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County of Inyo  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

September 13, 2021

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VIA EMAIL

RE: California Public Records Act Request dated September 7, 2021

Dear Ms. Leonida:

I offer the following response to your California Public Records Act request of September 7, 2021.

***Preliminary Matters:***

Please be advised (again) that Inyo County is a small-population rural county with only approximately 18,000 residents and there are only four attorneys (including myself) employed in the District Attorney's office (along with two legal secretaries and one Administrative Assistant).

Responses:

1. Generally, the information sought in this request is exempt pursuant to California Government Code section 6254(f), as it is all obtained from investigation reports forwarded to our office for review by law enforcement agencies. This office does not attempt to obtain or track any demographic information on any suspect/defendant. The only information we receive is from exempt law enforcement investigation reports.

From January 1, 2015, through and including today, my office has filed cases in the Inyo Superior Court under the following sequential case numbers (virtually all criminal cases filed in Inyo County are issued by this office): MICRF-2015-57537 to MBCRF-2021-67073 (note that the Inyo Superior Court issues case numbers sequentially, so basically every criminal case between those numbers would be the court case numbers for cases filed).

2. The Inyo District Attorneys office arrested two individuals as the result of independent investigations during the time period set forth in the request. Pursuant to Govt. Code 6254(f), I provide the following arrest information:
  - A. Didisse, Debra . DOB 4-05-1060 White, non-Latina. Female. 5'3", 130 pounds. Arrested in the 93514 postal code. Lead charge: Penal Code section 504; Second charge: Penal Code section 487(a). Arrested in spring, 2015. No prior record. She pled no contest to violating Penal Code section 504. She has successfully completed probation and had her conviction set aside.
  - A. Vaughn, Nick William. DOB 02-05-1967. White, non-Latino. 5'08", 211 pounds. Arrested in 93514 postal code. Lead charge: Penal Code section 424. No prior record.

Ellen Leonida  
Attorney at Law  
September 13, 2021

Arrested, May, 2019. Convicted of violating Penal Code section 424; currently on probation.

3. All other information sought in the request appears to be exempt pursuant to 6254(f) and *Rackauskus v. Superior Court* (2002) 104 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 169 (holding that the analysis and conclusions of investigating officers applies to the analysis and conclusions of Deputy District Attorneys). In addition, while not addressed by the *Rackauskus* court, the information requested amounts to the work product of the District Attorney's office and defense attorneys (to the extent that it seeks communications between the two). I note as well that the vast majority of plea negotiations in Inyo County are carried on verbally between the prosecution and defense attorneys, and are ultimately only stated on the record in the open court.
4. As to general charging decisions, I have previously provided you with a copy of the Inyo DA Policy manual, which sets forth charging factors to consider. No documents are maintained showing the application of those factors in particular cases.
5. As to bail, it is not the local practice for the DA's office to request bail amounts. We respond to pretrial reports prepared by the Probation Department. To the extent that this office may advocate for bail, documents are not produced.
6. We do not "track" whether a defendant is represented by a public defender or private counsel. Inyo County does not have a public defender's office; rather, individual attorneys enter into contracts to provide public defender services. We do not track whether the attorney is appointed by the court or appearing privately. As with most counties, the vast majority of defendants are represented by court-appointed counsel.
7. We do not regularly make recommendations regarding parole. There may be two or three Inyo County "lifer" defendants who receive parole hearings from time to time. We usually have an attorney appear, but any remarks are made verbally.
8. I have never been asked for a recommendation regarding a pardon or commutation.
9. I note that the Superior Court of California, County of Inyo, is the official custodian of all court records and files in Inyo County.
10. I note that the State of California publishes comprehensive crime statistics. They can be found at <https://oag.ca.gov/crime>. The California Judicial Council also publishes annual court statistics at <https://www.courts.ca.gov/13421.htm>.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. In addition to the contact information on this letterhead, I can be reached at [thardy@inyocounty.us](mailto:thardy@inyocounty.us).

Very truly yours,



THOMAS L. HARDY