (100%) of the body scans conducted on the youths.

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 68 of the 117 (58%) sampled searches conducted. The Department conducted required same sex/gender body scans in 98 of 117 (84%) of the body scans conducted on the youths.

Conclusion

The Office of Inspector General continues to recommend: (1) the Probation Department properly review CCTV video recordings for misconduct involving uses of force and investigating and determining whether staff engaged in misconduct, (2) the Probation Department implement protocols and policies on CCTV review, (3) LPJH and BJNJH conduct living unit searches as required by policy, (4) Department executive staff at LPJH ensure that its staff are entering body-scan information into the PCMS system, (5) 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, (6) the Department field staff be reassigned to the juvenile facilities to provide appropriate supervision of the youths. This monthly report was submitted to the Department for

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ In addition to the body scans conducted at BJNJH, there were also three authorized "strip searches." The reviewed documentation indicated that Probation Department staff completed the searches and documentation in accordance with Department policy.

Mike Dempsey, Monitor

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review. The Department acknowledged receipt but did not provide a substantive response.

c: Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer
 Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
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