

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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KATHRYN BARGER

SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT CHAIR OF THE BOARD

September 17, 2020

Mr. Bruce Brown Executive Director The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press 1156 15th Street NW, Suite 1020 Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Brown:

This is to acknowledge the letter that the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press sent to Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva on which I was copied.

As Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, I appreciate the concerns that the members of the Committee have expressed with regards to Sheriff Villanueva and the recent arrest of reporter Josie Huang.

As stated in your letter, the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General has been tasked with investigating the circumstances involving Ms. Huang's arrest and will report back to the Board of Supervisors on his findings. Several years ago, the Board created the Office of Inspector General to promote constitutional policing and the fair and impartial administration of justice. Circumstances such as those experienced this past weekend, are a prime example of the need for the type of unbiased review that the Inspector General will perform.

Now more than ever as we continue to confront COVID-19 and the profound impact it has had on our students, older adults, and vulnerable populations - we must focus our efforts on those that bolster and serve our communities. I appreciate your continued partnership and commitment in serving our local communities.

Sincerely,

KATHRYN BARGER Supervisor, Fifth District Chair, Board of Supervisors

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