

March 15, 2018

Los Angeles Police Department Discovery
201 N. Los Angeles St., Rm. 301
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: California Public Records Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a request under the California Public Records Act (“PRA”)¹ on behalf of our client, Muslim Advocates, for records pertaining to the Los Angeles Police Department’s (“LAPD”) collaboration with state and/or federal law enforcement regarding counterterrorism investigations and intelligence operations.

Background

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, state and local law enforcement agencies assumed new counterterrorism responsibilities in addition to their traditional roles of investigating crimes and patrolling neighborhoods. Law enforcement agencies in virtually every major jurisdiction across the country now engage in a range of counterterrorism efforts designed to prepare for and foil terrorist attacks; these agencies have also increased their coordination and collaboration with their federal counterparts through fusion centers, task forces, and similar entities. In light of recent events suggesting possible increased surveillance of Muslim communities by various law enforcement agencies in the context of counterterrorism efforts, Muslim Advocates seeks information from the LAPD.

Request

We hereby request the following records under the PRA:

- All memoranda of understanding, contracts, policy manuals, or executed agreements between the LAPD and the Los Angeles Joint Regional Intelligence Center and/or the California State Threat Assessment Center.

¹ CAL. GOV'T CODE §§ 6250 *et seq.* (West 2011).

- All documents, procedures, training materials, charts, statistics, reports, and audits provided to the LAPD by the Los Angeles Joint Regional Intelligence Center and/or the California State Threat Assessment Center relating to:²
 - “Violent extremism” or “countering violent extremism.”
 - “Islam,” “radical Islam,” radical Islamic terrorism,” “sharia,” or “jihad.”
 - Counterterrorism investigations and intelligence operations.³
- All documents, procedures, training materials, charts, statistics, and reports displayed or provided by the LAPD or its agents, employees, consultants, representatives, or independent contractors that refer or relate to “violent extremism” or “countering violent extremism.” We request only copies of materials shown, presented, displayed or provided since January 1, 2016.
- All training materials shown, presented, displayed or provided by the LAPD or its agents, employees, consultants, representatives or independent contractors to LAPD personnel that refer or relate to the Muslim community, Islam, “radical Islam,” radical Islamic terrorism,” “sharia,” or “jihad”. We request only copies of materials shown, presented, displayed or provided since January 1, 2016.
- All documents, procedures, training materials, charts, statistics, reports, and audits relating to the Terrorist Threat Assessment Center that:
 - describe its nature and purpose;
 - describe its procedures for collecting, receiving, analyzing, disseminating, or storing intelligence information; or
 - describe its procedures for conducting limited intelligence investigations.⁴

² The words “relating to” should be interpreted to encompass the terms “containing information about, reflecting, identifying, mentioning, referring to, or summarizing.”

³ Counterterrorism investigations and intelligence operations include investigations and operations aimed at the prevention of terrorist activity by “(1) identifying terrorist trends, (2) [e]xamining terrorist tactics, developing terrorist profiles, assessing terrorist threats, and developing information to protect potential targets, (3) [i]nvestigating, identifying and monitoring individuals and groups that may be engaged in terrorist activity, (4) [m]aintaining intelligence files on individuals and groups that may be engaged in terrorist activity, (5) [a]ssessing and analyzing the capabilities of terrorist individuals or groups, and providing concerned Department entities with sufficient information to thwart their terrorist goals, [and] (6) [a]ssisting other subdivisions of the Department and other law enforcement agencies to prevent terrorist attacks.” Los Angeles Police Dep’t, *Major Crimes Division Standards and Procedures* (2003), available at http://www.lapdonline.org/search_results/content_basic_view/27435

⁴ See Los Angeles Police Dep’t, *supra* note 3 (noting that the Terrorist Threat Assessment Center is responsible for “receiving, analyzing, disseminating and conducting a limited intelligence investigation of terrorist—related threats and information”).

- All documents, procedures, training materials, charts, statistics, reports, and audits relating to the Intelligence Control Center that:
 - describe its nature and purpose; or
 - describe its procedures for collecting, receiving, analyzing, disseminating or storing intelligence information.⁵

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.⁶ Please promptly notify us of the determination and the reasons thereof.”⁷ 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.⁸ For those documents subject to disclosure, please provide an approximate date of delivery.⁹ Should a part of any document contain information that is exempt from disclosure, please segregate and provide the non-exempt portion of the document.¹⁰ We also request that you provide us with the documents in electronic format where possible. We further request any available cost waiver, and agree to pay only the direct costs of duplication up to \$100.

Should you have questions concerning this request, please contact Ahsan Shaikh by telephone at (650) 815-7506 or via e-mail at ashaikh@mwe.com. Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from your office.

Very truly yours,



Ahsan A. Shaikh
Partner



Elizabeth Lewis
Partner, Pro Bono & Community Service
DM_US 89617868-1.099903.0011

⁵ See Los Angeles Police Dep’t, *supra* note 3 (noting that the Intelligence Control Center “collects and disseminates intelligence information during an unusual occurrence or a potential unusual occurrence”).

⁶ See CAL. GOV’T CODE § 6253(c) (West 2011).

⁷ See *id.*

⁸ See *id.* § 6255.

⁹ See *id.* § 6253(c).

¹⁰ See *id.* § 6253(a).