



July 25, 2024

Via Online Request Form:

California Attorney General's Office
Public Records Coordinator
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

**California Public Records Request: Criminal Investigation into Corruption
in Orange County Jails**

Dear Public Records Coordinator:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's X page has over 250,000 followers and the X page of our Founder and President has over 674,000 followers.

We are requesting access to the records and electronic systems of former California Attorney General Kamala Harris, in possession or control of the California Attorney General's Office, for the purposes of inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act, California Government Code § 7920.000 et seq. ("CPRA"), and the California Constitution, CONST. art. I, § 3(b).

In 2015, California Attorney General Kamala Harris launched a criminal investigation into corruption inside Orange County jails (hereinafter "criminal investigation").¹ Four years later, no charges were filed.²

¹ James Queally and Melanie Mason, *How a Major Investigation into Orange County Jail Informants Ended with a Whimper*, L.A. TIMES (Jan. 20, 2020), <https://bit.ly/46i7aX6> (last visited July 24, 2024).

² *Id.*

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue
Monroe, Georgia 30655

I. Records Request

Pursuant to the CPRA, Cal. Gov't Code §§ 7920.000, et seq., and the California Constitution, CAL. CONST. art. I, § 3(b), which govern access to public records of California state and local government agencies, AFL requests disclosure of the following records:

- A. All records, including document drafts, meeting notes, and related communications and records relating to the criminal investigation and Harris' decision not to seek indictments
- B. All records, including document drafts, reports, advice, meeting notes, and related communications and records and related communications evidencing:
 - 1. All records indicating any findings of perjury by any deputy employed in the Orange County Sheriff's Department, including specific findings that two deputies "intentionally lied or willfully withheld material evidence" about the misuse of informants at a murder trial.
 - 2. The number and job title of Sheriff's Department employees who were interviewed as part of the investigation and the dates of each interview of Sheriff's Department personnel.
 - 3. All reports or communications made to the AG office by Orange County Assistant Public Defender Scott Sanders.
- C. All records, including email communications within the Office of the Attorney General, sufficient to show a timeline, or proposed timeline or date to end the Attorney General's investigation into the Orange County Sheriff's Department
- D. All communications with the Orange County District Attorney, including any responses to (and drafts or communications relating to) Todd Spitzer's April 23, 2019, letter to Attorney General Xavier Becerra.³

The time period for these items is from November 1, 2014, to March 31, 2020.

³ See Letter from Todd Spitzer, Orange County Dist. Att'y, to Hon. Att'y Gen. Xavier Becerra, Cal. Dep't of Just. (Apr. 23, 2019) <https://bit.ly/3y1mniP> (last visited July 24, 2024).

II. Custodians

A. State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General

III. Processing and Production

If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate more efficient production, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Further, please advise if the records are available for inspection pursuant to Cal Gov't Code § 7922.525 (a), (b).

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed-upon rolling basis. Please email responsive records in electronic format. Alternatively, please send responsive records in native format or PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rachel L. Jag
America First Legal Foundation