



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION, SPECIAL
HEARING ON DEPUTY GANGS IN THE SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT HELD ONLINE AT: <https://bit.ly/3t19jEk>
coc.lacounty.gov**



Friday, June 10, 2022

Attachment: [Video](#) and [Exhibits](#)

Present: Chair Sean Kennedy, Robert Bonner, Irma Hagans Cooper, Luis S. Garcia, James Harris, Jamon R. Hicks, Lael Rubin, and Executive Director Brian K. Williams

Absent: Patricia Giggans

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and requested staff to call roll.

2. CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION REGARDING DEPUTY CLIQUES/GANGS AND EXCLUSIONARY SUBGROUPS OPERATING WITHIN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Chair Kennedy provided opening remarks and acknowledged Counsel Bert Deixler.

Commissioner Bonner discussed subpoenas approved by the Subpoena ad hoc committee and made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rubin to ratify subpoenas issued and served to Larry Waldie, Eli Vera and Matthew Burson.

Chair Kennedy then called for public comments, however no one signed up for public comments on this topic.

Chair Kennedy called for a vote on [the motion to ratify subpoenas issued to Larry Waldie, Eli Vera and Matthew Burson](#). The motion passed, with the absence of Commissioner Giggans.

Next, Mr. Deixler advised the first witness scheduled to testify was retired LASD Chief Matthew Burson, who was served on June 2, 2022, and that Mr. Burson declined to respond to the subpoena. Mr. Deixler share a [video of Mr. Burson](#) addressing the public on deputy gangs and advised of the importance of Mr. Burson's testimony. Mr. Deixler advised that witnesses have declined to appear for fear of retaliation and career suicide, and he requested the Commission issue testimonial subpoenas to Larry Del Mese, Chief April Tardy, Undersheriff Timothy Murakami and Sheriff Alex Villanueva to testify under oath at the next special hearing.

Chair Kennedy then called for Commissioner questions. Commissioner Rubin inquired about witness testimony expectations, and Mr. Deixler discussed the nature and importance of their testimony.

Commissioner Bonner made a motion to subpoena Larry Del Mese, April Tardy, Undersheriff Murakami and Sheriff Villanueva to testify at the next special hearing on July 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at Loyola Law School. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harris.

Commissioner Bonner stated that three subpoenas have been issued to Sheriff Villanueva and at least one to Undersheriff Murakami since September 2021 and reported several attempts to get the Sheriff to testify at the regular Commission meetings. Commissioner Bonner advised County Counsel filed an action in January 2022 in Superior Court to enforce the subpoena and he is hopeful the Superior Court will expedite the subpoenas.

Mr. Deixler stated that on three separate occasions in writing, the Sheriff was invited to testify, and through Lt. O'Donnell stated that he will not appear voluntarily. Inspector General Max Huntsman stated his office served multiple subpoenas to the Sheriff with no cooperation.

Commissioner Harris inquired if another subpoena will be issued to Mr. Burson, and Commissioner Bonner stated the subpoena served on him should be enforced.

Chair Kennedy advised that the first special hearing produced evidence that deputy gangs are causing harm to the public and that witnesses are intimidated and afraid to testify. He stated the Commission should exhaust all efforts to compel them to come and testify under oath.

Following Commissioner comments, Chair Kennedy called for public comments, however no one signed up for public comments on this topic.

Chair Kennedy then called for a vote on the [motion to subpoena Larry Del Mese, April Tardy, Timothy Murakami and Alex Villanueva to testify](#). The motion passed, with the absence of Commissioner Giggans.

Commissioner Bonner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Harris, for County Counsel to take legal action to enforce the subpoena to Mr. Burson and to apply for an order to show cause why should not be held in contempt.

Separate from the motion, Commissioner Bonner requested that County Counsel consider appointing someone from pro bono counsel to represent the Commission with enforcement of the subpoena. Chair Kennedy called on County Counsel's Danielle Vappie, who commented on the subpoena and advised of County Counsel actions.

There was one public comment made on this item. Following public comment, Chair Kennedy called for a vote on the [motion to enforce the subpoena to Mr. Burson](#). The motion passed, with Commissioner Giggans absent.

Commissioner Bonner inquired if any other individuals should be subpoenaed for the next hearing. Mr. Deixler advised that other witnesses will be subpoenaed but that he is hoping they will volunteer.

Chair Kennedy stated that the Sheriff should encourage his staff to cooperate. Commissioner Rubin advised that the Sheriff had encouraged his staff to meet with the RAND Corporation for their study. Commissioner Bonner suggested a motion that the Commission officially request the Sheriff to request his staff cooperate with the investigation, and Commissioner Harris seconded the motion. Commissioner Rubin suggested a friendly amendment to read “for the Sheriff to direct his staff to cooperate with the investigation.” The friendly amendment was accepted.

Following the motion, Chair Kennedy called for public comments, however no one signed up for public comments on this topic.

Chair Kennedy called for a vote on the motion to send a letter to the Sheriff requesting him to direct his staff to cooperate with the deputy gangs investigation. The motion carried with Commissioner Giggans absent.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were five people who provided general public comment. View [written public comment](#).

Chair Kennedy then called on the Executive Director for comments. Mr. Williams announced the next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy announced the next special hearing will be on Friday, July 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.