

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
AND MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

July 16, 2019

Expanding Authority to Investigate Deputy Secret Societies

There have been recent reports that the FBI is once again investigating the Sheriff's Department, this time concerning the pervasive influence of deputy secret societies within the Department. These secret societies are a dangerous problem. They not only erode public trust in law enforcement and undermine the chain of command, we are concerned that they promote racism, sexism, and violence. In addition, they are a significant liability to Los Angeles County and the cities that contract with the Sheriff's Department for the actions of deputies who choose to belong to one of these secret societies. The menacing names of these secret societies: Banditos, Reapers, Spartans, Regulators, and Vikings, may exist to intimidate not only other deputies but the general public as well.

The Inspector General has requested expanded authority in order to help us understand the full extent of these secret societies, as well as the ability to issue subpoenas should the Sheriff's Department continue to deny access to information and refuse efforts by the public to hold them accountable.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

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WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel, in consultation with the Inspector General, to develop recommendations to expand the authority of the Inspector General to investigate deputy secret societies within the Sheriff's Department, as well as grant the Inspector General the ability to issue subpoenas in their ongoing review of matters involving the Sheriff's Department, and report back in thirty days.

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JH:kc