

*Orange County District Tony Rackauckas sent the following statement to Voice of OC on June 11, 2019 regarding his Dec. 20, 2018 letter clearing sheriff's deputies over untruthfulness related to informants. Rackauckas cleared the deputies against the recommendation his senior management staff provided in memos six months earlier, according to new DA Todd Spitzer.*

*Here is Rackauckas' full statement:*

“During the several years regarding the Dekraai case, there were dozens of meetings and memos written whether some OCSD Deputies should be placed on the "Brady" index. Some were. The final determination as to others was made after my meeting with Chief Assistant District Attorney Jim Tanizaki. My judgment was that there was insufficient evidence to put them on a Brady list should there be litigation concerning the matter. A letter to Sheriff Hutchens indicating my decision was shared with the senior management involved. My judgment was based on the evidence I had, but should a new district attorney and his Chief Assistant feel differently they have full authority to put the deputies on their Brady list.”

*The reporter followed up to ask Rackauckas when he told senior management he was sending the letter to sheriff officials clearing the deputies, and why he believed differently from his staff's analysis not to clear five of the deputies.*

*Rackauckas replied:*

“We sent the letter at the time we sent it to the Sheriff. I reviewed all of the evidence very carefully, and that is my judgement.”