

BRENNAN  
CENTER  
FOR JUSTICE

Brennan Center for Justice  
*at New York University School of Law*

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December 23, 2014

**Via Certified Mail**

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Centralized Custodian of Records Unit  
4900 Eastern Ave. Suite 220  
Commerce, CA 90040  
(323) 890-5000

**Re: California Public Records Request**

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a request under the California Public Records Act ("PRA")<sup>1</sup> on behalf of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law.

**Background**

The Brennan Center seeks records pertaining to a new program aimed at "countering violent extremism" (CVE). On April 15, 2014, a senior White House official announced a CVE envoy program designed to "coordinat[e] government engagement on the threat of homegrown violent extremism."<sup>2</sup> And on September 15, 2014, Attorney General Eric Holder announced the creation of a CVE "pilot" program to begin in three cities,<sup>3</sup> one of which is Los Angeles.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Cal. Gov't. Code §§ 6250 *et seq.* (West 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Remarks by Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Lisa O. Monaco, Countering Violent Extremism and the Power of Community, Apr. 15, 2014 [hereinafter Monaco Speech], available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/16/remarks-assistant-president-homeland-security-and-counterterrorism-lisa->.

<sup>3</sup> See Press Release, Department of Justice, Attorney General Holder Announces Pilot Program to Counter Violent Extremists, Sept. 15, 2014, available at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-holder-announces-pilot-program-counter-violent-extremists> [Holder Press Release].

<sup>4</sup> Amy Forliti, *Minneapolis-St. Paul 1 site of anti-terror program*, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Sept. 17, 2014, 12:41 AM), <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/doj-extremism-fight-could-take-cue-minnesota>; Brian Bennett, Joel Rubin & Victoria Kim, *L.A. chosen for pilot program on dissuading militant recruits*, L.A. TIMES (Sept. 22, 2014, 7:28 PM), <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-terror-jihad-program-20140923-story.html>; Shelley Murphy, *Boston to host anti-extremist pilot program*, BOSTON GLOBE (Sept. 24, 2014), <http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/09/23/boston-site->

The Brennan Center is requesting information on the rules governing the involvement of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in these CVE programs.

**Request**

The Brennan Center specifically requests the following records under the PRA:

1. All policies, procedures, and directives referencing the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's participation in CVE programs, including:
  - a. Documents referring to the envoy program.<sup>5</sup>
  - b. Documents referring to the pilot programs announced by Attorney General Eric Holder in his September 2014 press release.<sup>6</sup>
  - c. Any other documents referring to CVE programs in Los Angeles.
  
2. All Memorandums of Understanding with outside agencies applicable to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's participation in CVE programs, including:
  - a. Documents referring to the envoy program.<sup>7</sup>
  - b. Documents referring to the pilot programs announced by Attorney General Eric Holder in his September 2014 press release.<sup>8</sup>
  - c. Documents referring to CVE programs in:
    - i. Minneapolis
    - ii. Saint Paul
    - iii. Los Angeles
    - iv. Boston

**Response Within Ten Business Days**

Consistent with the PRA, we ask that you make a determination within 10 days of receiving this request of the records in your possession that are responsive to the request and also determine whether the documents are subject to disclosure.<sup>9</sup> Please promptly notify us of the determination and the reasons thereof.<sup>10</sup> To the extent that your department chooses to withhold any record, please list, in writing, each and every document that is withheld as well as the reasons for doing so.<sup>11</sup> For those documents subject to disclosure, please provide an approximate date of delivery.<sup>12</sup> Should a part of any document contain information that is exempt from disclosure, please segregate and

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[program-prevent-residents-from-joining-extremist-groups/YpEpq2cYvITZ6u8AFkbarL/story.html](http://program-prevent-residents-from-joining-extremist-groups/YpEpq2cYvITZ6u8AFkbarL/story.html).

<sup>5</sup> Monaco Speech, *supra* note 2.

<sup>6</sup> Holder Press Release, *supra* note 3.

<sup>7</sup> Monaco Speech, *supra* note 2.

<sup>8</sup> Holder Press Release, *supra* note 3.

<sup>9</sup> See Cal. Gov't Code § 6253(c) (West 2014).

<sup>10</sup> See *id.*

<sup>11</sup> See *id.* § 6255.

<sup>12</sup> See *id.* § 6253(c).

provide the non-exempt portion of the document.<sup>13</sup> We also request that you provide us with the documents in electronic format where possible.

Should you have any questions concerning this request, please contact Shannon Parker by telephone at (646) 292 – 8363 or via e-mail at [shannon.parker@nyu.edu](mailto:shannon.parker@nyu.edu).

Sincerely,



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<sup>13</sup> See *id.* § 6253(a).