



## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFFS' OVERSIGHT**

**WHEREAS:** Over 40 in-custody deaths in the last three years, prompting the New York Times to label Riverside County jails as One of America's Deadliest Jail Systems; and

**WHEREAS:** Egregious deputy misconduct, from drug trafficking to excessive force. Deputies have faced civil lawsuits for excessive force, wrongful detention, and sexual misconduct; and

**WHEREAS:** The Riverside Sheriff Department's lawsuit settlement payouts were nearly \$100 million from 2014-2024 by taxes, not the Sheriff budget; and

**WHEREAS:** Family members of people who die in custody are often denied access to autopsy or incident reports for months, or even years; and

**WHEREAS:** California Attorney General Rob Bonta has launched a civil rights investigation into the sheriff's department; and

**WHEREAS:** The Riverside Board of Supervisors has acknowledged that the current arrangement, where the sheriff also serves as coroner, creates a conflict of interest and hinders transparency and has called for a feasibility study on the separation of the Sheriff's Department and Coroner's Office; and

**WHEREAS:** The people of Riverside County deserve a sheriff's department that serves with integrity, transparency, and accountability;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that League of United Latin American Citizens hereby:

Urge the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to

1. Establish a Civilian Oversight Body that is responsible for reviewing complaints against the department and would act as a public-facing entity with the authority to review policies, investigate complaints, and provide recommendations to ensure transparency, accountability, and fairness in law enforcement practices. Ensure the oversight body has access to critical data and reports, and its findings are available to the public.
2. Appoint an Inspector General responsible for investigating complaints and ensuring accountability within the Sheriff's department with the power to conduct thorough investigations into misconduct, use of force incidents, and systemic issues

within the Sheriff's Department. The Inspector General should have the power to subpoena, unrestricted access to departmental records, and the ability to recommend policy changes and disciplinary actions based on findings.

3. Transfer the responsibilities of the Coroner's Office to an independent elected medical examiner's office to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensure impartiality in death investigations. Establish clear guidelines and transparency measures to uphold the integrity of investigations into in-custody deaths and other critical incidents.
4. Implement stronger accountability measures for sheriff-involved shootings and in-custody deaths to prevent unnecessary loss of life and financial burdens on taxpayers due to lawsuits and settlements. Require comprehensive data reporting and public disclosure of incidents involving the excessive use of force and allegations of misconduct.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Riverside LULAC Council #3190 **Sira Uribe, President**