



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**HALL OF JUSTICE**

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



August 24, 2020

Max Huntsman, Inspector General  
County of Los Angeles Office of Inspector General  
312 South Hill Street, Third Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90013

Dear Mr. Huntsman:

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
PERSONNEL FACE COVERING MANDATES**

This letter is in response to your letter sent on August 21, 2020, to the Board of Supervisors regarding failure of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) personnel to obey face covering mandates.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have enacted various Department directives regarding COVID-19. Public safety and the safety of my personnel are of the utmost concern to me. COVID-19 Notice #51 mandates Department personnel to wear a face covering. Department executives re-brief this requirement on a regular basis in an effort to maintain compliance.

With regard to the Sassafras Salon, the Department immediately initiated an inquiry into the allegation when the story was reported. The inquiry revealed the event was not hosted by the Department. This false information was put on social media by activist groups and has since been discredited. Information subsequently provided by these groups indicated the persons depicted on camera worked for a state agency and were not Department employees. Please refrain from associating this event with my Department as this speculation has been debunked.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my Chief of Staff, Captain Jorge A. Valdez, [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

ALEX VILLANUEVA  
SHERIFF

211 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

*A Tradition of Service*  
— Since 1850 —

AV:JV:aa  
(Office of the Sheriff)

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