



AGENDA ITEM: 1

May 18, 2023

DISCUSSION ITEM TITLE:

**Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Deputies in County Health Facilities Update**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At the January 20, 2022,<sup>1</sup> public meeting of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission), a staff report<sup>2</sup> detailing the issues with deputies in health facilities was presented. Also, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (Harbor-UCLA) Chief Executive Officer Azar Kattan and UCLA Professor of Law Sunita Patel provided an overview of the current issue with deputies in health facilities. Staff recommends that the Commission receive and file this report. Staff will continue to monitor this issue.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Commission previously discussed Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) deputies in County health facilities in June<sup>3</sup> and September 2021,<sup>4</sup> following the fatal shooting of patient Nicolas Burgos inside of Harbor-UCLA in 2020. At the June 2021 Commission meeting, community advocates voiced their concerns and expressed their desire for deputies to be removed from County health facilities. At the September 2021 Commission meeting, the Commission received information from LASD and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) regarding deputies in health facilities. LASD and DHS discussed health facility security services assessments, crimes, arrests data, use of force data, and complaints that arose from contacts with LASD personnel. At the January 20, 2022 Commission meeting, the Commission received a staff report detailing the issue of deputies in health facilities with a recommendation to continue monitoring LASD and DHS's progress toward improving transparency of LASD's health facility security services.

**LASD COUNTY SERVICES BUREAU HEALTH FACILITY DATA DURING 2022**

An analysis of the data received from LASD reveals that use of force incidents and violent crime at two of the six hospital facilities under the control of County Services Bureau (CSB)

<sup>1</sup> Commission. (2022). Agenda January 20, 2022. Retrieved from [1118112\\_January202022MeetingAgendaDRAFT.pdf \(kc-usercontent.com\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission. (2022). Staff Report: Examining the Presence of LASD Personnel in County Health Facilities. Retrieved from [https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/StaffReport-3dPresenceofLASDinHealthFacilities1.20.2022\\_w-links\\_.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/StaffReport-3dPresenceofLASDinHealthFacilities1.20.2022_w-links_.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Commission. (2021). Statement of Proceedings for the Regular Meeting of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission Meeting Held June 17, 2021. Retrieved from [1109550\\_MeetingMinutes6-17-21Final.pdf \(kc-usercontent.com\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> Commission. (2021). Statement of Proceedings for the Regular Meeting of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission Meeting Held September 23, 2021. Retrieved from [1114035\\_MeetingMinutes9-23-21final.pdf \(kc-usercontent.com\)](#)

increased in 2022 when compared to data from 2021.<sup>5</sup> In January 2023, CSB<sup>6</sup> provided the Commission its annual update<sup>7</sup> and hospital security hazard assessment,<sup>8</sup> which included data on staffing levels, incidents, and related matters within health facilities.

CSB responded to 388 crimes in 2022 compared to 431 in 2021, which is a 10% decrease in total crimes.<sup>9</sup> Harbor-UCLA had 52 “Part I Crimes” (e.g., homicide, arson, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, etc.) and 112 “Part II Crimes” (e.g., all other offenses, weapons violations, narcotic violations, domestic violence, vandalism, etc.).<sup>10</sup> The increase in “Part I Crimes” at Harbor-UCLA from 49 in 2021 to 52 in 2022<sup>11</sup> warrants continued monitoring (see figure 1).

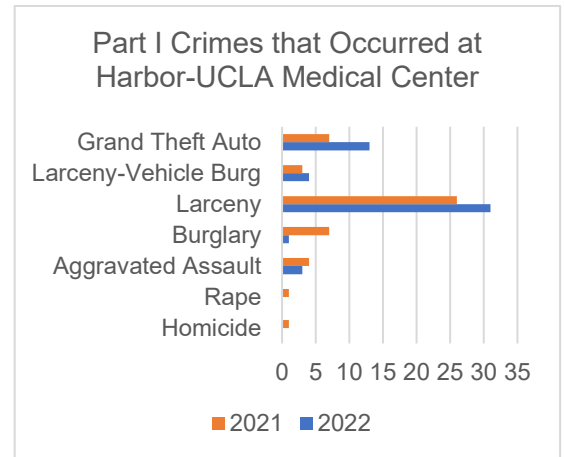


Figure 1: LASD Part I Crimes that occurred at Harbor-UCLA in 2021 and 2022. (Data provided by LASD)

At Harbor-UCLA, CSB made 22 arrests in 2022 compared to 17 in 2021.<sup>12</sup> The Harbor-UCLA patient population is ethnically diverse with more than 60% of its patients self-identifying as Latino, 13% as Black, 10% as White and 6% as Asian.<sup>13</sup> Harbor-UCLA patient arrests demographics reflects an increase in the number of Black people arrested from 7 in 2021 to 10 in 2022, and the number of Latinos arrested rose from 7 in 2021 to 9 in 2022.

CSB also reported 23 use of force (UOF) incidents for all hospital facilities in 2022 compared to 12 incidents in 2021. Eighty-seven percent of all UOF incidents involved the use of control techniques, resisted handcuffing, and team takedowns. All 23 UOF incidents were reportable as either a non-categorized force incident (e.g., resisted searching or handcuffing techniques, control holds, etc.) or category 1 force (e.g., takedowns, etc.).<sup>14</sup>

<sup>5</sup> LASD. (2023). LASD Health Facilities Information. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3WY0RBM>

<sup>6</sup> LASD. (2013). MPP 2-12/060.00-County Services Bureau. Retrieved from [2-12/060.00 - County Services Bureau - PARS Public Viewer \(lasd.org\)](https://bit.ly/3WY0RBM)

<sup>7</sup> LASD. (2023). LASD Health Facilities Information. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3WY0RBM>

<sup>8</sup> LASD. (2023). LASD Health Facilities Security Hazard Assessment Concerns. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/3Yeaw8w>

<sup>9</sup> LASD. (2023). LASD Health Facilities Information. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3WY0RBM>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Harbor-UCLA Emergency Medicine. (2020). Diversity & Inclusion. Retrieved from <https://emedharbor.edu/applicants/diversity/#:~:text=It%20also%20serves%20as%20a,language%20that%20is%20not%20English.>

<sup>14</sup> LASD. (2021). MPP 3-10/038.00-Reportable Use of Force and Force Categories. Retrieved from [3-10/038.00 - Reportable Use of Force and Force Categories - PARS Public Viewer \(lasd.org\)](https://bit.ly/3WY0RBM)

The increase in the CSB total UOF incident data is in part attributed to the rise in the number of UOF incidents at Olive View Medical Center: three UOF incidents were reported in 2021 and eight incidents in 2022. Five of the eight UOF incidents involved control techniques or resisting control (see figure 2).

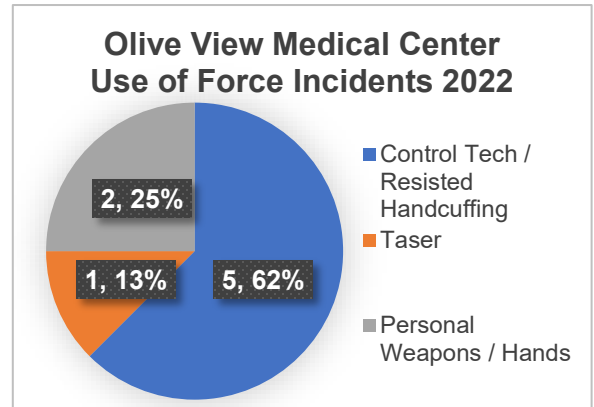


Figure 2: Olive View Medical Center Use of Force Incidents. (Data provided by LASD.)

Over a two-year period, eight complaints have been generated by hospital staff, patients or the public.<sup>15</sup> LASD Manual of Policy and Procedures (MPP) 3-04/010.00-Department Service Reviews enables any member of the public to file a service or personnel complaint concerning LASD performance.<sup>16</sup> Of the eight (8) complaints, six (6) were filed by the public and two (2) involved Harbor-UCLA Medical Center staff employee behavior.<sup>17</sup> The two (2) Harbor-UCLA Medical Center complaints involve: (1) alleged inappropriate behavior, and (2) claims a pharmacist forged a member of the public's signature and the deputy personnel failed to arrest the pharmacist. The public complaints ranged from alleged harassment of a Sheriff's security officer while trying to use the restroom to a security officer yelling profanity towards a woman.<sup>18</sup>

### IMPROVING LASD HOSPITAL SECURITY OPERATIONS

LASD advised of several changes that could improve security at each of the contracted hospitals,<sup>19</sup> including, but not limited to:

1. Providing additional mental health and de-escalation training to all deputies and security officers;
2. Enhancing communication techniques between agencies; and
3. Increasing the number of deputies assigned to each facility, which will allow other deputies time to handle calls for service and interact with hospital staff and security.

### RECOMMENDATION/CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Commission receive and file this report. Staff will continue to collaborate with LASD to monitor this matter and report back when necessary.

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COC:tj

<sup>15</sup> LASD. (2023). LASD Health Facilities Information. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3WY0RBM>

<sup>16</sup> LASD. (2013). MPP 3-04/010.00-Department Service Reviews. Retrieved from [3-04/010.00 - Department Service Reviews - PARS Public Viewer \(lasd.org\)](https://bit.ly/3WY0RBM)

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> LASD. (2023). LASD Health Facilities Information. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3WY0RBM>

<sup>19</sup> LASD. (2023). LASD Health Facilities Information. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3WY0RBM>