



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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KATHRYN BARGER
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Alex Villanueva
Sheriff
County of Los Angeles
211 West Temple Street, 8th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Sheriff Villanueva:

Thank you for your letter regarding the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), and for sharing the situation you are facing with the deputies you placed on leave in March, prior to FFCRA taking effect on April 1, 2020.

The provisions of FFCRA and your decision to place employees on leave in March are two separate issues and should not be conflated.

The guidelines from the federal government on FFCRA are very clear: these benefits cannot be awarded retroactively. Modifying the federal rules on these benefits is not within the power of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or the Board of Supervisors (Board).

Thank you for understanding this important point. Please also understand that as a public servant and County leader, it is essential that you share accurate information on this point publicly, through the media, and through internal communications with your staff. It is our shared objective to ensure that there is no confusion about these important federal benefits that will be of value to many of our employees.

As it relates to Sheriff's personnel who were placed on leave prior to FFCRA taking effect, you have the authority to approve appropriate compensation for these employees and do not need approval from the CEO or the Board. Your human resources team is the best source of information on this process. The Department of Human Resources also stands ready to provide you with additional guidance if necessary.

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In closing, I would also like to emphasize that I share your commitment to making sure our Los Angeles County workforce is fairly treated and appropriately compensated during this crisis. You are well-aware of my strong support for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the essential role that these brave men and women play.

I thank you in advance for being part of the solution - not part of the problem - as we navigate these challenging times together. The public is counting on us staying united and strong as we confront this unprecedented public health crisis with all our attention and focus.

Sincerely,



KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District
Chair, Board of Supervisors

KB:rvj

cc: Supervisor Hilda Solis, Supervisor, First District
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor, Second District
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, Third District
Supervisor Janice Hahn, Supervisor, Fourth District
Sachi Hamai, Chief Executive Officer
Mary Wickham, County Counsel
Lisa Garrett, Director of Personnel