



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

June 12, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write today out of concern for the safety and wellbeing of Los Angeles-area Veterans. Due to the violent mobs rioting in Los Angeles in support of illegal immigrants and against the rule of law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was forced to close its Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center from Monday, June 9, 2025, through at least Friday, June 13, 2025. Local VA leaders made this difficult decision after criminals defaced the outer walls of the facility with profanity-laden graffiti threatening the lives of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel.

Closure of the clinic has so far impacted more than 600 Veteran appointments, which are having to be rescheduled. In other words, your state's failure to maintain law and order in Los Angeles is coming between Veterans and the health care they have earned.

What has struck me most about the city and state's response to this ordeal is that your primary concern seems to be virtue signaling your opposition to President Donald J. Trump's efforts to restore law and order throughout the city rather than protecting the hardworking Angelenos who are being victimized by violent rioters and other criminals.

We are thankful President Trump has the courage to bring order and safety back to the citizens of Los Angeles—something California leaders have failed to do. Your state and city's lackadaisical response to the riots raises serious questions regarding the safety and security of VA-enrolled Veterans in Los Angeles once the National Guard and other Federal authorities leave the city. Accordingly, I request answers to the following questions:

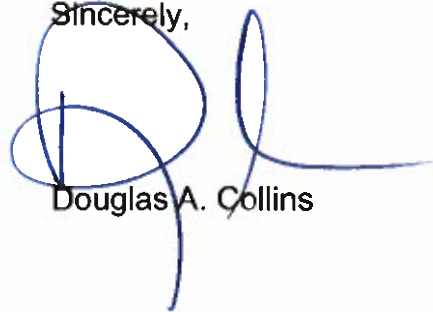
- What specific steps are state and local authorities taking to restore law and order to the area surrounding VA's Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center so that Veterans who seek treatment there can feel safe?
- During recent rioting activity, criminals defaced the outer walls of VA's Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center with profanity-laden graffiti threatening the lives of ICE personnel. What is the status of state and local authorities' investigations into this matter?

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- Should state and local authorities charge any suspects with vandalizing the Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center, will they be immediately released back onto the streets thanks to Los Angeles' zero-bail system?
- Given that state and local authorities failed to provide enough of a police presence to prevent VA's Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center from being vandalized, will state and local authorities pay for the costs to repair the damage to the building?
- California is home to dozens of VA facilities across the state. What steps are state and local officials taking in other parts of the state to prevent Los Angeles-style violent riots in support of illegal immigrants and against the rule of law from occurring elsewhere?

I sent a similar letter to Mayor Karen Bass. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Collins', with a large loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Douglas A. Collins