



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD AT:  
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
ONE GATEWAY PLAZA 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, METRO BOARDROOM  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://coc.lacounty.gov>**



**Tuesday, November 19, 2019  
9:00 AM**

Attachment: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Patti Giggans, Vice-Chair Lael Rubin, Robert Bonner, James P. Harris, Casimiro Tolentino, Sean Kennedy, Xavier Thompson, and Executive Director Brian K. Williams

Absent: Hernan Vera and Priscilla Ocen

## **1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

- Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patti Giggans at 9:06 a.m.

Chair Giggans welcomed members of the Commission. Prior to the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Giggans requested a moment of meditation and reminded the community of the new procedural changes regarding public comment and signage.

- Approval of October 22, 2019 meeting minutes

On motion of Commissioner Thompson seconded by Vice-Chair Rubin, there being no objection, the October 22, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

## **2. UPDATE, DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. 2a - Presentation by the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner

Chair Giggans discussed the need to explain to the community the role of the Medical Examiner-Coroner following fatal uses of force and in custody deaths. Chair Giggans welcomed Los Angeles County's Medical Examiner-Coroner, Dr. Jonathan Lucas.

Dr. Lucas highlighted the various responsibilities of his department following fatal uses of force and in custody deaths. Dr. Lucas stated that his department is required by state law to determine the manner and cause of death for certain types of deaths in Los Angeles County, defined by the Government code and

**Health and Safety code. The department investigates about 10,000 deaths annually. Dr. Lucas also highlighted that the Medical Examiner-Coroner does not determine whether law enforcement followed proper procedures, determine guilt or innocence of those involved, or provide viewing of the body at their facility.**

**Following his presentation, Dr. Lucas answered various questions from the Commission.**

**Chair Giggans requested the number of investigations in the past five years that have been placed on security holds by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.**

**There were two members of the public who addressed the Commission.**

**b. 2b – Discussion and Update regarding the Family Assistance Program**

**Chair Giggans introduced staff member Ingrid Williams who gave a brief overview of the genesis of the Family Assistance Program (FAP). Ms. Williams highlighted the Commission's Family Assistance and Communication Ad Hoc Committee's report and recommendations, as well as the directives of the consequent Board motions. Ms. Williams discussed the efforts of the FAP's implementation team to date and highlighted next steps for the team. Following her presentation, Ms. Williams introduced Ms. Miriam Brown, Deputy Director of Outreach, Engagement & Triage for the Department of Mental Health.**

**Ms. Brown presented on the implementation of the Family Assistance Program thus far. Ms. Brown highlighted that the FAP consisted of Family Assistance Advocates (FAAs) who receive and respond to incidents of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths. FAAs support families, friends and witnesses impacted by such incidents and provide mental health and social services.**

**Ms. Brown shared an overview of the incidents that FAAs have been called to since August 2019, as well as discussed some of the various responses from families. Ms. Brown highlighted that the next efforts of the implementation team will be to hire permanent staff for the program.**

**Following her presentation, Ms. Brown answered questions from the Commission.**

**There was one member of the public who addressed the Commission.**

**c. 2c – Discussion regarding allegations of harassment of families by Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Patrol staff**

**Chair Giggans discussed the issue of allegations of harassment following deputy related shootings that families have reported to the Commission during monthly**

**Commission meetings and town halls. Chair Giggans introduced the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) Executive Director Brian K. Williams to further discuss the issue.**

**Mr. Williams introduced the COC's motion to direct the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to begin a formal inquiry and assessment as to whether harassment of families by LASD patrol operations staff is occurring and the nature of the harassment following fatal uses of force. The motion also requests that the LASD initiate its own investigation of alleged harassment occurring in the East Los Angeles and Century Sheriff stations. Both agencies were asked to report back to the Commission within sixty days. Mr. Williams highlighted the Commission's intent to formally address the number of concerns and incidents of harassment the community has shared with the Commission.**

**Following Mr. Williams' presentation, the Commission further discussed the issue. Commissioner Bonner offered a friendly amendment; motion was amended and approved unanimously by the Commission.**

**There were 11 members of the public who addressed the Commission.**

### **3. COMMISSION UPDATES**

- Executive Director's Report

**Executive Director Brian K. Williams discussed the Commission's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Policing Conference. Mr. Williams also reported that beginning in 2020, the Commission will meet on Thursdays.**

**Mr. Williams highlighted LASD's response to the Commission's resolution regarding the Brady list. Mr. Williams mentioned that LASD responded on December 5, 2019 that LASD is seeking an opinion from County Counsel and will report once a decision has been made.**

- Office of Inspector General Update

**Inspector General Max Huntsman briefed the Commission on LASD's town halls. Mr. Huntsman informed the Commission that his staff has begun to attend the town halls and that moving forward, the OIG will be attending upcoming town halls.**

- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

**Assistant Sheriff Steve Gross informed the Commission regarding the ongoing investigation of the incident that took place in Saugus High School. He also discussed the Department's efforts to comply with SB-1421 Peace officers: release of records.**

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were 4 members of the public who addressed the Commission.

#### **5. MISCELLANEOUS**

- Adjournment

Chair Giggans adjourned the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission meeting at 12:50 PM. The next COC meeting will be held on December 17, 2019.