TALKING POINTS

SHERIFF ALEX VILLANUEVA

“PUBLIC REASSURANCE DURING COVID-19”

Monday, March 16, 2020
11:00 A.M.
HALL OF JUSTICE

OPENING:

• AS I STATED LAST WEEK AT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS’ PRESS CONFERENCE, MY TOP PRIORITY...

• ...AS THE SHERIFF OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY IS THE SAFETY OF OUR RESIDENTS.

• TODAY, I WANT TO REASSURE YOU THAT OUR AGENCY IS WORKING HARD TO ENSURE LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES IN THE AREAS WE SERVE REMAIN UNINTERRUPTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE:

• THE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER, THE C.E.O.C., REMAINS OPEN AT A LEVEL 1 STATUS.

• IT IS FULLY-STAFFED WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE EXPERTS FROM L.A. COUNTY DEPARTMENTS.

• WE CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL AGENCIES, MONITOR WORLD EVENTS AND PROVIDE THE PUBLIC THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

• VACATIONS WERE CANCELLED THROUGH THURSDAY, APRIL 30TH, TO ENSURE MORE STAFF ARE ON-HAND.

• PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WAS ISSUED TO FIELD PERSONNEL.
• WE ALSO BULKED-UP OUR INVENTORY, AND WILL LIKELY ASK THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO...

• …RELEASE MORE OF OUR SERVICE AND SUPPLY FUNDS, SO WE CAN ADDRESS THE ONGOING NEED FOR MORE SUPPLIES...

• …SUCH AS MASKS, GLOVES, GOGGLES, AND SANITIZER.

• PATROL STATION AND CUSTODY FACILITY UNIT COMMANDERS WERE DIREC TED TO SANITIZE THEIR STATIONS AND JAILS...

• …AS A PREVENTATIVE MEASURE.

• PERSONNEL ARE REMINDED ON EACH SHIFT TO BE COGNIZANT OF HAND-WASHING...

• …DON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, AND BE MINDFUL OF COVERING SNEEZES AND NOT TOUCH THEIR FACES.

PERSONNEL:
• OVER THE WEEKEND, THREE DEPUTIES FROM MALIBU/LOST HILLS STATION…

• …THREE DEPUTIES AND ONE CUSTODY ASSISTANT FROM SANTA CLARITY VALLEY STATION…

• …AND TWO DEPUTIES FROM TRANSIT SERVICES BUREAU…

• …WERE POSSIBLY EXPOSED TO THE CORONAVIRUS WHILE ON-DUTY AND ARE SELF-QUARANTINED, AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.

• IN THE EVENT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL BECOME AFFECTED…
• …WE HAVE PLANS IN PLACE TO GO TO A DEPARTMENT-WIDE DEPLOYMENT OF PATROL AND CUSTODY OPERATIONS.

• ALL NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES CAN BE CLOSED, AND THOSE PERSONNEL CAN BE…

• …TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO CUSTODY OR PATROL TO OFFSET AND AUGMENT MANPOWER SHORTAGES.

• AS OF RIGHT NOW, WE ONLY HAVE A SMALL NUMBER OF DEPUTIES ON SELF-QUARANTINE AND…

• …HAVE NOT SEE A LARGE SPIKE IN SICK CALL-INS.

CUSTODY:
• TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF HOW VIGILANT AND PROACTIVE MEDICAL STAFF WITHIN OUR JAILS HAVE BEEN:

• AS OF THIS MORNING, OUT OF THE 16,459 INMATES IN OUR CARE, THERE WERE ZERO CONFIRMED CASES OF THE VIRUS.

• NINE INMATES ARE IN ISOLATION HOUSING AT THE CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT CENTER…

• …AND A TOTAL OF 21 INMATES IN QUARANTINE AT MEN’S CENTRAL JAIL AND FIVE AT TWIN TOWERS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

REDUCING THE INMATE POPULATION:
• ANOTHER WAY I’M TRYING TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CONTAMINATION ENTERING OUR JAIL FACILITIES…

• …IS REDUCING THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS.

• I’M LOOKING AT HAVING THE AGGREGATE BAIL AMOUNT FOR BOOKING RAISED FROM $25,000 TO $50,000.
• THIS MEANS WE WILL BE ABLE TO CITE OUT MORE PEOPLE WE ARREST…

• …RATHER THAN BOOK THEM INTO THE JAIL SYSTEM.

CLOSURES:
• DESPITE ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS BEING ORDERED TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS TO THE PUBLIC…

• …I HAVE DIRECTED ALL PATROL STATIONS TO KEEP THEIR LOBBIES OPEN.

• WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CALL AHEAD, AND USE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC OPTIONS.

• HOWEVER, IF YOU MUST VISIT A PATROL STATION FOR NON-EMERGENT ASSISTANCE IN…

• …SERVICES SUCH AS REGULARLY-SCHEDULED CHILD CUSTODY EXCHANGES AND COMPLIANCE CHECK-INS…

• …WE ASK YOU TO PLEASE NOTIFY US IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS, FEVER OR…

• …RESPIRATORY ILLNESS AT THE TIME OF YOUR CALL, SO DEPUTIES CAN TAKE PRECAUTIONS.

INFORMATION:
• PLEASE CONTINUE TO MONITOR OUR SOCIAL MEDIA SITES ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK, AND OUR WEBSITE, LASD.ORG.

• AS EVENTS OCCUR, INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC SAFETY AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY OUR AGENCY WILL BE UPDATED ON THESE PLATFORMS.
• PLEASE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE PROTECTIVE MEASURE PRESCRIBED BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.

• REMAIN COMPOSED, STAY CONNECTED, WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS.