

CANCEL

THE CONTRACT

ANTELOPE VALLEY 

Powered by **commUNITY**



Summary and Highlights of the

AV Settlement Agreement
Monitoring Team
16th Semi-Annual
Report
June 2023

August 28, 2023



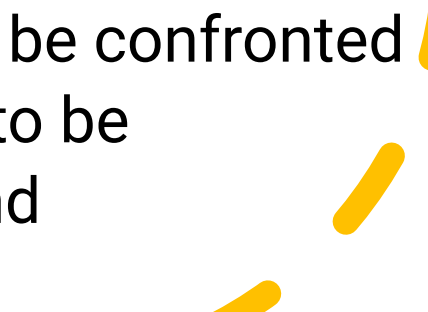
**Opening letter
from
Monitoring
Team to the
Presiding
Judge:**

“...For this report, we felt it was important to **immediately acknowledge the deeply disturbing nature of the actions reflected in the videos** and the impact they have on the community, particularly communities of color, in the Antelope Valley.

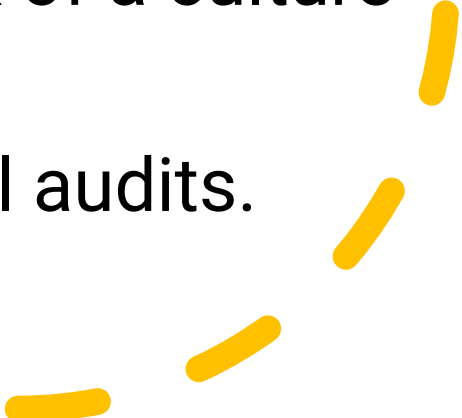
While we are troubled and saddened by these events, regrettably, **we must acknowledge we are not surprised.**

As documented for years by monitoring reports, failures at supervisory and management levels are contributing to a continuation of such incidents.

A number of factors and conditions must be confronted and corrected if the Department is going to be successful in achieving lasting change and improvement.”



6 Critical Failures by the LASD

1. Lack of leadership and ongoing executive engagement.
 2. Lack of attempts to undertake or prioritize required SA-related work.
 3. Lack of urgency.
 4. Insufficient resources allocated to the SA-related work.
 5. Insufficient use of data and a lack of a culture of transparency.
 6. Lack of progress on LASD internal audits.
- 

Out of Compliance On All Major SA Areas

1. The Department has not implemented a Settlement Agreement-compliant use-of-force policy to provide sufficient and appropriate guidance to deputies in the field or to UOF investigators.
2. The Department has not yet published SA-compliant complaint policies or implemented associated training.
3. LASD lacks both adequate data systems as well as clear expectations that managers must be held responsible for identifying concerning patterns before they become serious or potentially dangerous.
4. LASD lacks an adequate supervisory toolkit for supporting and correcting problematic deputy behaviors.
5. LASD does not have a culture in place that requires managers and supervisors to question or hold accountable those under their command.
6. Department managers are not sufficiently attentive to the importance of the routine daily interactions, behaviors, and attitudes displayed by their personnel during encounters with the public.
7. While we note a significant shift at the administrative level, there is continued resistance to the Settlement Agreement itself at the AV stations.

Stops Audit Preliminary Findings

1. Lack of adherence to procedural justice principles, **including failures to explain the reason for the stops, searches, or backseat detentions**, and doing so in a professional and timely manner;
2. Not articulating a reason for **backseat detentions that is consistent with the SA, LASD policy**, and the law;
3. Conducting consent searches when consent was not requested and received;
4. Routinely conducting **curbside detentions without sufficient explanation** and placing handcuffed individuals on the curb in view of the public;
5. Routinely **using a traffic stop as a potential pretext for a quick search**, with a release with no citation or arrest when no contraband is found;
6. Potential disparity in how stops and subsequent actions are conducted and **lack of consideration of the potentially negative impact on community trust**;
7. Potentially out-of-policy interactions with passengers during stops, including **demanding formal identification and conducting curbside detentions and searches**;

Use of Force

The Department is out of compliance on its UOF training:

- ❑ **Lack sufficient specificity in critical areas** such as in the de-escalation of tense and evolving incidents and proportionality of force requirements.
- ❑ **Does not provide deputies with the specific tools and adequate guidance** that would improve their ability to de-escalate tense and evolving incidents without having to use force.
- ❑ Tone of training remains **problematic in that it stresses the elements of force and when force can be used**, rather than emphasizing the Department's core values associated with the intent to minimize the use of force and emphasizing the **desire to engage in de-escalation whenever possible**.
- ❑ Lesson plan on procedural justice, like de-escalation and proportionality, is far too brief and **it fails to provide essential instruction and foster awareness on how race can impact deputies' threat assessments**.

Returning a Deputy to Field Duty

Inconsistencies in the way deputies are returned to field duty following a deputy-involved shooting.

When a deputy is involved in a shooting or other deadly force, it is the responsibility of the concerned unit commander to arrange a debriefing between a Department psychologist and the involved personnel no later than five days following the incident

When deputy intentionally fires a shot at a person, the deputy is placed on restricted duty pending review by the CIRP. The CIRP convenes within a week or two of an incident.

The process for returning a deputy to the field following a critical incident needs to be more clearly articulated in the Department Manual and those decisions need to be documented.

A few areas of progress and improvement

LASD's use-of-force (UOF) and Taser policies have been revised in alignment with the SA. (Has not been adopted)

For the first time, the Audit Accountability Bureau unit produced a complaints audit methodology that has met the terms of the SA and was approved by the MT and DOJ.

LASD has developed short-term, interim, and long-term training plans to address the systemic issues, and, the training of executives and managers is being prioritized.

The AV Compliance Unit started the procurement of modernized data management systems to support risk management.

Conclusions and Concerns

- ❑ The impact of this non-compliance has been devastating to the Antelope Valley community, particularly Black residents who are the principal targets for LASD's racialized policing tactics.
- ❑ In a recent report, the NLSLA and Cal State Northridge analyzed LASD's 2019 data. It found that, when considering their population size and as compared to other racial groups, **Black individuals in the AV disproportionately account for all stops, searches, and seizures.**
- ❑ Black people in the AV comprise roughly 16% of the community but are subjected to approximately:
 - ❑ 32% of all traffic stops,
 - ❑ 43% of stops based on reasonable suspicion, and
 - ❑ 38% of all searches conducted incident to arrest.

Questions & Get Involved

Read the full [16th Biannual Monitoring Team Report](#)

- ❑ Questions?
- ❑ Concerns?

Get Involved

- ❑ Join the CTC CJ Committee, 4th Mondays @1pm
- ❑ Attend LA County COC Meetings
- ❑ Attend Lancaster and Palmdale CAC Meetings

Contact: [Raycine Ector, raycine@ctcav.org](mailto:raycine@ctcav.org)

Cancel the Contract Co-Chair

Criminal Justice Accountability Committee Chair