

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

YOLO COUNTY

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TOM A. LOPEZ

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PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

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UNDERSHERIFF

ADMINISTRATION

(530) 668-5280

FINANCE
PERSONNEL
CIVIL
TRAINING

PLANNING & RESEARCH

CAMERON TRAINING FACILITY

(530) 668-5245

INMATE EDUCATION
INMATE PROGRAMS
INMATE TRAINING

CORONER'S SECTION

(530) 668-5292

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

(530) 668-5280

FIELD OPERATIONS

(530) 668-5280

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

CRIME PREVENTION
INVESTIGATIONS
MARINE PATROL
PATROL

SEARCH & RESCUE

AERO SQUADRON
CADETS
POSSE RESERVES
STARS

ANIMAL SERVICES

(530) 668-5287

LEINBERGER

DETENTION

(530) 668-5254

CORRECTIONS
COMMISSARY

INMATE WORK PROGRAMS

MONROE DETENTION

(530) 668-5245

CORRECTIONS
COURT SERVICES
FOOD SERVICES
RECORDS
TRANSPORTATION

Mayor Darrell Steinberg
915 I Street, Fifth Floor
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Mayor Steinberg,

I am in receipt of the letter you sent concerning a video depicting my deputies transporting an individual into the City of Sacramento. I appreciate and understand your need to analyze the incident. However, it is important the matter is examined professionally and without prejudice.

It is the policy of the Yolo County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services to all members of the community, while protecting the rights, dignity and private property of the homeless. Homelessness is not a crime and members of this office will not use homelessness solely as a basis for detention or law enforcement action.

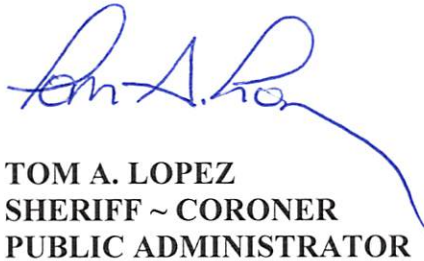
Last Wednesday night, the Yolo County Sheriff's Office was covering over 1,000 square miles with four patrol units on-duty. To illustrate the point, the response time to this particular call for service was fifty-two minutes. Once on scene, the deputies encountered a man who was without options and who requested a ride to Sacramento where he stated he had spent the previous five days. It should be noted the deputies spent thirty-four minutes with this individual and did not make any decisions hastily. This incident was not indicative of a pattern, it was a single call for service and should be evaluated as such.

While audio and video of the contact was captured via in-car camera, such audio and video evidence constitutes an "investigatory record" not subject to public disclosure. It is and has been the practice of this office not to release investigatory records and evidence unless required by law. In addition, before my office could release any portion of the subject audio and video evidence, significant video and audio redaction would need to take place in order to protect the individual's right to privacy. Thus, in the alternative, I invite your Police Chief, or his representative, to make a trip to our office to view the call in its entirety.

"Honored to Serve"

As the elected Sheriff of Yolo County, my Deputy Sheriffs represent me as they serve in the field and I take their conduct seriously. It is important you understand that during the evening of September 25, 2019, the deputies acted in a manner consistent with my expectations, in that this individual was treated with dignity, respect and his requests were honored.

Although my office acted appropriately in this case, we are always looking to better and more effectively serve Yolo County. We are having discussions with the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency and evaluating not only this incident, but all of our contacts and practices related to homelessness. As you know, this is a problem that knows no jurisdiction and must be addressed regionally. Homelessness is a challenge that must be addressed with cooperation and mutual respect and I hope we can move toward that goal.



TOM A. LOPEZ
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