



ORANGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

SHERIFF-CORONER DON BARNES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from Sheriff Barnes on Wearing of Unauthorized Insignia

SANTA ANA, Ca. (June 3, 2020) – We are aware of photos and video regarding an Orange County Deputy Sheriff wearing patches on his uniform that are associated with extremist groups. These symbols are not department-approved and are prohibited by policy, and contradict the values of the Sheriff's Department. First and foremost, thank you to the many members of the public who brought this to our attention.

"This deputy's decision to wear these patches, and the implication of his association with an extremist group, is unacceptable and deeply concerning to me," said Sheriff Don Barnes. "Any symbol can have multiple meanings and is open to interpretation, which is why wearing of non-approved symbols and patches is strictly prohibited. Instances like this can forge a wedge separating law enforcement from the community we serve, especially during these turbulent times."

A core mission of the Orange County Sheriff's Department is to provide public safety services free from prejudice or favor and to listen to the concerns of the community we serve.

The Department is conducting an internal investigation. In addition, we have re-briefed all employees regarding our uniform policy.

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