



July 13, 2023

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Re: Return the AV Settlement Agreement to Court

Dear LA County Board of Supervisors,

We write to you with great urgency, deep sorrow, and infuriation. By now, we assume you all have seen the body cam footage from the June 24, 2023 WinCo Foods incident with sheriff excessive force against an elderly couple and the July 13, 2022 baby snatching and excessive force traffic stop. These horrific acts of violence by our tax funded sheriff deputies against Black residents is nothing new in the Antelope Valley, but they do provide a window into our living hell for the rest of the County to grapple with. You now have irrefutable evidence of the violence by LASD that Cancel the Contract and other community leaders have been alleging for years.

[Cancel the Contract](#) is a coalition of community organizations and leaders from the Antelope Valley calling for the end of law enforcement violence and racism in our communities. We have faced decades of systemic violations of the constitutional rights of our poor, Black and Latino community members by LASD deputies in the cities of Palmdale, Lancaster and the unincorporated areas of the Antelope Valley, and in our schools. **And today we are asking you to do more to stop this law enforcement terror.**

As you know, in 2015, the US DOJ settled a lawsuit against Lancaster, Palmdale, LA County and LASD for their Section 8 housing discrimination and policing constitutional rights violations against Black and Latino residents.¹ And yet, despite 8 years of Settlement Agreement oversight by the DOJ Monitoring Team, LASD and the County continue to be out of compliance on the vast majority of indicators, including unlawful and racist stops, searches, backseat detentions, use of force, handling of complaints, and positive community engagement.² Today, racial profiling of Black and Latinos residents persists as we continue to be stopped, searched and

¹ Settlement Agreement, United States v. County of Los Angeles, No. 2:15-cv-03174 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 28, 2015) <https://www.justice.gov/file/414706/download>.

² Antelope Valley Monitoring Team 10th Semi-Annual Report June 2020 (2020), <http://www.antelopevalleysettlementmonitoring.info/content/documents/reports/10%20Semi-Annual%20Report.%20June%202020.pdf>.



detained at higher rates than white residents, as documented every 6 months by the DOJ Monitoring Team.

As you can see from our [October 2021 letter to the DOJ](#), we have been asking for a return to Court to modify the terms of the Settlement Agreement given the lack of consequences for noncompliance. And in their [December 2022 Monitoring Report](#), the Monitors asked for the same thing. However, since day one County Counsel, which represents LASD against the DOJ in this case, has been thwarting compliance and resisting calls to return to Court. The terms of this Settlement Agreement require all parties to agree before a return to Court is allowed. Thus, **we implore upon you as the leaders of this County to agree to return to Court** and put some teeth into this Settlement Agreement once and for all.

Please reach us at (661) 544-5727 for further information, we appreciate your immediate attention to this crisis in our Antelope Valley community.

Sincerely,

Cancel the Contract Antelope Valley

Steering Committee

Waunette Cullors, Director and Co-Founder
Raquel Derfler, Steering Committee Co-Chair
Raycine Ector, Steering Committee Co-Chair
Lynde Williams, Steering Committee Member at Large
Cortez Chandler, Steering Committee Member at Large
Ashley Khan, Steering Committee Youth Member

Learn more at www.ctcav.org