



## **NEWS FROM BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR POLITICAL ACTION**

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

BWOPA Sacramento County Chapter's charge is to activate, motivate, promote, support, and educate Black/African-American women about the political process, encourage involvement, and to affirm our commitment to, and solving of, problems affecting the Black/African-American community. The Chapter is committed to addressing core issues that adversely affect the Black/African American community and has accepted the call to action to inform our community about candidates seeking office and their potential impact on the issues central to us all.

The following document seeks to inform members of the Sacramento community about the current issue facing the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors regarding the role of the Inspector General. This issue will be discussed at the Board of Supervisors meeting on December 4, 2018 at 2:00pm.

Sheriff Scott Jones blocked the Inspector General from investigating administrative and operational matters of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. These matters include; officer involved shootings, in custody deaths, profiling, excessive use of force etc. The lock out prevents the Inspector General from conducting the essential functions of his role. Additionally the lock out impacts the ability to have independent oversight of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

This issue is a multifaceted problem that has negative implications for communities of color, specifically, the Black/African American community. The lack of independent oversight of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department on matters involving officer involved shootings, in custody deaths, profiling, and excessive use of force create a process that lacks transparency and impacts the ability to have non-bias investigations on these issues. Consequently, the actions of Sheriff Jones contributes to the continued erosion of trust in the transparency and accountability of Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

Our hope is that this document provides understanding of the role of the Inspector General, significant history impacting this current issue, as well as our community call to action message. If you have questions or require additional information, please email April Jean, BWOPA Sacramento Chapter Vice President, at [bwopasac@gmail.com](mailto:bwopasac@gmail.com).

**Primary Role and Functions of the Inspector General:**

The function of the Inspector General is to conduct fact-finding, audits, and other inquiries pertaining to administrative or operational matters of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. The Inspector General reviews certain critical incidents involving the Sacramento Sheriff's Department personnel, and evaluates their response to the incident, departmental policies, tactics, equipment, and training as compared to contemporary law enforcement standards. These reviews result in the identification of lessons learned regarding the incidents and specific recommendations for the Sheriff's Department intended to enhance the safety of the community and deputies. Additional functions of the Inspector General may also include:

- Conduct fact finding pertaining to select allegations of Sheriff employee behavior
- Audit investigations and conduct systemic reviews of the disciplinary system
- Provide complainants with timely updates on the status of investigations
- Make recommendations for process changes to Board of Supervisors and the public

Annually, the Inspector General prepares and presents a report to the Board, which includes recommendations for improvements to law enforcement services and the citizen complaint and investigation process.

**Critical Historical Information:**

Inspector General Rick Braziel was hired to his position November 2015 with a core focus on use of force by deputies within the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. Braziel's key qualifications include being former Police Chief of Sacramento Police Department. He retired in 2012 after serving 33 years on the force, and he was a member of a team that prepared a Department of Justice report on police handling of the aftermath of the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, Mo. in 2014.

It is important to note that Sheriff Scott Jones was a member of the team that vetted Inspector General Braziel. When Inspector General Braziel was hired, Sheriff Jones was interviewed by the Sacramento Bee. At that time Sheriff Jones stated that he welcome(d) the independent oversight of his department, stating, "not only the how, but the perception of how we do things is important." He further stated that areas of focus would include, "the use of force, officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths."

**Relevant Background:**

Inspector General, Rick Braziel, released a review of the May 8, 2017 officer involved shooting of Mikel McIntyre. In his review, the Inspector General reported that the officers used deadly force against Mikel McIntyre, resulting in his death. He stated that the officers used "excessive" and "unnecessary" number of rounds during the fatal shooting, and also put the general public in danger. The review included crime reports, statements, evidence, video, audio, and applicable policies. Braziel noted that during his assessment, the Sheriff's Department policies, equipment, and training related to use of deadly force, de-escalation, and administrative investigation needed to be revised and updated. His investigation compared the use of deadly force, and the related tactics, departmental policies and practices against best practices in policing and other standards that are used nationwide. Braziel concluded his review by highlighting 16 recommendations that were offered to the Sheriff's department for their consideration.

**Current Problem:**

After the release of Braziel's report on the Mikel McIntyre shooting, Sheriff Scott Jones rejected any independent oversight of his department unless he could control it. At the Board of Supervisors meeting on October 16, 2018, Jones presented a proposal that would strip the Inspector General of his ability to launch misconduct or use-of-force investigations of the department, and would mandate weekly check-ins with Jones or someone from his office. Sheriff Jones obstructed Inspector General Braziell from doing his job.

### ***Why Should This Matter to You?***

- Sheriff Jones appears to be using legally ambiguous language in the County Charter and the contract outlining the roles and responsibility of the Inspector General. The County Charter outlines the rules and regulations of the county. These rules and regulations only become relevant to citizens when they are used against the public trust.
- Sheriff Jones was elected with only slightly over half the counties votes. This means nearly half of the Sacramento community does not have faith in him. He claims to be accountable to voters and crime victims, but he is also accountable to Adriene Ludd, Brendan Smith, Mikel McIntyre, Marshall Miles and their families as well as many others.
- Over the past year, Sheriff Jones has had issues with the state auditor looking into his policy of awarding concealed weapons permits, publicly harassed the leader of Black Lives Matters Sacramento, and now has publicly picked a fight on social media with Supervisor Phil Serna.

Oversight ensures transparency. If the sheriff's office is behaving appropriately, then what is there to hide? Life is sacred, the actions of law enforcement can have deadly consequences, for that reason, we need transparency and accountability. Every life in Sacramento County is sacred. This matter is about basic fairness and accountability in government.

### ***Crafting your Message- Recommendations for Collective Action in Sacramento:***

Over the past week, multiple organizations reviewed the current County Charter, (last revised in June 30, 1998), and were unable to locate any language that described the role of the Inspector General, nor does it describe direction on how the Inspector General interfaces with the Sheriff's department as it pertains it to independent investigations. Although this is the case, the executed contract with subsequent amendments has a detailed scope of work for the Inspector General. Based on the memo from County Counsel, "the contractual commitment orders the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff to cooperate and coordinate with the Office of the Inspector General and is subject to the Sacramento County Charter..."

In crafting your message consider these points:

- This is about legacy work; an opportunity for our community to mobilize beyond voting - *Speaking Truth to Power!*
- This is an issue of transparency and accountability of county law enforcement.
- An independent Inspector General increases public trust. In an environment where there is distrust between the community and law enforcement, independent investigations are critical.
- By obstructing the ability of the IG to complete investigations there is an implied message that the Sheriff Department has something to hide.
- The Board of Supervisors should investigate best practices in other regions, determine how we can strengthen role of Inspector General.
- Developing a strong and powerful civilian oversight committee is essential for success.

### ***Community Call to Action:***

We need to create the institutions that will support the society we want to live in. The only answer is collective action:

- ✓ Show up to December 4th. Your presence matters! The meeting starts at 2pm, Be prepared for a long meeting, bring snacks and water. The agenda will be released on November 30th, 2018. BWOPA will share the agenda from our FB page. Please make sure to follow us @BWOPASacramento for updates regarding this matter.

- ✓ Sign up to speak at the BOS Meeting:
  - Prepare your public comment ahead of time and practice. It would be helpful if you crafted your statement using data from this document in context with your personal experience. Your story matters!
  - Keep comments concise. Public comments are limited to 1-2 minutes.
  - Include a “thank you” to the board in your statement if you are so inclined. This is political, but not required.
  - Remain cool, calm and collected. We do not want to give the chair a reason to suspend or cancel the meeting.
  
- ✓ Contact the County Board member in your district by calling and or emailing- go to or click the link to the to find your district [http://www.saccounty.net/Government/Documents/BOS\\_Districts.pdf](http://www.saccounty.net/Government/Documents/BOS_Districts.pdf)
  - District 1- Phil Serna (P) 916-874-5185 (E) [SupervisorSerna@saccounty.net](mailto:SupervisorSerna@saccounty.net)
  - District 2- Patrick Kennedy (P) 916-874-5481 (E) [SupervisorKennedy@saccounty.net](mailto:SupervisorKennedy@saccounty.net)
  - District 3- Susan Peters (P) 916-874- 5471 (E) [susanpeters@saccounty.net](mailto:susanpeters@saccounty.net)
  - District 4- Sue Frost (P) 916-874-5491 (E) [SupervisorFrost@saccounty.net](mailto:SupervisorFrost@saccounty.net)
  - District 5- Don Nottoli (P) 916-874-5465 (E) [Notollid@saccounty.net](mailto:Notollid@saccounty.net)

**References:**

[2017 Annual Report](#)

[http://www.inspectorgeneral.saccounty.net/Documents/OIG\\_%202017\\_%20Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://www.inspectorgeneral.saccounty.net/Documents/OIG_%202017_%20Annual_Report.pdf)

[County Charter](#)

<http://www.bos.saccounty.net/CountyCharter/Documents/SacramentoCountyCharter.pdf>

<https://www.sacbee.com/latest-news/article220130215.html>

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[Inspector General Press Release 11/17/2015](#)

<http://www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/Sacramento-County-Appoints-New-Inspector-General.aspx>

[Op-Ed Supervisor Serna](#)

<https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/article222113230.html>

[Op-Ed Sheriff Jones](#)

<https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article221169585.html>

[Op-Ed Marcos Bretón](#)

<https://www.sacbee.com/latest-news/article220130215.html>

\*\*See attached documents for additional information regarding contract for the Inspector General and County Charter for Los Angeles County.