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CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION

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April 15, 2019

Sheriff Alex Villanueva
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Hall of Justice
211 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION CONCERNS &
MEETING REQUEST**

Sheriff Villanueva,

As you know, the California Contract Cities Association (Association) was founded in 1957 to protect the interests of the now 42 cities who contract for law enforcement services with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (Department). In the 62-plus years since its inception, the Association and the Department have enjoyed a tradition of open and frank dialogue to ensure the needs of our member cities and law enforcement personnel are being met.

With every newly elected Sheriff in Los Angeles County, the Association and the Department have worked to forge new and lasting relationships based on trust and mutual respect. While we look forward to a continuing partnership to provide world-class policing and public safety for our cities, there have been several media reports in recent weeks which have caused concern with numerous city council members, city managers, as well as our Association which prompted this communication.

Some of our concerns stem from recent news stories such as:

L.A. County sheriff and supervisors are at odds. This could cost Villanueva. – L.A. Times, April 4, 2019

LA Sheriff Alex Villanueva Reinstates Second Fired Deputy – CBS 2 News, April 4, 2019

Alex Villanueva says he is just 'assuming the proper role' of an elected sheriff – L.A. Times, April 5, 2019

Each of these news reports poses a unique set of concerns for our cities. Among the Association's core tenets is the collaborative governance concept which relies on collaboration and partnerships to provide quality services to constituents in the most

austere conditions. A tumultuous relationship between the Department and the L.A. County Board of Supervisors could result in fewer resources to keep our cities safe and our deputies well equipped and trained.

Of particular interest, the second story is cause of increasing concern among the Association's membership. There is significant risk associated with reinstating deputies who have a history of excessive force or other misconduct and were previously dismissed in accordance with long-established Department policy, particularly if those deputies are ever assigned to a contract city. This poses an increased risk and potential for costly and undesired liability should any reinstated deputy be involved in any future incidents which lead to litigation. One of our primary obligations to our residents and business owners is to ensure our communities are served by peace officers of the highest quality and performance.

Finally, the following exchange which was published on April 5, 2019 as part of an interview conducted with you by the L.A. Times notes:

Q. Is there anything you want to say to those voters, or to the mayors of the cities in Los Angeles County who contract with your department for policing, given all the turmoil that's going on?


A. They couldn't care less. The mayors of the contract cities, they're excited that we're actually turning over the process of picking who their station commanders are — their chiefs of police. We're breaking down a lot of barriers. We're using a collaborative process that reflects the will of the community.


While we realize quotes are sometimes taken out of context or not completely accurate, any representation that mayors, council members, or city managers "couldn't care less" is inaccurate and highly troubling. Each of our elected officials and city managers places public safety as their number one priority. Any turmoil or impediment to provide the highest levels of safety and security to constituents is of great concern to mayors, council members, and city managers. While we appreciate your efforts to allow cities to have a greater voice in selecting station captains, this is not the sole issue our elected officials care about.


In the spirit of our longstanding partnership with the Department, we would like to arrange a meeting with you and your key staff in the near future to discuss these concerns. The Association's delegation would include our officers (president, vice president, secretary/treasurer), executive director, and one city manager from a contract city. This meeting is intended to listen to your positions on the concerns stated above, dispel any potential misrepresentations by outside parties, and to clarify our position as partners and your largest customer in the County.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter, we look forward to meeting with you soon.

Best regards,


Jorge Morates
President


Sandra Armenta
Vice President


Mark Waronek
Secretary/Treasurer


Marcel Rodarte
Executive Director

Cc:
Los Angeles County Supervisors
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Contract Law Division
Contract Cities Executive Board
Contract Cities, City Managers