Prepared By: Liz Swavola, Director, Triage Response Team; Juanisha Byrd, Impact & Engagement Manager; Matthew Graham, Senior Data Analyst; and Rashad James, Policy Associate

Overview of request: The Racial Justice Oversight Body (RJOB) requests assistance reviewing the Sheriff's Office quarterly oversight report for the Board of Supervisors (BOS). They aim to enhance transparency and start discussions using the report's data. RJOB also shared the county's budget presentation. RJOB seeks suggestions from CPE on reviewing data for shortcomings and improving transparency through best practices or general tips.

CPE Suggestions:

The Sheriff's Office provided details of their in-custody population, including a racial breakdown. They also provide the number of times they responded to calls for service (slide 22). Arrests typically make up less than 5% of police stops, so what's detailed here is a very small portion of what the Sheriff's Office is doing. In order to assess the possibility or extent of racial disparities in the Sheriff's Office operations, much more data is needed. At CPE, some of the most enlightening and actionable analyses are the following:

Stops broken down by racial group: Analyze the percentage of stops involving each racial group compared to the resident population. We often see that Black and Latinx drivers are stopped at disproportionately higher rates.

- Data Required: All stops should have a race indicator, ideally including the subject's role in vehicle stops.

Search rate and contraband found by racial group: Evaluate searches per 100 stops and contraband discovery rates for each racial group. We often see that Black and Latinx people are searched more, with similar or lower contraband discovery rates.

- Data Required: All stops with race indicator, search indication, and contraband findings.

Stop reason by racial group (especially for vehicle stops): Compare reasons for stops between racial groups, emphasizing moving violations versus equipment, license, or registration violations. We often see that Black and Latinx individuals are stopped more for low-level stops, potentially pretextual.

- Data Required: All stops should have a race indicator, vehicle stop indication, and stop reason.

Use of Force (UOF) by racial group: Analyze the percentage of UOF incidents involving each racial group compared to the jurisdiction's population. We often see that Black individuals experience force more than White individuals relative to their population share.

- Data Required: All UOF incidents with race indicators.

Type of force used, overall and by racial group: Examine types of force used, including firearms, neck restraints, or canines, especially for disproportionate use on specific racial groups. We often see that some agencies exhibit disconcertingly high use or pointing of firearms.

- Data Required: All UOF incidents with race indicator and force type.

The analyses described above are not all the analyses CPE conducts, but they are the most illuminating in racial disparities and the most actionable in terms of having direct means of reducing any problematic trends observed. For examples of complete reports produced by CPE, see our publicly available Justice Navigator Assessment (JNA), which we provided to West Hollywood, CA. We also presented the results of that report at a public joint meeting with the city council and public safety commission. That presentation and Q&A session can be viewed in its entirety here.

Additionally, the jail data shared by the Sheriff offers only a partial view of how the jail is used. Jail population data is critical for identifying ways to increase diversion, pretrial services, alternatives to incarceration, and opportunities to decriminalize certain low-level charges that pose no risk to the community's safety. These strategies all serve to reduce overcrowded jail populations safely. According to the data shared by the Office of the Sheriff, the average daily jail population increased from 449 in 2022 to 475 in 2023, and bookings increased by about 100. Still, we cannot know why those increases occurred without more detailed data. For example, there is no data about the most common top charges, the average length of stay, or bail amounts. Ideally, these analyses would also be broken down by felonies and misdemeanors and by gender, age, and race of the people detained. Without knowing why people are in jail or for how long, we cannot understand how a jail is used or what could be done differently. For examples of in-depth jail population studies, see the Vera Institute of Justice's reports for several counties across the country: Oklahoma County, Tulsa County, Whatcom County, and Buncombe County, and their seminal report on jails.

CPE's suggestions are provided for informational purposes only to support RJOB's efforts in maximizing the use of received data. This is not meant to be a comprehensive assessment. For more in-depth discussion, CPE is available to join a future data subcommittee meeting.