



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



July 16, 2025

Hans Johnson, Vice Chair
Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director
Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
World Trade Center
350 South Figueroa Street, Suite 288
Los Angeles, California 90071

Via Electronic Submittal

Dear Commissioner Johnson and Ms. Moseley:

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
LETTER REGARDING MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING**

I am in receipt of the Civilian Oversight Commission's (COC) letter dated July 14, 2025, regarding Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)¹ between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This letter is an effort to address the questions presented in the correspondence.

First, I want to reiterate that I respect the COC's role in conducting oversight of the Department. In that regard, the COC is free to place any item on its agenda it believes is valuable to its mission. As a result, we will address any questions posed regarding the Memoranda at tomorrow's meeting.

¹ For purposes of this letter, I am generically referring to MOUs to include items that may be referred to as Memoranda of Agreements (MOAs).

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After consulting the Department's records and after consulting with County Counsel, we have found no record of the Department ever presenting or seeking the advice of the COC on any of the hundreds of MOUs entered into by the Department. This is the first time that our records indicate that the COC has expressed interest in or made a request to review any MOU. Therefore, to respond to your question regarding why this was not shared with the COC, the answer is that there is no prior practice of such a procedure ever occurring nor has interest in MOUs ever been expressed previously.

Our standard protocol for MOUs that have a financial component, such as the two at issue here, is that we present them to the Board of Supervisors, first through the Public Safety Cluster meeting and then to the full Board for approval. This happens at noticed, public meetings. Accordingly, my team presented both MOUs to the Public Safety Cluster on June 25, 2025. This was a noticed public meeting, and the MOUs were attached to the Cluster agenda. The Cluster agenda and MOUs were made public well before the meeting. Members of the public can appear virtually or in person to comment on such agenda items.

[1186591_2025.06.25agendaanddocs.pdf](#).

We also submitted the proposed MOUs for inclusion at the Board's July 15, 2025, meeting. The MOUs were attached to the Board agenda and made public before the July 15, 2025, Board meeting.² Thus, there were two public hearings on these matters in which the public had an opportunity to be heard. We fully intend to continue to comply with this obligation. The COC is welcome to provide input in connection with these public meetings if it chooses.

We also have potentially hundreds³ of operational, non-financial MOUs. These MOUs are critical to the effective operation of the Department. It is not feasible to seek external input on all of them, as the workload and associated delay would be prohibitive and, in my opinion, will adversely impact the operational needs of the Department and public safety in the community. Moreover, as these MOUs relate to Sheriff law enforcement operations, we are advised that the Department, and I as the elected Sheriff responsible for the operational decisions of the Department, are not obligated to seek prior input or approval. However, we will respect the

² See, [204705.pdf](#) and [204713.pdf](#).

³ At the time of this letter, we have not performed a count of the number of existing MOUs. It is estimated that it would take the Department weeks to determine the precise number.

COC's desire to add these matters to its own agenda when it determines that is appropriate and answers questions of concern.

The MOUs of a similar format and nature are a long-standing practice between local and federal law enforcement agencies. Most, if not all, local law enforcement agencies use them through the United States. They contribute to public safety by providing additional resources and expertise into specific criminal activities the Department cannot handle on its own. These MOUs will be terminated when I, or any future Sheriff determines that the operational needs of the Department are no longer fulfilled through that agreement. In that regard, I will always listen to the Board of Supervisors, the COC, and our community about their concerns.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF