



STAND FOR JUSTICE

March 23, 2017

Via E-Mail

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Civil Service Accountability Motion, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, March 28, 2017

Honorable Members of the Board:

The ACLU of Southern California supports the Improving Accountability within the Civil Service Hearing Process introduced by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. The ACLU wholeheartedly agrees with the purpose of the motion: to increase the County's ability to fire, or at least reassign, employees holding certain positions, including law enforcement officers who have been found by their agencies to have engaged in dishonesty or other acts that conflict with the essential requirements of their jobs.

The ACLU also strongly supports the hortatory language in the motion encouraging the District Attorney and all law enforcement agencies to maintain a list of employees who have been found to have engaged in acts of dishonesty or other moral turpitude that may well have to be disclosed to defense attorneys in criminal cases if those employees were to be witnesses in a criminal case. The ACLU encourages the amendment of the motion so that the public can know whether law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County are maintaining such a list and voluntarily providing the names of officers on that list to the District Attorney whenever a case has been filed in which an officer on the list may be a witness.

(over)

Executive Director Hector O. Villagra

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Specifically, the ACLU urges the Board to amend the motion so that the CEO includes in its report back a list of all law enforcement agencies in the County that maintain a Brady list and inform the District Attorneys' office of the names of officers on the list either on an ongoing basis or – at minimum – whenever a case has been filed in which an officer on the list may be a witness.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Eliasberg
Chief Counsel



Peter Bibring
Senior Staff Attorney
Director of Police Practices Project

