

Update Orange County, California

The situation between the appointed Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors seems to be getting more aggressive and distrusting every time new information surfaces.

The last week has brought nothing new for the CCW holders who want to prevent Mrs. Hutchens from revoking hundreds of legitimately issued permits. We are still waiting for the legal evaluation of her “quit or get fired” approach, which is on the agenda for the February 10th Board of Supervisor’s meeting.

There are however new developments in the abuse of the video surveillance system. During the board meeting of January 13th, a deputy/investigator zoomed in on the personal notes of those two supervisors who are very outspoken against Hutchens’ policy.

According to the Sheriff’s Department, this segment is less than one minute in length. It was not even mentioned until the [OCCCWS](#), a group founded to support CCW’s, requested the tapes as they supposedly also show how CCW supporters are being singled out and searched for weapons by OCSD deputies.

When the request came, Mrs. Hutchens had the tape reviewed and immediately contacted the board about the incriminating segment.

I’m not sure how many cameras are in the Board Meeting Room – my guess would be at least two, possibly four. With a four-hour long meeting this amounts to a minimum of 480 minutes. Sorry for slipping off into math, but the segment in question is 0.2% or less of the length of the tape.

Why did the OCSD conduct such a detailed review of the footage -- or did they know right from the beginning what was on there?

Mrs. Hutchens now refuses to release the original data to the Board of Supervisors for their review. She claims that it is her property and that she cannot release it -- first statement was due to security concerns regarding angles covered in the Meeting room. Now the claim is due to a pending investigation.

The supervisors are at a point where they consider contracting a different police agency or even a security company with building security. The two supervisors who were spied on are also considering legal steps.

The developing situation received the attention of the [Local Newspaper](#) since it started. Now the [LA Times](#) is also beginning to pick up on this issue. It is needless to say that the voices of the press are everything but positive for Mrs.

Hutchens. You may want to scroll down to the comments from the readers of the OC Register – they do not need any further comment.

Mrs. Hutchens is obviously exploiting her position as Sheriff to project power and enforce her own political agenda without regard for the concerns of the public, let alone their safety.

She is also acting without regard for the concerns of the Supervisors who seemingly made the mistake of appointing her.

Her actions lead me to believe that a lot of CCWs will be revoked. The official reason will be that the permit holders do no longer have good cause according to her revised criteria. I would not be surprised if the first ones to be revoked would match the names of the speakers from the public that appeared before the board to voice their concerns. Mrs. Hutchens and Assistant Sheriff Hillman did not even have to take notes since the Board meeting is available as [video on demand on the Internet](#).

Ladies, Gents, I know I said this before. Please keep the calls, e-mails, letters and faxes going. Please focus your support on voicing your concerns to Governor Schwarzenegger.

The initial flood of complaints has caused the supervisors to react. Even those who appointed her are now backpadding or practicing damage control.

Write to the Supervisors, and demand a full investigation of Mrs. Hutchens actions and of the funds that this issue has drained from the county.

[John Moorlach](#): (Hutchens strongest supporter)
[Janet Nguyen](#): (supported Hutchens appointment)
[Pat Bates](#): (last + deciding vote to appoint Hutchens)
[Bill Campbell](#): (voted against Hutchens)
[Chris Norby](#): (Currently the strongest opponent)

Write to the Governor and let him know that the successor of Carona, whom he wholeheartedly supported, could turn out to be just as severe in terms of political damage.

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