

LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

**INSPECTION AT
77TH STREET JAIL &
METROPOLITAN
DETENTION CENTER**



Conducted by the

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Inspector General

March 6, 2014

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PURPOSE

On January 28, 2014, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted a brief inspection of the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD or Department) 77th Street Jail (SSJ) and Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC).

OBJECTIVES & RESULTS

The inspection developed four objectives, with results as follows:

Objective No. 1: Determine if signs advising inmates of their telephone-call rights were conspicuously posted, as required by law.¹

Results: The OIG determined, for both the SSJ and MDC, that signs advising inmates of their telephone-call rights were conspicuously posted, as required. A blue metal sign, in both English and Spanish, advising inmates of their right to make three free telephone calls was posted above the Livescan fingerprinting machine and on the walls of the individual holding cells. Additionally, blue metal signs, in both English and Spanish, advising custodial-parent inmates of their right to make two additional calls to arrange childcare were posted on the walls of the individual holding cells.

Objective No. 2: Determine if soft foods were readily available to accommodate inmates unable to eat the standard hard foods served to the general inmate population.²

Results: The OIG observed in the kitchen/pantry of both the SSJ and MDC that soft foods were readily available to accommodate inmates unable to eat the standard hard foods served to the general inmate population. These soft foods included, among other things, milk, yogurt, and bananas. The OIG also observed that foods were also available to accommodate inmates on vegetarian, kosher, gluten-free, and diabetic diets.

Objective No. 3: Determine if inmates were provided the opportunity to vote, if requested.³

Results: The OIG determined that procedures were in place in both the SSJ and MDC to provide inmates the opportunity to vote. However, supervisory personnel at both facilities advised that they had no recollection of any inmates requesting to vote on applicable voting days. They further advised that if an inmate requested to vote, this would be accommodated and the event would be entered in the Jail Division Watch Supervisor Log (log) of significant events. The OIG examined the log for Tuesday May 21, 2013, the date of the City of Los Angeles municipal

¹ California Penal Code § 851.5 requires that detention facilities conspicuously post signs advising inmates of their rights to make three free telephone calls, and that custodial-parent inmates be allowed to make two additional calls to arrange childcare.

² The Department Jail Operations Manual § 2/208.02 requires that inmates with special dietary needs due to medical conditions be accommodated.

³ The Jail Operations Manual § 2/208.12 requires that inmates requesting to vote be accommodated. Note per California Elections Code Chapter 2, Article 1, § 2101, "A person entitled to register to vote shall be a United States citizen, a resident of California, not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony, and at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election."

elections, and observed no entries regarding inmates' voting. The OIG also verified that the subject citizen was not in LAPD custody on that date.

Objective No. 4: Determine if inmates were advised in writing how they could obtain the primary report supporting their detention.

Results: The OIG determined, for both the SSJ and MDC that inmates were not advised in writing how they could obtain the primary report supporting their detention. The LAPD internet site, lapdonline.org, Obtaining Police Information section, provides this information to the public. However, this lapdonline.org website is not referenced on the Prisoner's Receipt.⁴ Furthermore, the Prisoner's Receipt does not reference the pertinent Records and Identification (R&I) Division walk-in and postal addresses or the R&I Division telephone number. An inmate would need to have this aforementioned information to obtain the records in person or ask related questions.⁵

Recommendation: To facilitate inmates' obtaining records,⁶ the Department could enhance its Prisoner's Receipt form to reference the LAPD internet site/section (lapdonline.org, Obtaining Police Information section) and the R&I Division walk-in and postal addresses and related telephone number. Alternatively, the Department could provide this information via a separate form to each inmate.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

The Department responded to the inspection and recommendation as follows:

In regards to Objective No. 2, the soft meal diet has been reviewed and approved by the Department's dietitian, the City's Doctor In Charge, and the Los Angeles County Department of Health.

In regards to Objective 4, there is no policy or past practice that requires that arrestees be advised in writing on where they can obtain a copy of the arrest report. Also should they inquire, either by phone or in-person, they are directed to R&I at PAB. To my knowledge, there have not been complaints about the lack of information in this area. That said, in the interest of continuous improvement, Jail Division will modify the Prisoner's Receipt form to reflect where they can obtain a copy of their arrest report. The modification will be done at the next printing of the form. The forms are very expensive and it is not prudent to discard the current stock because of the lack of this information.

⁴ Each inmate is provided a Prisoner's Receipt immediately after booked into the detention facility. The Prisoner's Receipt contains the inmate's name, booking number, and other information pertinent to the arrest. The Prisoner's Receipt states in bold capital letters, "This is your property receipt and identification, keep it with you at all times."

⁵ The R&I Division walk-in and postal addresses [referenced on lapdonline.org] are: Walk-In -- Police Administration Building -- Room P1-137; and Postal -- LAPD, R&I Division Watch Commander, PO Box 30158, Los Angeles, CA 90030. The R&I Division Watch Commander telephone number is (213) 486-8310.

⁶ At the MDC front desk, the OIG observed a citizen attempting to obtain records. MDC supervisory personnel advised the OIG that citizens often erroneously come to MDC attempting to obtain records, not realizing that they instead need to go to the LAPD Police Administration Building.