

June 17, 2020

BY EMAIL: PRARequests@lasd.org

Alex Villanueva, Sheriff
211 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Attention: Public Records Act Request

Re: Request for Records Under California Public Records Act

Dear Sir/Madam:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) makes this request for records pursuant to the California Public Records Act (“CPRA”), § 6250-6276.48 of the California Government Code.

Specifically, CREW requests:

All communications from May 25, 2020 to the present concerning the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department’s (LASD) response to public gatherings and protests related to the death of George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter movement, or the killing of black individuals by police officers. This request includes without limitation the following records as they relate to LASD’s protest response efforts:

1. All communications that describe policy, tactics, procedures, and equipment to be used by law enforcement officers.
2. All records of disciplining law enforcement officers for misconduct.
3. All records related to the total budget and cost for law enforcement response, including the cost of riot gear.
4. All communications related to the consideration of deploying the national guard.
5. All records of consideration or implementation of new policies for procedures when responding to incidents and arrests of civilians and when engaging with public gatherings and protests.

This request includes but is not limited to communications within the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department, as well as communications with Los Angeles Police Protective League, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the City of Los Angeles, Office of the Mayor of Los Angeles, California Department of Justice, Office of the Governor of California, and the Federal Government.

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. Our request includes without limitation all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of

any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request also includes any attachments to emails and other records, as well as those who were cc'ed or bcc'ed on any emails.

If it is your position any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 3.5 requires you to disclose which exemption permits the withholding. CREW requests that you state in writing and with particularity the reasons for any conclusion that a record is exempt or confidential. If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, you are required to redact those portions and produce the remainder of the requested records.

By way of background, the murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 by a Minnesota police officer sparked nationwide protests that have been met with police violence against peaceful protestors.¹ There have been reports of LAPD and LASD officers driving into crowds, firing foam projectiles, and beating back peaceful protestors with batons. The LAPD and LASD has faced heavy criticism, although top LAPD officials have said “they wanted to stick to its hands-off approach, but were forced to respond aggressively when large numbers of violent protestors targeted them with bottles and other projectiles.” The requested records would provide a clearer picture of what instruction officers received in how to respond to protestors and if violent tactics were encouraged or authorized.²

CREW is a non-profit corporation, organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CREW is committed to protecting the public's right to be aware of the activities of government officials, to ensuring the integrity of those officials, and to highlighting and reducing the influence of money on politics. CREW intends to analyze the information responsive to this request and to share its analysis with the public. The release of information obtained through this request is not in CREW's financial interest.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform CREW if the cost will exceed \$100. However, CREW also requests a waiver of all fees because the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest. The public is entitled to information concerning Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's response to public gatherings and protests related to the Black Lives Matter movement and surrounding the death of black individuals by police officers. Further, this information is not being sought for commercial purposes. Please advise us if the costs associated with processing this request will exceed \$100.00.

If you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact me at cmoniz@citizensforethics.org. Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to me in electronic form at cmoniz@citizensforethics.org. If it's not possible to produce them electronically, please contact me at that email, and I will provide a mailing address. Thank you for your assistance.

¹ Adam Gabbatt, [Protests About Police Brutality Are Met With Wave Of Police Brutality Across US](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/06/police-violence-protests-us-george-floyd), *The Guardian*, June 6, 2020, available at

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/06/police-violence-protests-us-george-floyd>

² Joel Rubin, LAPD Violence Against George Floyd Protests Erodes A Decade of Reforms, *Los Angeles Times*, June 14, 2020, available at

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-14/lapd-protest-history-criticism-heavy-tactics>

Sincerely,

Caitlin Moniz

Caitlin Moniz
Research Associate