

New County Data Site Reveals Paul Tanaka Made Over \$600,000 in 2013, Community Calls for LASD Budget Transparency

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Los Angeles, CA – As The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is deliberating the county’s 2015-2016 budget, news broke today that former LA County Undersheriff Paul Tanaka has been indicted and is facing charges of conspiracy and obstruction of a federal jail abuse probe. According to the new County of Los Angeles Open Data website that launched last week, in 2013 Paul Tanaka was the third highest earner in the LA County government, making over six hundred thousand dollars. His annual earnings of \$601,250.62 are broken down on the website and include over three hundred thousand dollars in leave time payouts.

With the county slated to make their final decisions on the budget over the next month, The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in Los Angeles Jails – which includes over 20 organizations countywide, survivors of sheriff violence, their families, and communities – is calling for transparency and accountability, a stop to the construction of new jails, and allocation of money from the sheriff department’s requested \$4 billion budget to community based mental health diversion, alternatives to incarceration, reentry, youth programs, and an effective civilian oversight commission. At the County Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday over twenty people spoke in favor of these demands as well as delaying a vote on the sheriff department’s budget until a detailed breakdown is provided that includes how the \$189 million requested in AB 109 funding and the Inmate Welfare Fund are being distributed.

In addition to the budget, the county is expected to make their final decisions on the size, scope, powers, and responsibilities of the civilian oversight commission within the month. The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence and the majority of the public present at the working group meetings and town halls have expressed that they do not want former law enforcement serving on the commission. William "Tom" Carey, who was indicted alongside Tanaka today, served as captain of the LASD's Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau.

“Paul Tanaka is not an individual case, but a relevant example of how the county has historically overfunded a department that does not prioritize our community’s wellbeing,” says Mark-Anthony Johnson, director of health and wellness at Dignity and Power Now. “The community needs mental health diversion and an effective civilian oversight commission with no former law enforcement like Tanaka and Carey. It’s time to break down the sheriff department’s bloated budget and use the money to truly empower Los Angeles.”