

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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February 10, 2025

TO: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair Pro Tem

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath

Supervisor Janice Hahn

FROM: Oscar Valdez

Auditor-Controller

Robert G. Campbell

Assistant Auditor-Controller / Chief Audit Executive

SUBJECT: FRAUD HOTLINE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT - JANUARY 1 THROUGH

JUNE 30, 2024

The Auditor-Controller's Office of County Investigations (OCI) operates the Los Angeles County (County) Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Hotline (Fraud Hotline) pursuant to California Government Code Section (§) 53087.6. OCI investigates, or refers for investigation, alleged criminal and administrative misconduct within County government pursuant to California Penal Code § 830.13 and Board of Supervisors Policy 9.040. OCI also tracks and compiles the results of Fraud Hotline investigations referred to, and conducted by, other County departments to ensure the allegations are properly investigated.

Effective July 1, 2024, OCI implemented new allegation types for the categorization of cases. These updated allegation types better align Fraud Hotline case categorizations with guidance promulgated by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and better reflect the modality by which fraud was committed, improving our ability to identify areas of risk. For continuity, we applied these updated allegation types to prior cases which required some manual review and delayed issuance of this report.

Investigative Results

This report summarizes investigations initiated by the Fraud Hotline and completed by County investigation units between January and June 2024, concerning allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or improper governmental activity. It also includes an overview of criminal prosecutions, as well as disciplinary and corrective actions taken during the period. The following provides a summary of investigative activity tracked by the Fraud Hotline this period:

- ➤ 659 Cases Completed Countywide (3.2% decrease from prior period)
 - 160 Substantiated (24.3% of completed cases)
 - 69 Criminal (43.0% of substantiated cases)
- ➤ 641 New Cases Reported (13.1% increase from prior period)
- > 816 Cases Under Active Investigation (2.2% decrease from prior period)
 - 304 Cases open more than one year (37.3% of active cases)

The following chart compares Fraud Hotline-tracked investigative activity for the current period against the prior reporting period.

Comparison of Case Counts Between Reporting Periods

_	SEMI-ANNUAL PERIOD ENDING				
CASE STATUS	12/31/2023	06/30/2024	% Increase (Decrease)		
Beginning Caseload	948	834	(12.0%)		
- Cases Closed	(681) ¹	(659)	(3.2%)		
+ New Cases Opened	567 <mark>1</mark>	641	13.1%		
Ending Caseload	834	816	(2.2%)		

251 of the closed cases were categorized as "Not Investigated" in Attachment I. Many of these cases were outside OCI's jurisdiction and were referred to the appropriate external agencies for follow-up. Some cases contained allegations that provided additional information for existing investigations. Others lacked sufficient details to identify the

¹ This total reflects 30 more cases than previously reported due to a change in our methodology for reporting Fraud Hotline activity. Specifically, while the Hotline has always logged and discretely tracked each individual report with a unique case number, we previously did not include in summary case counts cases where all of the allegations were merged with an existing case. While this had no practical effect on investigation workload or case tracking, that practice had the effect of understating the total number of reports made to the Fraud Hotline. Our updated reporting methodology accounts for all such cases.

involved parties or specific misconduct, and the informant either did not provide contact information or was unable or unwilling to offer additional details.

The most common allegation types for substantiated cases are as follows:

- Human Resources > Performance Management (45%)
- Privacy Violation (21%)
- Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll (11%)
- Human Resources > Other (6%)
- Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll > Benefits (3%)
- Asset Misappropriation > Misuse > IT Resources (3%)

Disciplinary and/or Corrective Actions²

- Of the 160 cases substantiated during this reporting period, departments reported that they finalized and imposed 184 separate disciplinary or corrective actions. Departments also reported an additional 178 disciplinary or corrective actions administered during this period that resulted from cases closed in prior periods.
- Approximately 56% of disciplinary or corrective actions are categorized as significant.³

ACTION(S) TAKEN	Current Period 01/01/2024 to 06/30/2024	Prior Periods	Total	%	
Significant Disciplinary Action					
Discharged	15	13	28	8%	
Resigned/Retired/Resigned in Lieu of Discharge	28	21	49	14%	
Notice in Personnel Folder (Top of File, Do Not Rehire or other restrictions)	27	30	57	16%	
Suspended - 15 to 30 Days	4	14	18	5%	
Suspended - Less than 15 Days	15	34	49	14%	
Subtotal	89	112	201	56%	
Moderate Corrective Action					
Counseled, Notice of Expectation, Procedures Changed/Reinforced, Training, Reprimanded/Warning, etc.	95	66	161	44%	
TOTAL ACTIONS TAKEN:	184	178	362	100%	

² The number of separate disciplinary actions may exceed the number of closed cases because some cases involve more than one subject and/or corrective/disciplinary action taken.

³ "Significant Disciplinary Actions" involve discharge or the loss of pay (such as by suspension).

Prosecutions and Criminal Convictions

- ➤ A former employee of a County vendor stole and deposited 24 checks totaling \$21,210 made payable to the vendor. The individual was convicted of grand theft, sentenced to 12 months of probation, and ordered to pay \$17,955 in restitution to the vendor. The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office (LADA) declined to prosecute two remaining individuals who assisted in negotiating the checks.
- ➤ OCI referred six **(6)** new cases to LADA for criminal prosecution.
- Thirty-four (34) cases remain in progress with various prosecutorial agencies.

Status of Cases Referred for Criminal Prosecution⁴

Status	Number of Cases
Beginning Caseload	35
+ New Cases Referred	6
- Cases Adjudicated	
Convicted/Sentenced	(1)
 Negotiated Disposition (Restitution and/or Community Service) 	-
Declined to Prosecute	(6)
Ending Caseload ⁵	34

Fraud Hotline Operations

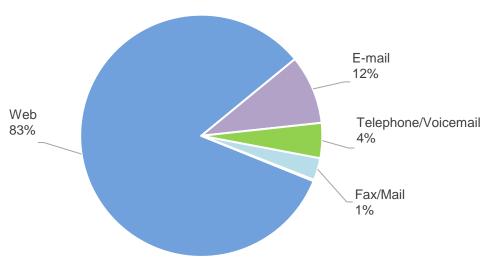
According to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners' "Occupational Fraud 2024: A Report to the Nations 2024" 43% of fraud cases originate with a tip from a whistleblower. To facilitate reporting from employees, vendors, and constituents, the Fraud Hotline accepts tips via website, e-mail, telephone, and mail. Informants may remain anonymous.

⁴ Includes reported status of all cases received by the Fraud Hotline, including cases investigated by OCI and cases ultimately investigated and referred for criminal prosecution by another law enforcement agency.

⁵ Ending Caseload includes cases pending a filing decision by the prosecutorial agency, cases in various stages of court proceedings, and cases in which criminal charges have been filed with the Court and awaiting apprehension or surrender of the subject(s).

⁶ https://legacy.acfe.com/report-to-the-nations/2024/





Language Access

Our website is accessible in 100+ languages via web browsers (e.g., 149 languages via Google Chrome and 126 languages via Apple Safari). E-mails we may receive in a language other than English (LOTE) are easily translated. The Fraud Hotline has personnel who can accept calls in English, Spanish, and Armenian, and we utilize external resources to communicate with callers in LOTE. During this reporting period, we received ten phone calls in LOTE, all of which were in Spanish.

Index of Attachments

Attachment I	Closed Case	Summary	(substantiated,	not	substantiated,	and	not
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investigated, by department)

Attachment II Summary of Substantiated Cases (case narratives, by department

bearing loss)

Attachment III Resolved and Pending Disciplinary/Corrective Actions (by department

and case number)

Attachment IV Assigned Investigations Open Over One Year (by departmental

investigative unit)

We thank management and staff at each County department for their assistance and cooperation during our investigations and case tracking process. If you have any questions please call me, or your staff may contact Greg Hellmold at (213) 893-0243 or ghellmold@auditor.lacounty.gov.

Board of Supervisors February 10, 2025 Page 6

OV:CY:RGC:GH:TW:cm Fraud Hotline Status Report ending 06/30/2024

Attachments (4)

c: Fesia A. Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
 Edward Yen, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Department Heads
 Audit Committee
 Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commissioners
 Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
 Countywide Communications



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER LOS ANGELES COUNTY FRAUD HOTLINE **CLOSED CASE SUMMARY**

January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024

Departmental Investigation Unit	Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated ¹	Totals
Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures	3	0	0	3
Animal Care and Control	1	1	0	2
Assessor	0	2	0	2
Auditor-Controller	0	0	2	2
Chief Executive Office	1	2	1	4
Child Support Services	1	3	1	5
Children and Family Services	27	47	26	100
County Counsel - Internal Affairs	0	3	0	3
Fire	3	6	0	9
Health Services	29	28	8	65
Internal Services Department	2	6	3	11
LA County Library	0	2	2	4
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority	2	2	2	6
Medical Examiner	2	1	2	5
Mental Health	4	9	4	17
Military and Veterans Affairs	0	2	0	2
Probation	2	6	7	15
Public Health	5	4	5	14
Public Social Services	67	58	4	129
Public Works	1	8	1	10
Sheriff	1	7	2	10
Treasurer and Tax Collector	0	0	1	1
County Departments Totals	151	107	74	410

County Departments Total:	151	197	71	419
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Countywide Investigative Unit	Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated ¹	Totals
Office of County Investigations	8	17	178	203
Chief Executive Office - Risk Management	0	6	0	6
County Counsel - Employment Investigations	0	4	0	4
Economic Opportunity - Office of Small Business	0	0	0	0
Human Resources - Departmental Support	1	24	2	27
Sheriff - Court Services Division	0	0	0	0
Countywide Investigative Units Total:	9	51	180	240

Total Investigated Cases Closed	160	248	251	659
	24.3%	37.6%	38.1%	100.0%

(1) Cases are not investigated for various reasons, including a lack of jurisdiction, immateriality, duplication of a prior investigation(s), or insufficient information. 15 of 178 cases designated by OCI as "Not Investigated" were referred to the County Equity Oversight Panel (CEOP). CEOP does not report their findings back to OCI.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER LOS ANGELES COUNTY FRAUD HOTLINE HIGH-IMPACT SUBSTANTIATED CASES

January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024

SUBSTANTIATED CASES INVESTIGATED BY OFFICE OF COUNTY INVESTIGATIONS

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
8	17	178	203

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Corruption > Conflict of Interest	2
Human Resources > Other	1
Vendor Corruption	1
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll > Benefits	1
Theft of Non-County Personal Property	1
Check Fraud > Stolen and Altered	1
Check Fraud > Stolen and Unaltered	1
Total¹:	8

Countywide

2022 19496 - Check Fraud

A private individual stole, altered, and negotiated eight County warrants totaling \$28,631. The County's bank prevented the warrants from being paid. We identified the perpetrator and referred the matter to the Los Angeles District Attorney (LADA) for prosecution.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

2022 18645 – Asset Misappropriation

A DCFS employee filed fraudulent Unemployment Insurance claims with the California Employment Development Department and also obtained a fraudulent Paycheck Protection Program Loan from the Small Business Administration, and received a total of \$56,683 in proceeds from these criminal schemes. We referred the matter to LADA for prosecution. DCFS indicated that the employee resigned prior to being discharged, and a Top of File² notice was placed in their personnel folder.

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¹ Because cases may include multiple allegation types, this total may exceed the number of substantiated cases.

² A Top of File memo documents information relevant to the employee's work history, including misconduct that occurred prior to the employee's resignation. The memo is placed at the top of the employee's personnel file so that anyone who reviews the file will be immediately aware of the information contained in the memo.

Fire Department (Fire)

2020 17485 – Corruption

A Fire manager received services at a discount from a Fire vendor over which they exercised significant decision-making authority. The manager admitted that they went to the vendor for services and the vendor also admitted they gave the manager a discount. Fire indicated that disciplinary action is pending for the manager.

Internal Services Department (ISD)

2019 15182 - Corruption

An ISD manager colluded with a County vendor to direct one sole source purchase to the vendor. ISD indicated that the employee retired prior to completion of the investigation and a Top of File notice is pending. While we could not confirm criminal misconduct, we recommended that ISD consider debarring the subject vendor and supplier.

Department of Medical Examiner (DME)

2023 19902 – Theft of Non-County Personal Property

A DME employee stole personal property from two decedents. We completed this investigation in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department, who referred this case to LADA resulting in felony charges against the subject employee. DME indicated that the employee was suspended pending resolution of the charges.

Public Defender (PD)

2023 19979 – Human Resources

A PD manager failed to report outside employment for two years and failed to declare their income via Form 700. PD indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

Department of Public Works (DPW)

2023_19792 – Vendor Corruption

An employee of a County vendor falsely represented themselves as a DPW employee to a competing vendor in an attempt to obtain trade secrets. We referred the matter to the Hawthorne City Attorney's Office for prosecution. DPW indicated that the vendor's contract was suspended for 12 months, and the subject vendor employee will no longer be allowed to work on County contracts.

TOTAL SUBSTANTIATED CASES INVESTIGATED BY AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: 8

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CASES REFERRED TO AND SUBSTANTIATED BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (AC/WM)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
3	0	0	3

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll	2
Asset Misappropriation > Misuse > Other Assets	1
Human Resources > Performance Management	1
Total:	4

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2022 18715 – Asset Misappropriation

An AC/WM employee submitted a falsified COVID-19 positive test result to their supervisor to excuse a leave of absence. AC/WM indicated that disciplinary action is pending upon the employee's return to work.

2023_20329 - Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

An AC/WM employee abandoned their work location and duties without authorization for approximately five hours. AC/WM indicated that a Notice of Intent to Discharge was issued, and the employee subsequently resigned from County service, and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder.

2023 20339 – Asset Misappropriation

An AC/WM employee inappropriately parked a County-assigned vehicle overnight at their home instead of at an approved parking location on 90 occasions. AC/WM issued the employee a 15-day suspension without pay.

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Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
1	1	0	2

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Human Resources > Other	1
Total:	1

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2024 20960 – Human Resources

A DACC employee failed to report outside employment to the Department while receiving County Workers' Compensation benefits. DACC indicated that the employee resigned from County service prior to the conclusion of the investigation, and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder.

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Chief Executive Office (CEO)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
1	2	1	4

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Billing	1
Total:	1

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2022_190113 - Asset Misappropriation

A County vendor failed to offset administrative costs charged to the County with collected fees as required, resulting in \$53,575 in overbilled costs. The County did not renew the vendor's contract after Fiscal Year 2022-23.

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³ Per CEO's request, this review was completed by an independent Certified Public Accountant firm engaged by the Auditor-Controller's Audit Division.

Child Support Services Department (CSSD)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
1	3	1	5

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll > Benefits	1
Total:	1

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2023 19804 – Asset Misappropriation

A CSSD employee applied for County welfare benefits but failed to timely report their return to work, resulting in an overpayment of \$1,567. CSSD indicated that the employee received a warning and a reminder of the policy and procedures. LADA declined prosecution, and confirmation of repayment of the funds is pending.

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Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
27	47	26	100

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Human Resources > Performance Management	26
Human Resources > Other	7
Privacy Violation	5
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll	4
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Expense Reimbursement	2
Asset Misappropriation > Misuse > Information Technology (IT) Resources	2
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Billing	1
Corruption > Conflict of Interest	1
Total:	48

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2023_20059 - Asset Misappropriation | Corruption | Human Resources

A DCFS employee contacted a former minor participant without authorization or a legitimate County business need, disregarded orders to not perform County work while on Workers' Compensation leave, solicited former clients for personal business, used their assigned County e-mail and cell phone for personal business, and falsified mileage claims. The employee also provided false statements during the investigative interview. DCFS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2023 20317 – Human Resources

A DCFS employee failed to perform their job duties by not properly documenting monthly face-to-face contacts on the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS), as required. DCFS indicated the employee received Education Based Discipline (EBD).

2023 20482 – Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

A DCFS employee submitted falsified medical certificates to justify their absences from work. DCFS indicated that the employee resigned, and a Top of File notice was placed in the employee's personnel folder.

2023 20546 – Human Resources

A DCFS employee used inappropriate and unprofessional language when speaking with clients and within the workplace. DCFS indicated that the employee received a 15-day suspension without pay.

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2023 20606 – Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

A DCFS employee began and ended their shift at a Sheriff's station near their home to obtain mileage reimbursement for their commute to their assigned facility, resulting in fraudulent mileage payments totaling \$31,757.53 over three years. The employee's supervisor and manager failed to appropriately review the employee's mileage claims. DCFS indicated they are seeking restitution from the employee, and disciplinary actions are pending against the employee, supervisor, and manager. OCI will work with the investigating department to refer this matter for prosecution.

2023 20645 - Human Resources

A DCFS employee falsely reported that they contacted clients on at least four occasions. DCFS indicated that the employee resigned prior to receiving discipline, and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder.

2023 20672 – Human Resources

A DCFS employee falsely reported that they contacted clients on at least 13 occasions. DCFS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2023 20739 – Human Resources

A DCFS employee violated a departmental directive by teleworking from an unauthorized out-of-state location without management approval. DCFS indicated that the employee retired in lieu of disciplinary action.

2023 20740 - Asset Misappropriation

A DCFS employee failed to report to work and did not report their whereabouts when asked by their supervisors. DCFS indicated that the employee's timecard was corrected, and disciplinary action is pending against the employee.

2023 20747 - Human Resources

A DCFS employee failed to complete required visits to four youth. DCFS indicated that the employee transferred to the Department of Health Services (DHS) prior to discipline. Subsequently, DHS terminated the employee, and a Top of File notice was placed in the employee's personnel folder.

2023 20778 – Human Resources | Privacy Violation

A DCFS employee falsely reported that they were assaulted by a juvenile client and attempted to coerce the client into corroborating their claim to pursue false litigation against the County for financial gain. The employee also failed to follow a departmental directive prohibiting them from transporting the juvenile client alone and e-mailing confidential client information to private e-mail accounts. DCFS indicated that the employee resigned pending discharge. OCI will work with the investigating department to refer this matter for prosecution.

2023 20779 – Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

A DCFS employee committed gross time abuse by arriving significantly late to work and taking numerous two-to-five-hour lunch breaks and failed to report these variances on their timecards. DCFS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2023 20784 - Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

Two DCFS employees falsely reported that they contacted clients on at least one occasion. DCFS indicated that disciplinary action is pending for both employees.

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2023 20786 – Human Resources

A DCFS employee vandalized a vehicle during an off-duty personal dispute. DCFS indicated that the employee completed EBD.

2023 20835 - Privacy Violation

A DCFS employee accessed confidential data without a business need. DCFS indicated that the employee received a 2-day suspension without pay.

2023 20891 – Human Resources

A DCFS employee engaged in a sexual act with the mother of a DCFS client while on duty. DCFS indicated that the employee was discharged, and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder. DCFS indicated that an independent criminal investigation is under review by the Sheriff.

2024 20970 – Human Resources

A DCFS employee failed to report to the department that they were arrested off-duty, engaged in "general neglect" of children while off-duty, and failed to report outside employment activities. DCFS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2024 20998 – Human Resources

A DCFS employee behaved unprofessionally by smoking in the vehicle and having an unauthorized person present while transporting a DCFS client for their monitored visit. DCFS indicated that the employee received EBD in lieu of suspension.

2024 21006 - Human Resources

A DCFS employee engaged in unprofessional on-duty conduct, provided false information during the administrative investigation, and made false statements to the court in an unrelated off-duty proceeding. DCFS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2024 21063 – Privacy Violation

A DCFS employee improperly accessed the confidential case records in CWS/CMS belonging to two clients and shared confidential information with their partner without authorization or a business need. DCFS issued the employee a 10-day suspension without pay.

2024 21125 – Asset Misappropriation

A DCFS employee submitted falsified medical certifications to justify their absences from work. DCFS indicated that the employee resigned prior to discipline, and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder.

2024 21174 – Human Resources | Privacy Violation

A DCFS employee improperly disclosed confidential information to a public records requestor. DCFS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2024_21295 – Privacy Violation

A DCFS employee improperly accessed confidential records associated with relatives and others without authorization or a business need. DCFS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2024 21454 – Asset Misappropriation

An employee of a DCFS contractor knowingly submitted falsified billings for one month for a child who was no longer eligible for services. DCFS denied payment of the fraudulent invoice and the employee will no longer be allowed to provide services to DCFS children.

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Fire Department (Fire)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
3	6	0	9

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Asset Misappropriation > Misuse > IT Resources	1
Human Resources > Other	1
Human Resources > Performance Management	1
Total:	3

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2023 19942 – Human Resources

A Fire employee solicited a minor for sexual activity and made false statements to law enforcement during the resulting investigation. Fire indicated that the employee resigned in lieu of discharge and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder. Law enforcement declined to pursue prosecution.

2023 20056 – Human Resources

Two Fire employees failed to respond timely to an emergency incident. Fire indicated that one employee received a Letter of Reprimand, and the other employee received a Notice of Instruction.

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Department of Health Services (DHS)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
29	28	8	65

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Human Resources > Performance Management	17
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll	11
Asset Misappropriation > Misuse > IT Resources	3
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Inventory, Equipment, Other Assets	2
Human Resources > Other	2
Corruption > Conflict of Interest	1
Corruption > Economic Extortion	1
Vendor Corruption	1
IT Security Incident	1
Privacy Violation	1
Total:	40

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2020 17386 - Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

A DHS manager instructed their staff to install an unauthorized outlet in front of their parking space so they could charge their electric vehicle for free. DHS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2021 18564 – Corruption

A DHS manager failed to disclose their outside employment activities and financial interests with a County vendor, failed to report that they received compensation from the vendor whose devices they used on patients, and flew twice on the vendor's private jet with select staff to the vendor's headquarters. The manager also required certain employees to pay an annual donation that they collected and deposited into a non-County related bank account controlled by the physician. DHS indicated that the manager was discharged, and a Top of File notice was placed in the manager's personnel folder. DHS also reported their findings to the Medical Board of California, and Office of County Investigations (OCI) referred the conflict of interest to LADA for prosecution.

2022 18689 – Asset Misappropriation

A DHS employee continuously recorded standby time to receive additional pay, even when they were not assigned standby duty. DHS indicated that the employee and two managers were reminded of department policies, and we recommend the Department calculate the total overpayment and seek reimbursement.

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2022 18719 – Human Resources

A DHS employee failed to report their outside employment. DHS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2022 18881 – Human Resources

A DHS employee worked at another DHS facility as a contract employee for two years while on administrative leave due to an investigation. DHS indicated that the employee retired, and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder.

2022 19260 - Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources | IT Security Incident

A DHS employee shared their password with another employee to sign-in and out for them. DHS indicated that disciplinary action is pending for one employee. The second employee resigned prior to the investigation, and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder.

2022 19458 – Asset Misappropriation

A DHS employee inappropriately used their County e-mail to campaign for election to the board of a professional organization. DHS indicated that the employee was issued a Notice of Expectation.

2023 19780 - Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

A DHS employee engaged in unreported outside employment activities during County time. DHS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2023 20004 - Asset Misappropriation

A DHS employee stole vials of a controlled narcotic without authorization or a need. DHS notified the California State Board of Pharmacy and the Medical Board of California and referred the matter to the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office for criminal prosecution. DHS indicated that the employee resigned, and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder.

2023 20034 – Vendor Corruption

Two individuals not associated with the County fraudulently used the credentials of a DHS vendor employee to charge three DHS clients for enrollment and renewal services that were not provided. The vendor refunded the charges. OCI will work with the investigating department to refer this matter for prosecution.

2023 20054 – Asset Misappropriation

A DHS employee claimed significantly more time than actually spent to complete mandatory departmental training. DHS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2023 20131 – Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

Two DHS supervisors did not properly review an employee's timecard and approved it without being physically present to verify handwritten times, including actual hours worked. Additionally, the employee admitted that they did not work a full shift and surveillance footage showed the employee left earlier than their sign-out time. DHS indicated that one supervisor resigned from County service prior to completion of investigation, and a Top of File notice was placed on their personnel folder, and disciplinary actions are pending for the employee and the remaining supervisor.

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2023 20222 – Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

A DHS contract employee clocked-in for a DHS employee who subsequently and knowingly submitted a falsified timecard and corresponding timesheet. Additionally, two other contract employees also clocked-in for one other. DHS indicated the three contract employees were terminated and disciplinary action is pending for the DHS employee, and a "Do Not Send" (DNS) notification was submitted for one of the three contract employees.

2023 20310 - Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

A DHS employee left work early on six occasions without notifying a supervisor and did not reflect the time-off on their timesheet. In addition, the employee and their brother-in-law, also a DHS employee failed to submit required Nepotism forms. DHS indicated that the first employee retired, and that disciplinary action is pending for the second employee.

2023_20869 - Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

A DHS employee used their County computer to consistently visit websites that provided free access to movies, television shows, and live television during work hours. DHS indicated that the employee resigned prior to discipline being imposed, and Top of File and DNS notices were placed in their personnel folder.

2024 21516 - Human Resources

A DHS contract employee submitted a fraudulent respiratory fit test certification. DHS indicated that the contract employee was removed from the DHS assignment.

2024 21539 - Human Resources

A subcontracted employee forged an official internal DHS letter claiming the subject has a disability requiring an emotional support animal. DHS indicated that the subcontract employee was terminated.

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Internal Services Department (ISD)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
2	6	3	11

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Human Resources > Performance Management	1
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Inventory, Equipment, Other Assets	1
Total:	2

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2023_20701 – Human Resources

An ISD employee failed to declare their outside employment as required for 2022 and 2023. ISD indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

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Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
2	2	2	6

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Billing	2
Human Resources > Performance Management	2
Vendor Corruption	1
Total:	5

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2019_15322 – Asset Misappropriation | Vendor Corruption

A LAHSA contracted agency overbilled the County for clients not eligible for homeless services and failed to provide adequate oversight over their contract resulting in misappropriation of funds. LAHSA identified \$176,439.45 in disallowed costs. LAHSA indicated that the agency provided adequate documentation to support some of the costs and agreed to repay the remaining \$119,405.70 in disallowed costs.

2022 19422 – Human Resources

A LAHSA employee failed to respond timely to a document request from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, resulting in a participant's emergency housing voucher expiring. LAHSA indicated that the participant was issued a new voucher to secure a permanent residence, and they intend to implement comprehensive policies and training.

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Department of Medical Examiner (DME)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
2	1	2	5

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Human Resources > Performance Management	2
Total:	2

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2022 19250 – Human Resources

A DME employee recorded and posted to their personal social media account images of offensive memorabilia found during an official search of a decedent's residence. DME indicated that the employee received a 3-day suspension without pay.

2023 20711 – Human Resources

A DME employee failed to secure decedent property in accordance with policy, which resulted in the loss of \$454. DME indicated that the employee received a written warning.

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Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
4	9	4	17

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Human Resources > Performance Management	2
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Expense Reimbursement	1
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll	1
Total:	4

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2022 19681 – Asset Misappropriation

A DMH employee made unauthorized personal purchases totaling \$1,990.26 with their County-issued credit card. DMH indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2022 19708 – Human Resources

A DMH employee listed themselves as the payee on a Social Security Administration check for a DMH client instead of designating the client's nursing facility. DMH confirmed that the employee did not use the client's funds, and disciplinary action is pending. OCI will work with the investigating department to refer this matter for prosecution.

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Probation Department (Probation)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
2	6	7	15

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Human Resources > Performance Management	2
Total:	2

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2022 19288 – Human Resources

Probation failed to properly monitor a probationer, accurately record contact with the probationer, complete reports of the probationer's noncompliance, act on credible reports that the probationer used illicit substances and committed violent acts, or make law enforcement aware that the probationer may be armed. Probation indicated that an executive manager was discharged and a Top of File notice placement is pending. Probation also implemented additional internal control improvements.

2023 20294 – Human Resources

A Probation supervisor failed to complete assigned video safety check reviews and inappropriately delegated their duties to a subordinate who was not authorized to review the files. The supervisor received a 3-day suspension without pay, and the subordinate employee received a warning.

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⁴ This review was completed by the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General.

Department of Public Health (DPH)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
5	4	5	14

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll	2
Human Resources > Performance Management	2
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Billing	1
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash on Hand	1
Corruption > Conflict of Interest	1
Total:	7

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2022_19088 – Asset Misappropriation

A total of 97 gift cards, each valued at \$10, were found missing from a DPH health center resulting in a loss of \$970. DPH and OCI investigators could not determine whether the missing gift cards were stolen or the result of recordkeeping deficiencies. Internal control weaknesses were identified, and several corrective actions were implemented.

2022_19309 – Asset Misappropriation | Corruption

A DPH employee created a conflict of interest by conducting an inspection of a relative's property and falsely inflated their claimed time spent conducting inspections. DPH indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2023 20105 – Human Resources

A DPH employee did not complete multiple case assignments and falsified work logs to cover their lack of responsiveness. DPH indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2023 20608 – Asset Misappropriation

A DPH employee failed to sign-in/out as required and falsified their timecard. DPH indicated that the employee's timecard was corrected.

2023 20841 – Asset Misappropriation

A counselor employed by a DPH contracted vendor falsely claimed more time spent in client sessions than actually conducted, resulting in \$11,331.84 in overbilling to the County. DHS indicates that the vendor voided the fraudulent claims, terminated the vendor employee, and implemented additional internal controls.

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Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
67	58	4	129

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Human Resources > Performance Management	51
Privacy Violation	46
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll	7
Asset Misappropriation > Theft > Cash Disbursements > Payroll > Benefits	5
Human Resources > Other	4
Asset Misappropriation > Misuse > IT Resources	1
Corruption > Conflict of Interest	1
Total:	115

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

2020 16967 – Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

A DPSS employee who is also an In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provider submitted false claims that they provided simultaneous care to two recipients, resulting in \$14,245.76 in fraudulent payments. The employee also failed to report that they lived with other recipients of DPSS-administered benefits, engaged in IHSS care in excess of the County's allowable outside employment limit, and falsely underreported their IHSS hours on their outside employment declaration. DPSS indicated that disciplinary action and reimbursement are pending. OCI will work with the investigating department to refer this matter for prosecution.

2022_18797 - Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources

A DPSS employee obtained \$11,162 in fraudulent DPSS-administered welfare benefits by omitting key details of their living situation and income from their claim. DPSS indicated that the employee resigned in lieu of discharge, and a Top of File notice was placed in the employee's personnel folder. DPSS also referred the matter to LADA for prosecution.

2023 19885 – Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources | Privacy Violation

A DPSS employee obtained \$3,333 in fraudulent DPSS-administered welfare benefits by omitting their County employment and earnings from their claim. DPSS intends to suspend the employee for 30 days without pay and seek restitution. DPSS also referred the matter to LADA for prosecution.

2023 20120 - Human Resources

A DPSS employee engaged in unreported outside employment activities in excess of the County's allowable limit. DPSS indicated that the employees received a 10-day suspension without pay.

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2023_20216 – Asset Misappropriation

A DPSS employee obtained \$103,793 in fraudulent DPSS-administered welfare benefits by omitting their County employment and earnings and key details of their living situation from their claim. DPSS indicated that the employee resigned due to personal reasons prior to the completion of the investigation, and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder. DPSS also referred the matter to LADA for prosecution.

2023 20445 – Human Resources

A DPSS employee falsified case narratives, field itineraries, and mileage claims related to home visit reassessments, and also failed to complete home visits for 20 cases. DPSS intends to suspend the employee for 15 days without pay.

2023 20515 - Human Resources

A DPSS employee failed to report their outside employment in 2022 and 2023, as required. DPSS indicated that disciplinary action is pending.

2023 20584 – Asset Misappropriation | Human Resources | Privacy Violation

A DPSS employee obtained \$17,119 in fraudulent DPSS-administered welfare benefits by omitting their County employment and earnings from their claim. The employee also falsified their application for Section 8 housing benefits. Additionally, the employee accessed confidential client records associated with their relative without authorization or a business need. DPSS intends to discharge the employee and referred the various issues to LADA and the Los Angeles County Development Authority.

2023_20659 - Asset Misappropriation

A DPSS employee submitted ten falsified medical certifications to justify absences from work between August 2023 and March 2024. DPSS intends to suspend the employee for 30 days without pay. OCI will work with the investigating department to refer this matter for prosecution.

2023 20663 – Asset Misappropriation

A DPSS employee used an automated device attached to their computer to simulate activity and falsely make it appear that they were working. The employee admitted to using the device for approximately three months and confirmed lengthy periods of inactivity. DPSS intends to suspend the employee for ten days without pay.

2024 20978 - Asset Misappropriation

A DPSS employee submitted a total of seven falsified medical certifications over a five-month period to justify their absences from work. DPSS intends to discharge the employee.

2024 21012 - Asset Misappropriation

A DPSS employee submitted a total of four falsified medical certifications to justify their absences from work. DPSS indicated that the employee resigned, and a Top of File notice was placed in their personnel folder.

2024 21075 - Asset Misappropriation

A DPSS employee submitted a falsified medical certification to justify their extended absence from work. DPSS intends to suspend the employee for ten days without pay.

2024 21205 – Asset Misappropriation

A DPSS employee submitted a falsified medical certification to justify their extended absence from work. DPSS intends to discharge the employee.

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2024 21271 – Asset Misappropriation

A DPSS employee submitted a total of six falsified medical certifications to justify their two-day absence from work. DPSS indicated that the employee was discharged, and a Top of File notice was placed in the employee's personnel folder.

Various – Human Resources | Privacy Violation

DPSS investigated 42 cases involving 43⁵ employees who improperly accessed participants' confidential case records without authorization or a business need. In addition, 25 of these employees either failed to report that they had a social relationship with the participants, that the participants were relatives, that they and/or the participants received benefits, and/or the participants resided with the employee. DPSS indicated that:

- Three employees were discharged/terminated from County service,
- Two employees resigned from County service,
- Three employees received Top of File notices in their personnel folders,
- One employee was demoted,
- Seven employees received a 10-day suspension without pay,
- One employee received a 5-day suspension without pay,
- Four employees received reprimands,
- Three employees were counseled or received a warning,
- One employee received no disciplinary action, and
- Twenty employees have disciplinary actions pending.

Various - Human Resources

DPSS investigated seven cases involving seven employees who failed to report that they either received DPSS-administered benefits, their relatives received benefits and resided with them, and/or they had a social relationship with the participants. DPSS indicated that five employees received a reprimand, and two employees received no disciplinary action.

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⁵ Some employees received multiple related disciplinary actions. For example, DPSS placed a Top of File notice in the personnel folder for discharged employees.

Department of Public Works (DPW)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
1	8	1	10

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Human Resources > Performance Management	2
Total:	2

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

None

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Sheriff Department (Sheriff)

Investigative Results:

Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Not Investigated	Total
1	7	2	10

Substantiated Cases:

Allegation Type(s)	No.
Human Resources > Performance Management	1
Total:	1

High Risk / Impact Case Summaries

None

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER LOS ANGELES COUNTY FRAUD HOTLINE RESOLVED AND PENDING DISCIPLINARY / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS

As of September 26, 2024

	Resolved Cases	Pending Cases	Number
	Discipline/Corrective	Discipline/Corrective	of Days
Department	Action Taken	Action	Outstanding (1)(4)
AC/WM	1	0	
Aging and Disabilities	0	3	
		201915470 (2)	1592
		201915964 (2)	1549
		202219034	485
Assesors	0	1	
		202218712	274
Chief Executive Office	0	2	
		202118136 (2)	868
		202219418	454
Children and Family Services	31	3	_
		201915177 (2)	1599
		202017078 (3)	1429
		202218833 (3)	755
Economic Opportunity	0	1	100
Economic Opportunity	•	201915415 (1)	454
Fire	0	1	707
1110	U U	202118113 (2)	799
Health Services	27	17	
		201916050	316
		202016820 (2)	819
		202017483 (2)	819
		202117677 (2)	645
		202118256	272
		202118438	272
		202118483	478
		202118515 (2)	819
		202218863	270
		202219240	274
		202219306	455
		202219643	270
		202219644	270
		202219776	274
		202319910	272
		202320075	274
		202320508	279

⁽¹⁾ Calculated from date department issued investigation report. Per protocols issued by the Department of Human Resources (DHR), each department's management is responsible for prioritizing outstanding cases based on the level of discipline. Office of County Investigations (OCI) is not responsible for evaluating the cause or reasonableness of the delays. OCI's role is to follow up with departments for a status of pending discipline for inclusion in this report.

⁽²⁾ Discipline is pending departmental reponse.

⁽³⁾ Discipline is pending due to employee(s) leave of absence. DHR has issued protocols to assist departments with managing the disciplinary process with employees on leave. DHR has also recommended that each department consult with DHR and County Counsel on cases that involve discipline of an employee on leave to resolve such cases timely.

⁽⁴⁾ Effective this reporting period, we revised our calculation of the "Number of Days Outstanding" to use the "date" the case was released to the department to initiate the disciplinary process instead of the date of the investigative report. Therefore, the "Number of Days Oustanding" for some cases may appear to be higher/lower than as previously reported.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER LOS ANGELES COUNTY FRAUD HOTLINE RESOLVED AND PENDING DISCIPLINARY / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS

As of September 26, 2024

	Resolved Cases	Pending Cases	Number
	Discipline/Corrective	Discipline/Corrective	of Days
Department	Action Taken	Action	Outstanding (1)(4)
Internal Services	2	1	
		201713718	289
Medical Examiner	1	0	
Mental Health	6	4	
Wentai Health	8	201713708 (2)	1731
			_
		201915645 (2)	1000
		202117945 (2)	764
5 1 4		202320507	302
Probation	0	1	F00
		202219032	562
Public Defender	0	2	
		202017385 (2)	920
		202320443	274
Public Health	1	1	
		202118452	272
Public Social Services	44	6	
		202118436	303
		202219397	273
		202219411	279
		202219526	302
		202319983	397
		202320065	295
Public Works	1	1	
		202320631	304
RR/CC	2	0	
TTO	4	0	
TTC	1	0	
Dan anter and Tartal	447	44	
Department Total:	117	44	

- (1) Calculated from date department issued investigation report. Per protocols issued by the Department of Human Resources (DHR), each department's management is responsible for prioritizing outstanding cases based on the level of discipline. Office of County Investigations (OCI) is not responsible for evaluating the cause or reasonableness of the delays. OCI's role is to follow up with departments for a status of pending discipline for inclusion in this report.
- (2) Discipline is pending departmental reponse.
- (3) Discipline is pending due to employee(s) leave of absence. DHR has issued protocols to assist departments with managing the disciplinary process with employees on leave. DHR has also recommended that each department consult with DHR and County Counsel on cases that involve discipline of an employee on leave to resolve such cases timely.
- (4) Effective this reporting period, we revised our calculation of the "Number of Days Outstanding" to use the "date" the case was released to the department to initiate the disciplinary process instead of the date of the investigative report. Therefore, the "Number of Days Outstanding" for some cases may appear to be higher/lower than as previously reported.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER LOS ANGELES COUNTY FRAUD HOTLINE OPEN CASE AGING REPORT BY INVESTIGATIVE UNIT As of June 30, 2024

		Greater Than One Year ¹		ear ¹
			Median	Average
epartmental Investigative Units	Open Cases	Open Cases	Days Open	Days Open
Aging and Disabilities	7	5	698	1,002
Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures	2	1	375	375
Animal Care and Control	1	1	432	432
Assessor	1	0	-	-
Auditor-Controller	1	0	-	-
Beaches and Harbors	1	0	-	-
Board of Supervisors	2	0	=	-
Chief Executive Office	1	1	502	502
Children and Family Services	41	0	=	-
County Counsel - Internal Affairs	2	1	388	388
District Attorney	4	0	-	-
Economic Opportunity ²	3	2	1,268	1,268
Fire	39	14	584	702
Health Services	165	76	523	587
Human Resources	2	0	=	-
Internal Services	33	26	776	959
LA County Library	3	1	420	420
Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association	1	0	-	-
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority	15	5	580	755
Medical Examiner	3	2	857	857
Mental Health	104	74	1,063	1, 074
Military and Veterans Affairs	1	0	-	-
Parks and Recreation	7	1	424	424
Probation	29	1	377	377
Public Defender	14	11	1,091	1,297
Public Health	27	3	537	520
Public Social Services	102	6	452	454
Public Works	7	0	-	-
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk	3	1	419	419
Sheriff	17	9	997	1,010

Countywide Investigative Units ³	Open Cases
Office of County Investigations	120
Chief Executive Office - Risk Management	9
County Counsel - Employment Investigations	20
Economic Opportunity - Office of Small Business	6
Human Resources - Departmental Support	22
Sheriff - Court Services Division	1
Sub Total	178

Greater Than One Year ¹				
	Median Average			
Open Cases	Days Open	Days Open		
35	690	787		
1	3,168	3,168		
15	811	860		
6	1,226	1,251		
5	465	588		
1	893	893		
63				

Grand Total	816	304

Footnotes:

- (1) Includes all cases received by the Fraud Hotline prior to June 30, 2023, and not yet completed.
- (2) Transferred from the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS).
- (3) Cases assigned to Countywide Investigative Units generally have a higher number of days open for cases due to the complexity of the issues involved. In addition, these aging statistics may reflect cases that were reassigned to a Countywide unit after significant review/investigation by a departmental unit, or are being held open for tracking during legal abeyance or other delay.