

MEMORANDUM – City of Pasadena
Police Department
March 27, 2014

TO: Michael J. Beck
City Manager

FROM: Phillip L. Sanchez
Chief of Police

RE: Public Safety Committee Meeting, March 17, 2014 - Transfer of Criminal Investigations Involving Officer Involved Shootings to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

At the March 17, 2014 Public Safety Committee meeting, I announced my decision to transfer responsibility for future criminal investigations of officer involved shootings (OIS) to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). This operational decision, within the purview of the Police Chief, was based primarily on two factors, the desire to increase transparency and independence, as well as, in recognition of resource limitations (i.e., staffing) within the Pasadena Police Department which are likely to be present for the foreseeable future.

Specifically, several current Pasadena Police Homicide/Assault Detectives participated in a recent competitive promotional testing process exam for Sergeant. As a result, a number are likely to receive promotions and transfer out of the Criminal Investigations Division. While this is good for the Department's overall supervisor staffing level, it will negatively impact the number of highly-skilled detectives with OIS investigative experience available to conduct criminal investigations into officer involved shootings, should such occur. Please be assured that in no way will other criminal investigations be impacted.

More importantly, over the past several years, community members, neighborhood watch block captains and civil rights representatives (e.g. ACLU, NAACP) have engaged the Police Department, the Public Safety Committee, and City Council members in a discussion regarding greater transparency through independent investigations regarding officer involved shootings in Pasadena. The transition to LASD for this responsibility is in keeping with that spirit.

Currently, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is the only law enforcement agency that offers its investigative services to independent police agencies within Los Angeles County. Staff verified this directly by contacting other police agencies including the City of Los Angeles Police Department. The Sheriff's Department currently provides OIS investigative services to approximately 35 independent police departments, including the cities of: Alhambra, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bell, Bell Gardens, Claremont, Covina, Culver City, Downey, El Monte, El Segundo, Gardena, Glendora, Hawthorne, Huntington Park, Irwindale, La Verne, Manhattan Beach, Maywood, Monrovia, Montebello, Monterey Park, Palos Verdes Estates, Pomona, Redondo Beach, San Fernando, San Gabriel, San Marino, Signal Hill, South Gate, South Pasadena, Vernon, West Covina, and Whittier.

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The Sheriff's Department offers vast experience and knowledge regarding officer involved shooting investigations, and LASD is supported by a robust forensic unit with a nationally recognized crime lab.

Any Sheriff's criminal investigation will be independent from those investigations conducted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice and Integrity Unit, and the internal administrative review conducted by the Pasadena Police Department, which examines all aspects of a shooting, including the officer's actions (prior to, during and after the shooting), incident supervisor, equipment, training and tactics.

The Pasadena Police Department's policies & procedures manual (Lexipol), adopted in 2011, are currently being modified to reflect the change in the Department's protocols related to an officer involved shooting criminal investigation. The transfer of officer involved shooting criminal investigations to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will serve our community well and further the public's trust.