



State of California
Office of the Attorney General

ROB BONTA

ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 20, 2022

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Timothy K. Murakami
Undersheriff
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
211 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Investigation of Peace Over Violence, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority, Patricia Giggans, Sheila Kuehl, and Request for Investigation

Dear Undersheriff Murakami:

In a letter dated January 25, 2022, Chief Assistant Attorney General Lance Winters requested that your office provide updates on your Department's investigation of Peace Over Violence and/or Executive Director Patricia Giggans. (Cal. Const., art V, § 13 [noting Attorney General may require the sheriff to provide "reports concerning the investigation, detection, prosecution, and punishment of crime"].) You provided him with updates in letters dated February 4, 2022, and August 23, 2022.

On September 14, 2022, your Department executed search warrants, in connection with that investigation, at the following locations: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority office; Peace Over Violence office; Office of Inspector General at Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority office; the office and home of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl; and the residence of Patricia Giggans. That same day, Sheriff Alex Villanueva wrote a letter to me asking that the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigate whether any individuals had committed a crime in giving advance warning of these search warrants to Sheila Kuehl and Patricia Giggans.

The Attorney General has supervisory authority over the Sheriff. (Cal. Const., art V, § 13 [Attorney General has supervisory authority over sheriff]; Govt. Code, § 12560 ["The Attorney General has direct supervision over the sheriffs of the several counties of the state," and "Whenever the Attorney General deems it necessary in the public interest the Attorney General

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Page 2

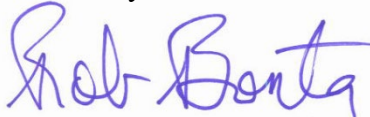
shall direct the activities of any sheriff relative to the investigation”).) The Attorney General also has the authority to take over a criminal investigation when it is in the public interest. (Govt. Code, § 12550 [“When the Attorney General deems it advisable or necessary in the public interest, ... the Attorney General ... may, if deemed necessary, take full charge of any investigation or prosecution of violations of law of which the superior court has jurisdiction.”]; see Gov. Code, § 12561 [“the Attorney General may appoint some competent person to perform the duties of sheriff with respect to the investigation or detection of a particular crime”).)

DOJ will assume responsibility for any and all investigations of whether any individuals committed a crime by giving advance warning of the search warrants to Shiela Kuehl and Patricia Giggans. However, these matters are intimately related to the underlying investigation of Peace Over Violence, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority, Patricia Giggans, and Sheila Kuehl. Given that Sheriff Villanueva has recused himself from the underlying investigation of Peace Over Violence and Patricia Giggans, and by seeking our assistance he recognizes that he should be recused from any related matters, I believe that the handling of all these matters by DOJ will be in the public interest. Therefore, we will also assume all responsibility for the underlying investigation of the Peace Over Violence, Patricia Giggans, et al.

To that end, your Department should cease its investigative activity and refrain from any actions in furtherance of these investigations, including public statements or court filings related to the investigations. Please have your Department staff transmit all evidence, investigative reports, and information to DOJ Special Agent Supervisor Paul Ramirez and DOJ Special Agent Allen Mack so that DOJ can handle all further investigation.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



ROB BONTA
Attorney General