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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Los Angeles sheriff's department enhances website accessibility for people with visual impairments

(Los Angeles, CA – December 7, 2017) The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) will take affirmative steps to make its webpages, including its inmate information center and visit scheduling system, accessible and inclusive to people with visual impairments. See settlement [here](#). LASD has adopted the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.0 level AA as its accessibility standard and is making enhancements to meet this standard.

LASD collaborated with Alicia Juarez, a blind mother seeking access to LASD webpages to schedule visits and keep informed about her son in LASD's facilities, on its accessibility initiative. Juarez was represented by Disability Rights California (DRC) and the Law Office of Lainey Feingold in this structured negotiations process.

Like many people with visual impairments, Juarez navigates the internet using software that reads webpages aloud to her. She applauds LASD's efforts:

“I’m very grateful for LASD’s significant commitment to website accessibility. With improved web access, I and other people with visual impairments will be able to independently schedule visits, read important information, and make sure that our loved ones are cared for in jail just like anyone else.”

LASD will continue to make accessibility improvements over the next year. More information about LASD’s web access efforts can be found on LASD’s [website](#).

“DRC commends LASD on making significant strides to provide web access for people with visual impairments,” said Sri Panchalam, DRC attorney. “The web is not only an increasingly important resource for government information for people with disabilities; it is also a gateway inclusion and active participation in government programs and services. We look forward to continued collaboration with LASD to ensure disability access its webpages.”

About the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

The WCAG 2.0 guidelines are published by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), an international community that develops open standards to ensure the long-term growth of the web. The guidelines are of particular benefit to people with visual impairments who use a screen reader, through which information on a page is read aloud, or magnification technology on their computers and who rely on a keyboard instead of a mouse. More information is available at w3.org/WAI.

About Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) is a law enforcement agency, which serves Los Angeles County, California; it is the largest sheriff's department in the world. LASD provides general law enforcement services to 42 contract cities, 140 unincorporated communities, over 200 facilities, hospitals, and clinics located throughout the county, 10 community colleges, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and 38 Los Angeles Superior Courts. Additionally, LASD is responsible in securing approximately 18,000 inmates daily in seven custody facilities which includes providing food and medical treatment. More information is available at www.lasd.org.

About Disability Rights California

Disability Rights California is a non-profit organization founded in 1978. We protect the rights of people with disabilities. Visit disabilityrightsca.org.