



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

June 6, 1996

Ms. Joanne Sturges  
Los Angeles County Executive  
500 W. Temple Street, Room 383  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Los Angeles County Jail

Dear Ms. Sturges:

I am writing to inform you that the United States Department of Justice intends to investigate conditions in the Los Angeles County Jail system pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997 et seq.

The purpose of the investigation is to determine whether conditions in the jail system violate the constitutional rights of its inmates. The investigation will focus on allegations of inadequate mental health services, including but not limited to: inadequate facilities and staffing, improper use of physical restraints, inadequate suicide prevention, and the abuse of mentally ill inmates by sheriff's deputies working in the jail. Initiating this investigation does not evidence any prejudgment that the facility violates detainees' or inmates' constitutional rights. If we do find any violations, we will confer with you and your staff about appropriate corrective actions.

We will endeavor to coordinate with relevant officials of your Department and will be in touch with your staff to work out the specifics of this investigation. Please feel free to contact us if you have any desire to communicate on this matter. The

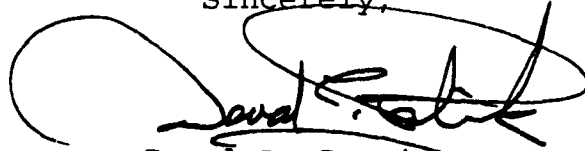
CRIPA Investigation



JC-CA-002-001

attorney assigned to this case is Christy López, at (202) 616-3197.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick", written over a horizontal line.

Deval L. Patrick  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

cc: Sheriff Sherman Block  
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

DeWitt Clinton, III, Esquire  
Los Angeles County Counsel

Captain Herb Pettus  
Men's Central Jail

Nora M. Manella, Esquire  
United States Attorney  
Central District of California