

# LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

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August 27, 2025

BPC #25-208

The Honorable City Council  
City of Los Angeles, Room 395  
c/o City Clerk's Office  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: MEDICAL SERVICES AT DEPARTMENT JAIL FACILITIES.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, the Board APPROVED the Department's report regarding the above-referenced matter.

Accordingly, this report is respectfully submitted for your consideration and approval.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Munoz".

REBECCA MUNOZ  
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

## **INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

August 13, 2025

1.1

**TO:** The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

**FROM:** Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** MEDICAL SERVICES AT DEPARTMENT JAIL FACILITIES

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners APPROVE and TRANSMIT to City Council.

### **DISCUSSION**

As part of a challenging 2025-2026 budget process, the Personnel Department's Medical Services Division sustained cuts as a result of as-needed salary fund reductions. In an effort to absorb these reductions while preserving other critical public safety services and staff, Personnel Department has proposed suspending medical services at the 77th Street Regional Jail Section (RJS) and Valley Jail Section (VJS) facilities.

On June 27, 2025, the City Council adopted the attached report (Council File No. 25-0607) from the Personnel and Hiring and Public Safety Committees relative to the impact of shutting down medical services at the 77th RJS and VJS. The report instructs the Department and Personnel Department, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer to report within 30 days on the impact of shutting down medical services at the 77th RJS and VJS as outlined below:

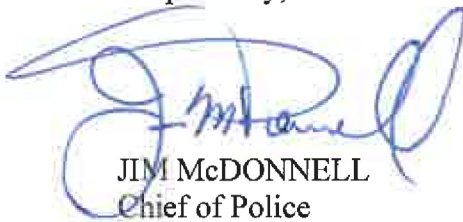
- Potential impacts on the health and well-being of individuals in Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) custody;
- The impact of clinic closures on wait times and service provision at the remaining medical facility at the Metropolitan Jail Section (MJS) facility;
- Potential strategies for improving recruitment and retention of medical personnel within the Medical Services Division, including but not limited to salary adjustments and related incentives;
- A cost analysis of maintaining all three in-house medical clinics versus relying on contract providers and expanded LAPD custody transportation services; and,
- Impact of officers out of the field for transport to the MJS.

The proposed budget reduction would close the medical dispensaries at VJS and 77th RJS, leaving the medical dispensary at Metropolitan Jail Section (MJS) as the sole remaining medical dispensary to service the total population of arrestees made by not only the Department, but also by the other agencies with which the Department has Memoranda of Agreement (MOA).

Attached is a Fact Sheet with details surrounding the impact of the proposed changes. The closure of medical dispensaries at the VJS and 77th RJS poses significant operational, logistical, and public safety challenges for the Department and ultimately increases liability for the City. Centralizing all medical treatment at MJS would increase police officer transportation and wait times, delay bookings, and reduce the already limited number of officers available for patrol. These impacts would not only strain CSD but also degrade overall public safety across the City.

If you have any questions, please contact Captain III Anthony Otero, Commanding Officer, Custody Services Division, at (213) 356-3450.

Respectfully,



JIM McDONNELL  
Chief of Police

BOARD OF  
POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
Approved *August 19, 2025*  
Secretary *Rebecca Muñoz*

Attachments

## FACT SHEET

### PURPOSE

On June 18, 2025, the Personnel and Hiring Committee and Public Safety Committee (Committees) considered a Motion (Raman – McOsker) on the impact of shutting down medical services at the 77th Street Jail Section (77th RJS) and Valley Jail Section (VJS), per Council File No. 25-0607.

To address budget reductions, the City of Los Angeles' Personnel Department has considered drastically reducing the staffing for medical services at two of the three regional jails operated by the Department. The proposed budget reduction would close the medical dispensaries at VJS and 77th RJS, leaving the medical dispensary at Metropolitan Jail Section (MJS) as the sole remaining medical dispensary to service the total population of arrestees made by not only the Department, but also by the other agencies with which the Department has Memoranda of Agreement (MOA).

### BACKGROUND

Below are the total bookings for each regional jail for calendar years 2023 and 2024. In addition, there is a breakdown of the number of arrestees who required medical treatment (MT). Each section saw an increase in the number of arrestees that required MT from the previous calendar year. This increase in the need for medical attention by arrestees has been continuous and thus far it is anticipated that the overall numbers for 2025 will surpass those from 2024.

#### Calendar Year 2023

|                         | <b>MJS</b> | <b>VJS</b> | <b>77th RJS</b> | <b>All</b>    |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Total Bookings          | 14,230     | 15,617     | 11,758          | <b>41,605</b> |
| Requiring MT            | 11,449     | 9,517      | 7,504           | <b>28,470</b> |
| Percentage Requiring MT | 80.5%      | 60.9%      | 63.8%           | <b>68.4%</b>  |

#### Calendar Year 2024

|                         | <b>MJS</b> | <b>VJS</b> | <b>77th RJS</b> | <b>All</b>    |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Total Bookings          | 14,566     | 15,639     | 12,940          | <b>43,145</b> |
| Requiring MT            | 12,269     | 10,194     | 7,793           | <b>30,256</b> |
| Percentage Requiring MT | 84.2%      | 65.2%      | 60.2%           | <b>70.1%</b>  |

In 2024, over 70 percent of arrestees required some level of medical treatment prior to completion of the booking process. While in custody, a vast majority of these individuals also required a form of follow-up attention from medical staff that consists of either a physical checkup and/or the distribution of medication. While these follow-ups take place, the medical booking process is halted, which in turn causes an unavoidable delay in the booking process.

## FACT SHEET

The proposed closures of the medical dispensaries at VJS and 77th RJS, while having MJS as the only detention facility with a medical dispensary, will have numerous negative effects on the overall operation of CSD and the Department as a whole.

### **Transportation and Wait Times**

The booking process is structured and can take several hours to complete. It requires numerous steps to ensure the safety of officers and arrestees, and if done improperly, can affect the outcome of criminal charges against the individual or result in liability for the Department and the City. According to CSD, a booking that takes 40 minutes or more has exceeded the booking threshold time and is documented. When officers make an arrest, the general process is as follows:

- The Arrestee is transported to the station of the geographic Area of arrest;
- The Arrestee is presented to the watch commander and the officers generate a Booking Approval;
- If the arrestee meets the criteria for a strip search, one is conducted to ensure no contraband enters the jail;
- If the arrestee has property of any kind at the time of the arrest, it must then be itemized and prepared to be taken to the jail;
- The arrestee is taken to one of the three CSD facilities for booking;
- If the arrestee requires medical attention, takes medication, or has pre-existing conditions, they must visit the medical dispensary so they can receive treatment and ensure their medical needs are met while housed at the facility; and,
- After being cleared by Personnel Department's medical staff, arrestees can be booked at the facility.

The negative impact of closing the medical dispensaries at two CSD locations would further delay this process. When feasible, the Department will send officers from the next watch to replace the officers at the jail facility to alleviate further overtime. If officers need to transport an arrestee to a contract hospital in place of the jail dispensary, it would cause further delays in the booking process and would be an additional cost to the City. That strain would also be felt by the Los Angeles Fire Department and contract hospitals. If officers are spending excessive time waiting at the medical dispensary, they will be out of the field longer and unable to respond to calls for service. This results in fewer officers available to provide public safety services and would further strain response times Citywide.

Prolonged interactions with combative arrestees due to extended wait times at MJS could escalate an already volatile situation. This could lead to a potential use of force or a medical emergency. It is not uncommon for arrestees to resist walking upon arrival at the jail or to become combative, as they may see this moment as their last chance to refuse cooperation, attempt to flee, or fight before entering the facility.

Recently, MJS has had to suspend operations due to security concerns stemming from large-scale federal protests occurring in the downtown area. If a natural disaster, such as an earthquake, were to strike the area, the lack of additional locations to accommodate arrestees with medical

## FACT SHEET

conditions would have serious consequences. With upcoming major events like the World Cup in 2026 and the Summer Olympics in 2028, the City can anticipate a significant increase in protests aimed at drawing attention from these events. Additionally, the influx of visitors from around the world may result in an above-average number of arrests, which MJS may struggle to manage, especially if it were the only medical dispensary operated by the Personnel Department in the City.

The Motor Transport Division (MTD) has reported an unprecedented number of out-of-service patrol vehicles. Currently, there are 100 MTD personnel to manage these vehicles effectively. Officers who are required to stay overtime to handle arrestees with medical needs would keep their patrol vehicles out of the field, which would cause an additional shortage of vehicles available for the next watch. Additionally, the limited parking availability at and around MJS could increase the risk of vandalism to patrol vehicles if officers park on the street.

Officers assigned to Operations-Valley Bureau and Operations-South Bureau will need to traverse from their respective bureaus to MJS to process and book their arrestees. This increased distance and associated traffic will contribute to the overall time that the arresting/booking officers are out of service. For example, officers traveling from Topanga Station would have an estimated one-hour drive to MJS rather than the 30-minute drive to VJS, and an officer from Harbor Station would have a 45-minute drive to MJS instead of a 20-minute drive to 77th RJS.

Approximately 70 percent of arrestees required medical treatment in 2024. Historically, medical wait times have overwhelmingly been a paramount cause for delayed arresting and booking times. This significant citywide influx of arrestees to MJS will effectively double wait times for arresting/booking officers, as a “bottleneck” effect will logically slow the processing of arrestees who need medical attention. Ultimately, the MJS dispensary is simply not able to accommodate the influx of almost 18,000 additional arrestees needing medical attention.

### **Bookings that Exceeded Threshold Time (40 Minutes) – Due to Medical**

| <b>Year</b>  | <b>Total</b> | <b>Medical</b> |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| 2023   | 158          | 121 (76.5%)    |
| 2024   | 135          | 85 (63%)       |
| Deployment Period 1 –<br>Deployment Period 6, 2025 | 117          | 56 (48%)       |

### **Impacts on Health and Well Being**

The medical staff at City jails are Personnel Department employees. The Department does not hire or manage these personnel and are unable to control the pay and benefits associated with the positions. The State of California Board of State and Community Corrections regulates the adherence to Title 15 Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities. As such, Article 11, Subsection 1200, of Title 15, defines “Responsibility for Health Care Services.” This section states that “each facility shall have at least one physician available to treat physical disorders.” Without maintaining medical staff from the Personnel Department at each location, the facility is out of compliance with state mandates. By adhering to this requirement, CSD has been able to

## **FACT SHEET**

provide medical services at all three regional jails to arrestees who declare a medical condition and those who need emergency medical assistance while waiting for the arrival of paramedics. During these incidents, the assigned medical staff provide lifesaving services that have proven to be the difference in preserving life in a critical moment. This includes instances of saving the lives of Department employees, which recently occurred at 77th RJS.

### **CONCLUSION**

The proposed closure of medical dispensaries at the VJS and 77th RJS poses significant operational, logistical, and public safety challenges for the Department and ultimately increases liability for the City. Centralizing all medical treatment at MJS would increase police officer transportation and wait times, delay bookings, and reduce the already limited number of officers available for patrol. These impacts would not only strain CSD but also degrade overall public safety across the City. Given the continued rising need for medical care among arrestees, maintaining decentralized medical services provided by trained medical professionals from the City's Personnel Department would ensure compliance with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, efficient use of police resources, and most importantly, ensuring the safety and responsible care of those in custody.



## PERSONNEL AND HIRING

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### MOTION

During the 2024 calendar year, 70.1% of individuals placed into custody at city-run detention facilities required medical attention. This translates to thousands of individuals receiving care from medical professionals, highlighting the critical role these providers play in maintaining public safety and the health and well-being of the 43,000 individuals who are processed through the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) detention system each year. These medical professionals provide essential and sometimes lifesaving care to individuals, ensuring that urgent needs are being met. In order to manage the high volume of detainees in need of medical resources, the Medical Services Division housed within the Personnel Department currently operates three 24-hour medical clinics at each of the city's detention facilities: 77th Street, Van Nuys, and Metropolitan.

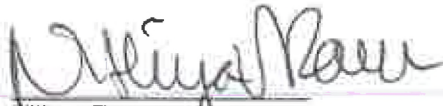
As part of a challenging 2025-2026 budget process, the Personnel Department's Medical Services Division sustained cuts as a result of as-needed salary fund reductions. In an effort to absorb these reductions while preserving other critical public safety services and staff, the Division has proposed suspending medical services at the 77th Street and Van Nuys Detention Facilities.

The loss of these clinics is not just likely to impact the well-being and quality of care of individuals in the care of LAPD, but could also increase overall costs in a number of ways. Following implementation of the proposed changes, arrestees arriving at the Van Nuys and 77th Street detention facilities who require medical attention will need to be transported to the Metro Detention facility in Downtown Los Angeles stretching thin our already understaffed sworn personnel or be seen by a contract medical provider which comes at a high price to the city exacerbating existing budgetary constraints. Furthermore, these positions have historically been difficult to retain due to more competitive salaries for qualified individuals being available elsewhere.

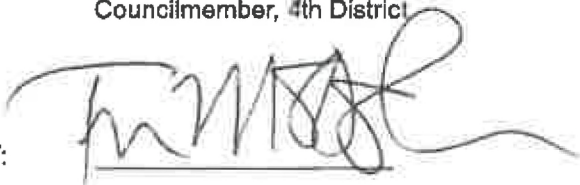
**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Personnel Department, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) report to the City Council within 30 days on the impact of shutting down medical services at the 77th Street and Van Nuys LAPD Detention Facilities that includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Potential impacts on the health and well-being of individuals in LAPD custody;
2. The impact of clinic closures on wait times and service provision at the remaining medical facility at the Metropolitan Detention Facility;
3. Potential strategies for improving recruitment and retention of medical personnel within the Medical Services Division, including but not limited to salary adjustments and related incentives;
4. A cost analysis of maintaining all three in-house medical clinics versus relying on contract providers and expanded LAPD custody transportation services; and
5. Impact of officers out of the field for transport to the Metro Detention Facility.

PRESENTED BY:

  
Nithya Raman  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:





JUN 04 2025

ORIGINAL



PERSONNEL AND HIRING and PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES REPORT relative to the impact of shutting down medical services at the 77th Street and Van Nuys Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Detention Facilities.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Raman – McOsker):

INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Personnel Department, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) report within 30 days on the impact of shutting down medical services at the 77th Street and Van Nuys LAPD Detention Facilities that includes but is not limited to the following:

- a. Potential impacts on the health and well-being of individuals in LAPD custody.
- b. The impact of clinic closures on wait times and service provision at the remaining medical facility at the Metropolitan Detention Facility.
- c. Potential strategies for improving recruitment and retention of medical personnel within the Medical Services Division, including but not limited to salary adjustments and related incentives.
- d. A cost analysis of maintaining all three in-house medical clinics versus relying on contract providers and expanded LAPD custody transportation services.
- e. Impact of officers out of the field for transport to the Metro Detention Facility.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the CIFD. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On June 18, 2025, the Personnel and Hiring (PH) Committee considered a Motion (Raman – McOsker) relative to the impact of shutting down medical services at the 77th Street and Van Nuys LAPD Detention Facilities. According to the Motion, during the 2024 calendar year, 70.1% of individuals placed into custody at City-run detention facilities required medical attention. This translates to thousands of individuals receiving care from medical professionals, highlighting the critical role these providers play in maintaining public safety and the health and well-being of the 43,000 individuals who are processed through the LAPD detention system each year. These medical professionals provide essential and sometimes lifesaving care to individuals, ensuring that urgent needs are being met.

In order to manage the high volume of detainees in need of medical resources, the Medical Services Division housed within the Personnel Department currently operates

three 24-hour medical clinics at each of the city's detention facilities: 77th Street, Van Nuys, and Metropolitan. As part of a challenging 2025-2026 budget process, the Personnel Department's Medical Services Division sustained cuts as a result of as-needed salary fund reductions. In an effort to absorb these reductions while preserving other critical public safety services and staff, the Division has proposed suspending medical services at the 77th Street and Van Nuys Detention Facilities.

The loss of these clinics is not just likely to impact the well-being and quality of care of individuals in the care of LAPD, but could also increase overall costs in a number of ways. Following implementation of the proposed changes, arrestees arriving at the Van Nuys and 77th Street detention facilities who require medical attention will need to be transported to the Metro Detention facility in Downtown Los Angeles stretching thin our already understaffed sworn personnel or be seen by a contract medical provider which comes at a high price to the city exacerbating existing budgetary constraints. Furthermore, these positions have historically been difficult to retain due to more competitive salaries for qualified individuals being available elsewhere. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the PH Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion.

Subsequently, also on June 18, 2025, the Public Safety (PS) Committee also considered this matter. After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the PS Committee moved to concur with the PH Committee. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Personnel and Hiring Committee

**COUNCILMEMBER VOTE**

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| McOSKER:   | YES |
| RODRIGUEZ: | YES |
| HUTT:      | YES |

Public Safety Committee

**COUNCILMEMBER VOTE**

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| LEE:           | YES    |
| PRICE:         | ABSENT |
| McOSKER:       | YES    |
| SOTO-MARTINEZ: | YES    |
| PARK:          | YES    |

ARL  
6/18/25

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**