May 20, 2022

Celia Zavala, Executive Officer of the Board
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Ms. Zavala:

NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT’S FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 RECOMMENDED BUDGET REQUEST

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 29064, this letter serves as the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s (Department) written notice to your office that the Department has additional unmet needs that were not previously submitted as part of the Department’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Recommended Budget Request.

In this phase of the budget process, the Department urges the Board of Supervisors (Board) to take note of the Chief Executive Officer’s presentation to the Board on May 11, 2022, during FY 2022-23 Recommended Budget Public Hearing. As you will recall, Ms. Fesia Davenport reported that structural budget deficits emerged in several County departments, including Library, Department of Children and Family Services, Office of Diversion and Reentry, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Although Ms. Davenport failed to include the Sheriff’s Department, several professional outside audits have concluded that structural budget deficits glaringly exist within the Department’s Budget. The County’s recognition and attention to this problem would be appropriate and greatly appreciated.

As noted in its Recommended Budget Request, the Department still remains as the only County department subjected to a multi-year hiring freeze resulting in over 900 sworn vacancies and thus an unavoidable increase in overtime expenditures. This significant number of vacancies coupled with more than

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11,000 position impairments, not to mention the 1,281 budgeted positions that the County deleted from the Department due to the net County cost curtailment of FY 2020-21, have forced sworn and civilian Department members to work exceptional amounts of overtime and required many detective and administrative personnel to work line assignments outside of their regular investigative and supervisory duties to maintain obligated public safety service levels. This increased workload has led to an exhausted workforce while exposing the County to avoidable liability claims.

To this end, the Department again asks the Board to approve 1) the lifting of the hiring freeze, 2) an increase in the number of academy classes to 10 for FY 2022-23, 3) the return of the Department’s withheld $143.7 million in daily operating funds, and 4) the restoration of the 1,281 budgeted positions that were curtailed in the FY 2020-21 Countywide curtailment exercise, all of which helped support already under-resourced operations such as administrative investigations wherein a total of six Sergeant positions were deleted from the Department’s Internal Affairs Bureau. While these six positions may appear to pale in comparison to the 1,005 positions that were deleted from the Department’s custody operation, it must be understood that these six positions – like the balance of positions that were deleted as part of the FY 2020-21 curtailments – performed key functions on behalf of the Department. In the case of the six Sergeant positions assigned to the Department’s Internal Affairs Bureau, these positions were essential to ensuring that the Department produced thorough, unbiased, and comprehensive internal investigations.

The aforementioned actions would allow the Department to close its vacancy gap, address its backlog of in-service Continuing Professional Training (CPT), and bring the Department into compliance with State Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) minimum selection and training standards. It must also be noted/reminded that the Department’s adherence to training standards have recently been cited as areas of concern by the State Commission on POST, and the Department has recently been admonished by the State Attorney General and the Department of Justice regarding training. Moreover, the Board’s approval of these requested actions will help address the understaffing and demand for better treatment concerns that were cited in the April 17, 2023, Board motion (79-H).

Subsequent to submitting the Department’s FY 2022-23 Recommended Budget Request, the Department identified several new/revised critical unmet needs reflecting an ongoing commitment to serving the residents of Los Angeles County. These emerging needs cumulatively account for an additional net County cost need/request of $40 million and 238.0 budgeted positions.
The Department’s increases/changes to its list of critical unmet needs as part of the FY 2022-23 Final Changes Budget Request process are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Consent Decree Compliance Related Request</th>
<th>Increase/Variances</th>
<th>Additional Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional Academy Classes</td>
<td>$10.0m</td>
<td>38.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Funding for POST-Certified Training</td>
<td>$18.1m</td>
<td>143.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Marijuana Enforcement Program Expansion</td>
<td>$1.9m</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commander for the Undersheriff’s Office</td>
<td>$9.6m</td>
<td>39.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0.4m</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total - New/Increased Critical Unmet Needs</td>
<td>$40.0m</td>
<td>228.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the above-noted increases/changes to the Department’s list of critical unmet needs, it must be noted that the Department intends to begin working with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to solicit their expedited review and approval of a proposed reorganization of the Department’s Training Bureau. The proposed reorganization of the Department’s Training Bureau will primarily result in a second captain position being allocated (as well as necessary support staff) to the bureau and will help pave the way for necessary organizational changes to be successfully implemented. The reorganized Training Bureau will ultimately allow the Department’s training efforts to fully implement twenty-first century policing concepts and move the organization forward in a manner that not only serves the needs of the County’s residents, but also addresses the training needs of Department personnel.

The County increased their Rainy Day Fund from 10 percent to 17 percent in the May 3, 2022, amendment to Board Policy No. 4.030 – Budget Policies and Priorities. With that increase the Department strongly believes there is ample opportunity, support, and justification for the County to fund an array of the Department’s budget requests for FY 2022-23.

The Board’s approval of these requests will not only support Departmental operations, but it will demonstrate the Board’s commitment to: 1) begin addressing the present understaffing throughout the Department; and 2) improve the treatment of County employees assigned to the Department.
Furthermore, this investment will help avoid/mitigate future liability and answer the President’s call for local leaders/governments to fund public safety. Finally, the Board’s support of the Department’s budget requests for FY 2022-23 will help to begin demonstrating the Board’s commitment to also ensuring “equity” and “care first” for County employees assigned to the Department.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Undersheriff Timothy K. Murakami, at [redacted]

Sincerely,

[Signature]
ALEX VILLANUEVA
SHERIFF
CM:RFM:aop/jh
(Administrative Services Division – Budget Services Unit)

Attachments

c:  Timothy K. Murakami, Undersheriff
    Bruce D. Chase, Assistant Sheriff
    Brendan J. Corbett, Assistant Sheriff
    Holly Francisco, Assistant Sheriff
    Conrad Meredith, Division Director, Administrative Services Division (ASD)
    Glen Joe, Assistant Division Director, ASD
    Richard F. Martinez, Assistant Division Director, ASD
    Cynthia D. Evans, Assistant Director, Financial Programs Bureau
    Ann Pua, ASM III, Budget Services Unit
    Hilda Solis, First District Supervisor
    Holly Mitchell, Second District Supervisor
    Sheila Kuehl, Third District Supervisor
    Janice Hahn, Fourth District Supervisor
    Katheryn Barger, Fifth District Supervisor
    Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Executive Office (CEO)
    Sheila Williams, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, CEO
    Rene Phillips, Manager, CEO
    Jocelyn Ventilacion, Budget Analyst, CEO