

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER

JEFF ADACHI – PUBLIC DEFENDER
MATT GONZALEZ – CHIEF ATTORNEY



March 26, 2015

Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi
San Francisco Sheriff's Department
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Sheriff Mirkarimi,

I am writing to inform you of allegations of serious misconduct committed by Sheriff's deputies assigned to work at County Jail #4 ("CJ #4") on the 7th Floor of the Hall of Justice. I am requesting that you take immediate action and, at a minimum, remove the deputies involved from any position where they have any contact with any prisoners, including the clients who they have harmed. I am requesting that this action be taken immediately in order to ensure the safety of our clients.

Last week, I learned from a Deputy Public Defender that a client reported that he was being forced to fight by deputies in CJ #4 and that he had been injured, possibly suffering a cracked rib. The client, Ricardo Palikiko Garcia, informed his attorney that he did not wish to raise the matter for fear of retribution. I subsequently received a call from Keith Richardson, who reported that deputies were forcing clients to engage in fights and that there had been at least two such fights. He reported that Garcia had been injured. The deputies involved in these staged fights were Deputies Neu, Jones, Chiba and Staehly. Deputies Acquino and Collins were also reported to have witnessed these incidents. I later received a call from Stanly Harris, who said that he was also forced to fight Garcia on two occasions and that he was afraid of what would happen to him if these fights continued.

I then contacted Barry Simon, a private investigator with many decades of experience, and asked him whether he would conduct an independent investigation of these allegations and interview the clients involved. Mr. Simon agreed and interviewed Ricardo Palikiko Garcia, Stanly Harris, Keith Richardson, Jonathan Christopher and Quincy Lewis at my request. I have attached copies of Mr. Simon's reports for your review.

In light of these allegations, I am demanding that you remove the deputies involved from any assignment or position where they would have any contact/interaction with Mr. Garcia, Mr. Harris, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Christopher or Mr. Lewis, or any other prisoner or client of this office. I am also demanding that an independent investigation be conducted, that is, by an agency independent of your department. While I know that the Sheriff's department has its own internal affairs investigators to investigate misconduct by Sheriff's deputies, I do not think your internal affairs investigators can fairly conduct an investigation. Moreover, in 2006 and 2007, no action was taken against Deputy Neu, who was accused of sexually assaulting a male and female inmate, despite an internal investigation into the matter. It bears noting that in defending the subsequent civil suit, the truth of the sexual assaults were not contested by then Sheriff Michael Hennessey.

Adult Division - HOJ
555 Seventh Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
P: 415.553.1671
F: 415.553.9810
www.sfpublicdefender.org

Juvenile Division - YGC
375 Woodside Avenue, Rm. 118
San Francisco, CA 94127
P: 415.753.7601
F: 415.566.3030

Juvenile Division - JJC
258A Laguna Honda Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94116
P: 415.753.8174
F: 415.753.8175

Clean Slate
P: 415.553.9337
www.sfpublicdefender.org/services

Community Justice Center
P: 415.202.2832
F: 415.563.8506

Bayview Magic
P: 415.558.2428
www.bayviewmagic.org

MoMagic
P: 415.567.0400
www.momagic.org

This is a matter that requires your immediate intervention, in order to ensure the safety of our clients. Yesterday, I learned from an inmate we had interviewed that a third fight is being planned in the next few days. I am also sending a copy of this letter to Police Chief Greg Suhr and District Attorney George Gascón so they can take appropriate action in this matter. Please note that Mr. Garcia, Mr. Harris, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Christopher and Mr. Lewis are all represented by attorneys in this office and should not be interviewed without their attorneys present.

I am also specifically requesting that none of the inmates involved be removed from their currently assigned housing and status as trustees. If you decide to remove the inmates as trustees or send them to the general population, this would in essence punish them for coming forward and reporting what happened to them.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that what happened to our clients does not happen to any other prisoners.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Adachi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Adachi
Public Defender

cc: SF Police Chief Greg Suhr
District Attorney George Gascón