



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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May 13, 2025

TO: The Honorable Robert C. Bonner, Chair  
Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission

Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director  
Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission

FROM: Max Huntsman  
Inspector General

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: COC Deputy Gangs  
Recommendation No. 19**

In February 2023, the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) released a report, [\*Report and Recommendations of the Special Counsel to the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission Regarding Deputy Gangs and Deputy Cliques in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department\*](#), with recommendations to the Sheriff's Department to eliminate deputy gangs and cliques. This memorandum is in response to the [\*COC's memorandum to the Inspector General dated April 10, 2025\*](#), requesting information related to the Office of Inspector General's monitoring of the implementation of the Sheriff's Department policies on banning joining or participating in deputy gangs or cliques/secret subgroups. Specifically, you requested that we provide information as to Sheriff's Department investigations of its personnel for violations of two policies.

### **Sheriff's Department Investigations and Discipline**

The Office of Inspector General requested that the Sheriff's Department provide data for investigations under both [\*MPP section 3-01/050.82, Prohibition - Law Enforcement Gangs and Hate Groups\*](#), that went into effect on October 18, 2024, and [\*section 3-01/050.83, Employee Groups which Violate Rights of Other Employees or Members of the Public\*](#), the policy related to deputy secret subgroups, referred to by some as cliques, that went into effect on February 14, 2020, under Sheriff Villanueva's administration and remains in effect.

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The Sheriff's Department reports that as of April 17, 2025, no deputies have been disciplined under [MPP section 3-01/050.82](#) and cited that they have a year from the date of opening an investigation to make a finding and impose discipline. The Department reported that there are active investigations under this section but did not provide a specific number of investigations. Based upon the documentation provided in response to our recent inquiries, the Office of Inspector General has been able to identify only a single active investigation into a suspected law enforcement gang listing only two potential members as suspects. Despite repeated public representations by the Sheriff's Department that it is thoroughly investigating, we have received no support for the claim.

The Sheriff's Department reports there have been two sustained cases for violation of [MPP section 3-01/050.83](#), both resulting in the deputies being discharged from the Department. Letters of imposition for those cases were issued in September and October 2023. It is noteworthy that the two deputies who the Department states were discharged under this section engaged in other misconduct and that other deputies alleged to be members of the same subgroup were not disciplined. Based upon our review of the evidence provided, the Office of Inspector General concludes that insufficient meaningful investigation under MPP section 3-01/050.83 occurred prior to discharge. We are unaware of any meaningful investigation to identify other members of the suspected law enforcement gang after discharge of the two deputies. Active internal investigations appear to identify no more than fifteen potential members of law enforcement gangs as suspects under this policy.

**IAB Unit Order #24:**

As reported in the Office of Inspector General's report, [Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Legal Compliance: Deputy Gangs](#) (February 2024), in August 2023, the Sheriff's Department's Internal Investigation Bureau (IAB) adopted a unit order relating to investigations with allegations of deputy gang or subgroup activities [IAB Unit Order #24 – Employee Cliques, Subgroups, and/or Deputy Gang Information and Investigations](#), attaches a list of questions that is to be referenced and used "in all cases in which either, there are allegations of Manual of Policy and Procedures section 3-01/050.83... or involve any allegation of misconduct related to membership in an employee subgroup, clique, or 'deputy gang.'" While the Unit order does not appear to be updated to include investigations under MPP 3-01/050.82, the directive in the unit order should be applied to investigations under this section as well.

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The questions used as directed by this unit order are not publicly available on the Sheriff's Department website and the Sheriff has refused to meet with the Inspector General and the captain of Internal Affairs to relay to what extent they are actually being used. The Office of Inspector General has been provided with a list of questions, including many necessary for an adequate investigation into deputy-gang or secret subgroup activity. If these lines of inquiry were actually pursued as to the numerous possible law enforcement gangs within the Sheriff's Department, they might identify membership of the secretive groups, a necessary step to determining whether they violate the provisions of Penal Code section 13670 including discrimination based on gender and national origin. However, the list suggests that the Sheriff's Department continues to fail to require photographs of suspected gang tattoos. By choosing not to gather accurate and reliable evidence regarding sequential tattoos used by the secretive groups, the Sheriff's Department is choosing not to fully implement California law.

As we receive additional information in response to our inquiries to the Sheriff's Department, we will provide that information to you.

c: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair  
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