



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



November 16, 2021

Mr. Rob Bonta
Attorney General
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Post Office Box 944255
Sacramento, California 92444-2550

Dear Attorney General Bonta:

POSSIBLE CRIMINAL CONDUCT

A long-term criminal inquiry that began in 2017, under the prior elected Sheriff's administration, has established that there is ample evidence of unlawful conduct in violation of a variety of statutes, including conspiracy, theft of government property, unlawful access of a computer, burglary, and receiving stolen property.

Five suspects were identified as having participated in numerous overt acts to unlawfully obtain and distribute confidential, protected personnel records. Four of the five were employed by public agencies, with the fifth being a news reporter. The reporter's conduct is not protected under California's shield laws (including Article I, section (2) (b) of the California Constitution and Evidence code 1070). Of the four suspects employed by public agencies, three of them are attorneys.

Two of the suspects are currently employed by the Inspector General of Los Angeles County, an ancillary appointee of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Of those two, one is a former deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County, while the other is former counsel for the State Bar of California.

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The third attorney and primary suspect is a Deputy Public Defender for the Los Angeles County Office of the Public Defender, presently "on loan" to the Office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney as a special advisor.

Attached to this cover letter is a 306 page report and materials documenting the preliminary inquiry.

The current elected Sheriff of Los Angeles County, Alex Villanueva, has recused himself from this inquiry and delegated his authority over the matter to me.

The inherent conflict(s) presented by this case for further investigation and prosecutorial review are obvious and somewhat overwhelming. Were your office to decline further inquiry or review for any reason and direct that the case be submitted to a neighboring county district attorney's office, (Kern, Ventura, Orange, Riverside, or San Bernardino) we would, as always, cooperate fully with that entity.

Your assistance in this matter is most appreciated. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or replies at Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Office of the Undersheriff, Timothy K. Murakami, Hall of Justice, 211 West Temple Street, 8 th floor, Los Angeles, California 90012, [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



TIMOTHY K. MURAKAMI
UNDERSHERIFF