inmate's movements with a wrist band so that we can then compare the video with the actual tracking system so we would know exactly what inmate was in what point at what time.

Again, that is not going to eliminate the problem of assault and rapes in prison, but it will assist us in better documentation and tracking and prosecution of these.

And with that, I'm open to questions.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you very much for your testimony.

Let me just ask, have you had any reported incidents of either staff-on-detainee rapes or assaults of that nature, or inmate on inmate or detainee on detainee, allegations of that nature?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Yes, sir, we have. At Mira Loma detention facility since we opened in 1997, there have been no reported rapes of detainees. We have had one incidence of a detainee and a staff involved in an allegation of sexual activity.

That employee resigned from the department prior to being interviewed as part of the administrative investigation. So that's all we've had at the detention facility.
We -- yes, within our jail system, yes, we have had rapes of our --

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Do you have a formal process in place for the reporting of incidence of sexual assault that will preserve the -- that the inmate will or the detainee will feel confident will adequately provide a means of protection for them?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, we do have a system in place, sir.

The problem we face is more of the culture within the jail system in Los Angeles County. And they're just reluctant to report it.

And, again, our -- for my jails, the issue for us is we're in a dorm environment with anywhere from 68 to 140 inmates in one dorm. And they are generally supervised by one staff member.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: As far as your immigration population is concerned, what's the estimated or average amount of time that they would be in custody at your facility?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: They are generally in between one and two years, from the time they go through the intake process until the time their case is adjudicated. The average is probably between one and two years.
CHAIRMAN WALTON: Do you have a classification system in place that seeks to identify potential predators and potential victims?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Yes, sir. We -- as well as the Federal Government's classification, when they come to the Mira Loma detention facility, there's a deputy and a professional staff member that classify every inmate.

Our clientele tend to come from the five counties within Southern California. They generally come from another county jail and then become a detainee.

If they are a member of a street gang, if they are a member of a prison gang, we do not detain them there. We refuse to accept them.

If they are homosexual or if they are soft, we will not detain them in our system.

I don't know nationally what's done, but in the Los Angeles County jail system, they are removed from general population and kept separate from general population.

So if we identify that or they do not meet our classification criteria, they are not housed at Mira Loma.

We only house males and we only house
CHAIRMAN WALTON: Just one other question that I have. This classification process, is it ongoing or do you just do an initial classification and then there's no further classification efforts thereafter?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: No, sir. It's ongoing. They're reclassified.

And if -- for example, if they are involved in some violation of the jail rules -- which, again, we meet the California Title 15 rules for jail operation. So if they violate one of the rules, they go through the process. They get a hearing in front of a supervisor.

Then they could be reclassified to a level that is higher than the minimum level. And they will be removed from the jail.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you.

Commissioner Aiken?

COMMISSIONER AIKEN: No questions, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Commissioner Fellner?

COMMISSIONER FELLNER: I'm curious about the security camera. And I wonder, one, if you had resistance from your staff since they were also
going to be viewed by the camera all the time.
And I know in some jurisdictions there's been considerable officer resistance to cameras that were going to monitor them as well as detainees or inmates.
And I wonder whether the cameras have also caught any misconduct by staff or if you think that the presence of -- not just dereliction of duty, but actual mis- -- active misconduct by staff or if you think it's had a deterrent effect.
MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Several parts.
COMMISSIONER FELLNER: Several parts.
MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: We anticipated problems from not only the unions, but from our employees.
So we began discussions and educational meetings with the unions for about a year before we implemented the camera system. Because, again, that was our big concern, as well as if we go to inmate tracking device devices for the wrist bands, we will have tracking devices for our employees also.
So we met for a year, and everyone was comfortable. We put them in place. We have found -- let me see if I remember all the parts of the question. I'm sorry.
We have used them as documentation for the use of force in our force packages when we do use force. And we will retain those for future litigation if someone wanted to attempt to litigate it.

And we have, yes, used those to review. And if misconduct is found, we take appropriate disciplinary action. And we have actually terminated one employee so far based on the actions recorded in the camera.

So, yes, and everyone knows that.

One of the interesting things, though, for us is that the staff at that jail is very new. We're in a hiring process with the sheriff's department. We're hiring a thousand deputies this year.

So when you leave the academy, you come to the jail system, and generally you come to one of my four jails up north.

So I think I have -- about 60 percent of the deputy sheriffs assigned to this jail have less than one year's experience.

So we're bringing them into a culture that has the cameras already in place. And they're very comfortable with it. That's the way it is the day
they walk in the door, and that's the way it will be until they transfer to patrol.

So we've had no negative comments from the staff on it. And, yes, we've used it both to our benefit, and we've used it to correct performance and misconduct on the part of our staff.

COMMISSIONER FELLNER: So overall you think it was a good investment in terms of maintaining safe and secure facilities?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Oh, absolutely. I think it's worth every dollar. And it was about $1.2 million. And this is a very small 1800-person facility.

Yes. I think it is -- it should be in every jail. in fact, I have to thank the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, but -- they're funding the program so that we'll be putting the closed-circuit cameras in the jails in Los Angeles County.

COMMISSIONER FELLNER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Do you have anything, Commissioner Struckman-Johnson?

COMMISSIONER STRUCKMAN-JOHNSON: Can you tell us any more about the rapes that were -- the inmate-inmate rapes, rape cases or -- that you spoke
MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: I have to apologize. I have only been in the custody division for a year and a half, and I only know of two. And I believe Mr. Gennaco testified to those at an earlier hearing in San Francisco.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Right.

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: I have -- none have come to my attention in my four jails in a year and a half. Again, that's not to say that it has not occurred. It's just that they're not reported. And, again, part of that is the culture within the Los Angeles County jail system, and part of it is probably the fact that we don't have the ability to document what goes on in the dormitories. But those are the only two cases that I'm aware of. And so I -- I mean, I don't have all of the information and as concise as Mr. Gennaco.

Were you there for his testimony?

COMMISSIONER STRUCKMAN-JOHNSON: Right.

Yeah.

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

COMMISSIONER STRUCKMAN-JOHNSON: Okay.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Do you have any ideas of
what could be done to change that culture in order
to have individuals more willing to come forward and
provide information?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Mr. Chairman, I'm
not sure how to change the culture of the jail
system in Los Angeles County. Our jail system is
similar to the California state prison system
because we are not really a county jail in the --
what you would normally think of.

Over 90 percent of my inmates are
presentenced. They have not been to court. They
have not been convicted. They're awaiting trial or
they're state prisoners awaiting to go back to state
prison or they're parole violators. About 8 percent
of my 19,000 inmates are probably actually county
jail inmates who are sentenced and serving time in
county jail.

The other 92 percent, again, are awaiting
trial or in trial predominantly for felonies.

And upon conviction, the majority of them
will probably end up in state prison.

I send about 24,000 inmates a year to state
prison from the L.A. County jail system.

So it's more of a -- it's not your
traditional county jail system anymore. It's --
we're just holding presentenced prisoners that are in jail for serious felonies and awaiting trial. And a large portion of those are gang members within Los Angeles County.

So, no, I'm not sure how we could change the culture. I think the cameras, I think the tracking devices, and I think making it easier for them to report it and systems for us to understand the culture within the dorm environment or within the jail settings so that we could understand exactly what -- much better what goes on inside there. And somehow we can then impact it.

But I don't have a solution to change the culture for L.A. County, no, sir.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you.

Commissioner Kaneb?

COMMISSIONER KANEB: First of all, Mr. Rodriquez, congratulations on Mira Loma. It sounds to be a very successful operation and happy to read about it, happy to hear about it.

The jails are obviously really a different world. Would you -- or am I overstating that difference?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: I would say our jail system in Los Angeles County is quite similar to the
State of California prison system.

COMMISSIONER KANEK: No. But I meant the jails are a different world from Mira Loma.

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Oh, definitely, sir. Completely.

COMMISSIONER KANEK: Yeah. And the fact is that you are apparently, I'm pleased to hear it, quite impressed with the capabilities of technology and if not enforcing proper behavior, in this case in regard to sexual activity, but also deterring it. So how many cameras would you typically have -- and I realize the building is probably different sizes -- and where are they without giving me too much detail?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: The cameras are actually inside the dormitories -- all but one. There's one camera that's outside the dormitory. And in this environment, the first building, it's built in 1950. It is a cement structure with no windows. And the front of it is a screen. That's where the staff station is. And at the front of the building to the right-hand side are the bathrooms. And then the rest of it is just a large room with bunks in it.

So inside the dorm itself, there are two
sets of cameras that are moveable. And I have to
tell you, it's amazing to watch our young personnel
to deal with the technology because it has a
joystick that you can move the camera around and
zoom in and out. And, unlike me, they are very good
at that, probably because they were raised with this
type.

So you can read an inmate's wrist band.
You can see what an inmate is reading on his bunk.
And we currently have it at about 60 percent of its
quality.

Then we also have one on the outside that
you can see the staff station and the deputies. So
you can watch the entire dorm.

It's split screen. And on the monitor, it
monitors a number of dorms at once. And all you
have to do is click on the dorm, and it expands to
that one dorm.

COMMISSIONER KANE: And is the system
operating 24/7?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Yes, sir, it is
operating and it -- the only time it doesn't record,
if there's absolutely no movement inside the dorm.
Electronically it won't record. But it's 24/7.

COMMISSIONER KANE: And the wrist bands
MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Very old, very simple technology, but, yes, that's what we're looking at for the wrist bands.

COMMISSIONER KANEB: Meaning the wrist bands are relatively new in your --

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: We have not done that yet, sir. That's a second step for us. We have -- the cameras were placed last year. The next step that we'd like to see is the RFID technology for the wrist bands, which they're working on.

And in the meantime we're moving to Central Jail where we're putting in about $20 million' worth of these cameras.

What we found very interesting, though, is the inmates have never attempted to defeat the camera. They understand they're in there, but they've never attempted to defeat it.

COMMISSIONER KANEB: Now, there are four facilities that you administer; is that correct?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER KANEB: Four jails.

Are they all barracks style, or do some have individual-type cells?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: They're
predominantly dorm settings, sir. I do have hard-lock cells for discipline and admin seg. Except for my largest jail up there, which is called North County Correctional Facility, which can house 4,000 inmates.

It has a separate wing of two-man cells in pod configuration.

COMMISSIONER KANEB: Are you using cameras in the two-man cells, or do you intend to?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: We intend to, yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER KANEB: And you're getting -- obviously you're getting funded for all of this?

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER KANEB: Well, I must say I'm very pleased with everything I'm hearing. The Commission is very, very much interested in technology as a means of principally deterring sexual aggression but also helping it -- its prohibition being enforced.

And I would hope you would be willing to talk with our staff and consultants we might be retaining on the usefulness of this system, of both systems.

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: I would be happy to,
sir.

And I extend, again, an invitation to anyone on the Commission or any staff member who would like to come up. We'll show you the system. We'll have staff explain it to you. And we can even show you some of the actions that we've recorded.

And really, again, it's encrypted. It can be used for best evidence in court.

So it's -- I think it's state of the art, and I think it's the future of jail management in -- not eliminating the inmate-on-inmate assaults, but at least on reducing and in prosecution.

COMMISSIONER KANEB: Music to my ears.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you very much for your appearance. We appreciate your testimony. And I'm sure it will be very helpful in our deliberations.

Sometimes after the fact commissioners think of questions they would have liked to have asked, and they may want to submit written questions to you. If they do that, we'd hope you would respond.

MR. DONALD RODRIGUEZ: I will, sir. Thank you.