May 23, 2022

The Honorable George Gascon
Hall of Justice
211 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE:  Recommendation for Policy Change

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascon:

In the spirit of collaboration and community problem solving, the Alhambra City Council respectfully requests a discussion to address policy change recommendations to Special Directives 20-06¹, 20-07² and 20-08³.

At the May 9, 2022, Alhambra City Council Meeting, the Police Chief presented alarming statistics relating to persons resisting arrest for non-violent crimes. These statistics are raising major concerns for Police Officer safety and the safety of the Alhambra community. In particular, a total of 2/3 of cases involving “resisting arrest” escalated into the need for “use of force.”

Examples include:

- **2021-22** – Alhambra Police Officer responded to a service call of a male subject using drugs in front of a business. As the officer arrived, he attempted to detain the subject in question. A foot pursuit ensued which resulted in a use of force after the subject was taken to the ground. The subject was arrested for drug paraphernalia and resisting arrest and the case was dismissed pursuant to SD 20-07.

- **2021-22** – Alhambra Police Officers responded to a business for a domestic violence investigation. They found the male and female in question and attempted to talk to them. The male was argumentative with officers and tried pulling away from their grasp. Officers had to take the subject to the ground and ultimately arrested him for resisting arrest. The case was dismissed pursuant to SD 20-07.

¹ SPECIAL-DIRECTIVE-20-06.pdf (lacounty.gov)
² SPECIAL-DIRECTIVE-20-07.pdf (lacounty.gov)
³ SPECIAL-DIRECTIVE-20-08.pdf (lacounty.gov)
In addition, the Chief indicated 46% of cases that Alhambra Police Investigators presented to your office in 2021 were rejected per SD 20-07. This suggests the City is spending extraordinary amounts of law enforcement time and valuable fiscal resources on cases unable to adjudicate or unable to deter from reoffending.

Examples include:

- 2021-22 - Alhambra Police Officers arrested one individual 30 times, all for narcotic violations. All cases were dismissed pursuant to SD 20-07. Case workers from L.A. CADA provided the subject with rehabilitation and housing services on 24 of these occasions. He accepted services on 4 occasions but absconded on all 4 occasions.

- 2021-22 - Alhambra PD Officers arrested one individual 7 times. All cases were dismissed pursuant to SD 20-07. L.A. CADA provided the subject with rehabilitation and housing services 64 times. He accepted services on 4 occasions but absconded on all 4 occasions.

In response to the aforementioned incidents, the City also seeks to emphasize the need for court mandated rehabilitation and/or diversion for mental health and substance abuse issues (i.e., Governor Newsom’s Care Court). Care Court services are essential support and intervention services for individuals in crisis. Through a client-centered approach, the services not only provide a critical framework for individualized care for persons struggling with untreated mental illness, but they will help mitigate the safety issues referenced herein and and/or conflicts with police and the community.

Alhambra is a community made up of diverse people of varying ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, and it is concerning that SD 20-08 does not allow for sentencing enhancements to be filed for “hate crime” convictions. The Alhambra City Council recommends that SD 20-08 be amended to include “hate crimes” as sentencing enhancements in an effort to protect our community members.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these policy recommendations to resolve the recognizable issues currently plaguing our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signatures]

Alhambra City Council

Jeffrey K. Maloney, Mayor

Adele Andrade-Stadler, Vice Mayor

Katherine Lee, Council Member

Ross Maza, Council Member

Sasha Renée Pérez, Council Member