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CITIZENS' LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW BOARD

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May 6, 2024

Sheriff Kelly A. Martinez, County of San Diego
Attn: Lieutenant David Perkins, Division of Inspectional Services
9621 Ridgehaven Court
San Diego, CA 92123

POLICY RECOMMENDATION "ACCEPT ALL COLLECT CALLS IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT"

Dear Sheriff Martinez:

On 03-28-24, CLERB discovered the Internal Affairs (IA) department does not accept collect calls. According to an IA representative, incarcerated persons (IPs) in county jails have the option to contact IA by dialing *29 from San Diego County Jail phones. CLERB was contacted by an IP in San Diego County custody who was unaware of this phone number and his calls were continuously rejected. Furthermore, many IPs are sentenced at prisons and use collect calling systems. In an effort to ensure IA staff are able to respond to all incoming complaints, it is recommended IA accepts all collect calls. If the call is from an IP in San Diego Central Jail custody, there is no associated cost and the information regarding *29 can be relayed at first contact. If the call is from another facility, the IP should still have the opportunity to communicate with IA. These individuals should not be penalized due to their inability to pay for a telephone call. This recommendation will support the equity initiative embraced across the County.

Pursuant to Section 340.9(g) of the San Diego County Administrative Code, the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) shall have the authority to review and make recommendations on policies and procedures of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and San Diego County Probation Department. As such, CLERB makes the following recommendation:

1. It is recommended that the Sheriff's Department Internal Affairs (IA) department consider a toll-free number or accept collect calls through whatever method is necessary to ensure everyone, including incarcerated persons are able to file a complaint.

On April 23, 2024, the CLERB reviewed and approved the above listed policy recommendation. CLERB supports the Sheriff's Department's careful and prompt review of our proposed policy recommendation, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Eileen Delaney, Chairperson

ED:am
cc: DIS Liaison