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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF
CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

JUNE 10, 2022

SPECIAL HEARING ON DEPUTY GANS IN THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

MEMBERS

COMMISSION CHAIR SEAN KENNEDY

COMMISSIONER ROBERT BONNER

COMMISSIONER LAEL RUBIN

COMMISSIONER IRMA COOPER

COMMISSIONER JP HARRIS

COMMISSIONER LUIS GARCIA

COMMISSIONER JAMON HICKS

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I N D E X

Attendees

Commission Chair, Sean Kennedy

COMMISSIONERS:

Robert Bonner

Lael Rubin

JP Harris

Irma Cooper

Luis Garcia

Jamon Hicks

Bert Deixler, Kendall Brill & Kelly, LLP

Danielle Vappie, County Counsel

Exhibits

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Jacqueline Venters

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Chris Vazquez

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Jacqueline Venters

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Mr. Frederick

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Unidentified Female Speaker

45

Helen Jones

46

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: We're going to begin. I want to welcome
3 everyone to the second special hearing on deputy gangs of the
4 LA County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.

5 My colleagues at Loyola have asked if I could request
6 that everyone wear a mask in the room because of the rising
7 COVID rate. And if you need to speak -- if you're addressing
8 at the podium or whatever, I think it's fine for you to take
9 the mask off so everyone can hear you. But the rest of us,
10 just to stay safe, we're going to wear the -- the mask when
11 we're not actively speaking.

12 So at this time I think we -- I don't know if we
13 should ratify subpoenas before the special counsel starts his
14 presentation.

15 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Take a roll.

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Take roll.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: Ah. My colleague, the Chair of the
18 Ad Hoc Committee on Deputy Gangs, has graciously reminded me
19 that we ought to take roll before we begin this special
20 proceeding.

21 Thank you, Lael.

22 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: You're welcome.

23 FEMALE SPEAKER: Chair Kennedy?

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: Here.

25 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Here.

1 FEMALE SPEAKER: Hicks?

2 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Present.

3 FEMALE SPEAKER: Cooper?

4 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Present.

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Garcia?

6 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Here.

7 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Harris?

8 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Here.

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

10 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Present.

11 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: She is absent. She notified me last night
13 that she had a conflict and will not be able to be here.

14 Okay. So the issue of ratification has -- has been
15 brought up.

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I have a motion in that regard,
17 Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And just by way of background,
20 several subpoenas have been authorized for -- have been
21 reviewed by the ad hoc committee regarding subpoenas of the
22 oversight commission and have been signed off on, all per
23 motion of April 21st, 2022, of the full commission that permits
24 this -- this procedure to go forward. It does contemplate that
25 once the subpoenas are issued, and at an appropriate time that

1 would be -- an appropriate time would be when it's safe to
2 reveal the witness's name and reduces the likelihood of
3 intimidation of a witness, it would be those -- those
4 individuals who have been subpoenaed would be -- there would be
5 a ratification by the full commission the subpoenas have been
6 approved by the ad hoc committee and signed off on by the chair
7 of the commission.

8 So it's with that background in mind that I had --
9 there -- there are three subpoenas that I'm going to ask the
10 full commission to consider on motion ratifying, and -- and
11 they specifically name the individuals.

12 I might -- I might also note, just for the record,
13 that county counsel did advise us that even though we had, I
14 think, done a ratification motion, it was a blanket
15 ratification motion and that it would be prudent for the
16 oversight commission to, when it does ratify, ratify the
17 specific individual that was subpoenaed; so that's what we have
18 in mind here.

19 So the motion is:

20 "Whereas on April 21st, 2022" -- strike that. Let me
21 start over.

22 "Whereas at the April 21, 2022, hearing of the
23 Los Angeles County Sheriff Oversight Commission, hereinafter
24 referred to as 'commission,' the commission adopted a motion
25 authorizing the chair or vice chair of the Commission to sign

1 subpoena pursuant to any and all authority the commission has
2 to subpoena witnesses to appear and testify under oath before
3 it.

4 "Whereas the motion provided that such subpoenas
5 shall be ratified by the commission after review by the
6 commission's ad hoc committee regarding subpoena, and the
7 issuance of the commission's -- and the issuance by the
8 commission's chair or vice chair.

9 "Whereas the commission's ad hoc committee regarding
10 subpoenas reviewed and approved the issuance of each of the
11 subpoenas for the appearance and testimony of the below-named
12 individuals.

13 "And whereas the chair of the commission duly signed
14 and issued subpoenas for each of them to appear and testify
15 before the Commission,

16 "Now, therefore, the motion -- on motion of the
17 Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission, ratifies the issuance
18 of subpoenas issued and served on Larry Waldie, Eli Vera, and
19 Matthew Burson. Copies of the subpoenas and proofs of service
20 of same are hereby attached and made a part of the official
21 records of the Commission."

22 So that would be the ratification motion. We'll need
23 a second for it, and then we'll have discussion and whatever
24 and then vote on it, I would suggest, Mr. Chair.

25 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: I'll second.

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: Any discussion?

2 I don't see the -- any discussion -- any commissioner
3 wanting to talk about it.

4 Do we need public comment, or should we take --
5 okay. Public comment?

6 No. Let's -- let -- let's finish this matter.

7 Any -- so there's no comment on this?

8 Should we have a vote?

9 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yes.

11 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Bonner?

12 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Aye.

13 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

14 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Aye.

15 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

16 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Aye.

17 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

18 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Aye.

19 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

21 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

22 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Yes.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Is there any other business, Commissioner
24 Bonner?

25 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Mr. Chair, I would point out to

1 the -- the commission and the members of the public that are
2 here that the -- this commission did just ratify the subpoena
3 that was issued and duly served on Matthew Burson to appear
4 here this morning to give testimony with respect to his
5 knowledge with regard to deputy cliques, gangs, or exclusionary
6 subgroups and that testimony became pretty clearly important
7 based upon the -- the evidence that was adduced and presented
8 at our -- at our last hearing of the -- the last special
9 hearing with regard to this investigation.

10 So I'm wondering whether we have Mr. Burson here, and
11 are we prepared to proceed with him?

12 I guess I would ask Mr. Deixler that question.

13 MR. DEIXLER: (Inaudible) prepared to proceed with
14 Mr. Burson. Unfortunately, Mr. Burson has decided to not honor
15 the subpoena. When I have the opportunity to speak, I'd like
16 to indicate exactly why his testimony is critical at this
17 juncture.

18 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I think that would be
19 appropriate at the appropriate time. And I -- I do think that
20 perhaps we should -- this commission could -- should consider a
21 motion to enforce the subpoena, and I mean an expedited
22 enforcement proceeding in the LA County Superior Court to
23 require Mr. Burson to appear here; that, and to show cause why
24 he is not here and has not testified and to seek whatever
25 appropriate sanctions there are against a witness who has

1 apparently just openly flouted the subpoena that was issued to
2 him by this -- by this commission.

3 But I don't know. It may be appropriate time to hear
4 from Mr. Deixler on this. I -- I'd leave that to the chair as
5 to what order we want to take things.

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes. I think what we'll do is we'll take
7 that up after we hear from our pro bono special counsel
8 regarding his presentation for this second special hearing.

9 So, Bert, I'm going to turn it over to you.

10 MR. DEIXLER: Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you
11 again for the opportunity to speak with you and present.

12 As indicated, our witness -- first witness today was
13 Division Chief Matthew Burson, who has recently retired. He
14 was personally served on June 2nd at 7:46 a.m. with the
15 subpoena in question, which he has declined to respond to.

16 I think it's important for context that I indicate to
17 you why his testimony is important. And, first, let me show
18 you a bit of a video from a public statement that Chief Burson
19 offered in public:

20 "My name is Matthew Burson. That's M-a-t-t-h-e-w,
21 B-u-r-s-o-n, and I'm the Chief of the department's Professional
22 Standards Division. And my areas of responsibility include
23 Internal Affairs Bureau, known as IAB, and the Internal
24 Criminal Investigations Bureau.

25 "I am here to strongly denounce alleged deputy

1 subgroups and cliques, commonly referred to as deputy gangs. I
2 have more than 30 years of experience on this department, and I
3 had -- and I take the utmost pride in this -- in this
4 profession. I am absolutely sickened by the mere allegation of
5 any deputy hiding behind a badge to hurt anyone.

6 "As you have heard for decades, the LASD has been
7 under intense scrutiny as a result of these groups surfacing in
8 various sheriff stations around the county. Names such as
9 Vikings, Grim Reapers, Regulators, Little Devils, Cowboys,
10 2000 and 3000 Boys, Jump Out Boys, and, most recently, Banditos
11 and Executioners have not only caused great embarrassment and
12 concern to the department but to the community as well.

13 "Currently IAB is conducting a comprehensive
14 investigation into the existence of the so-called Executioners
15 at Compton station. However, our intent is to examine the
16 department in its entirety. I want to assure you that this
17 administration is taking an aggressive stance in combating this
18 issue and will utilize any resource necessary to identify those
19 individuals involved in adverse behavior, whether
20 administrative or criminal.

21 "We have also reached out to the FBI for assistance
22 knowing that with their dedication and expertise we will
23 accomplish much more than the previous administrations combined
24 as our goal is transparency. The department is also
25 implementing a new policy prohibiting the participation of any

1 subversive groups, which is the first of its kind. On
2 behalf..."

3 While Chief Burson was saying that in public, let me
4 remind you of what was being done in private.

5 Would you please put up admitted Exhibit Number 4,
6 and I'd like to have you turn your attention to the entries in
7 this log of, first, November 9th, 2018, on page 4.

8 And if you could make that larger.

9 As you will recall from the testimony of the
10 inspector general, this reflected an advice from the Office of
11 Inspector General wanting additional questions about
12 subcultures at East LA. Captain Burson confirmed additional
13 questions needed to be asked.

14 If you go to the next page and the entry on
15 November 27th:

16 "Cancelled interviews due to Captain/Chief Burson.
17 He wanted to make sure I didn't have to ask questions about
18 subculture groups at ELA station. Worked on Sergeant Wolanski
19 case due to statute date is coming up."

20 And if you turn, now, to the entry of December 7th:

21 "Received the go ahead to start interviewing
22 witnesses for this case. Also, Chief Burson" -- he had been
23 promoted at this point -- "informed me that I do not need to
24 ask about subculture group at East LA station."

25 We've received information from a witness reflecting

1 a meeting between Chief Burson and Sheriff Villanueva on or
2 about December 3rd, 2018. It's for this reason of the critical
3 relevance of Chief Burson's testimony that we seek the
4 authority of the commission to proceed to court to compel
5 with -- with this commission's approval and the Court's
6 approval of the commission's subpoena.

7 As I've indicated in my prior procedural opening
8 statement to the commission, we've faced witnesses who agreed
9 to be interviewed, in some cases, multiple interviews, but have
10 refused to testify publicly, even under a promise of anonymity.
11 The witnesses have stressed as the reason career suicide, fear
12 of physical harm, or both.

13 But I'd like to provide what, in a court setting, we
14 would regard as an offer of proof about what some of these
15 witnesses would have been willing to testify to.

16 One witness with the familiarity of the operation of
17 East LA has recounted the control of the station by the
18 Banditos, and how by control of scheduling and assignments the
19 Banditos have superseded the official hierarchy. The witness
20 says that the behavior of the Banditos mimic the behaviors of
21 criminal street gangs in their language, discrimination against
22 blacks, against women, and non-Mexican American Latinos.

23 The witness knows and has told us that the power is
24 controlled by when deputies get off training who was assigned
25 what duties at the station. Deputies were taxed, that is,

1 forced to pay for expenses as directed by Banditos.

2 The witness is aware of assaults upon deputies by
3 Banditos, withheld backup, demeaning and derogatory statements
4 made over the radio, interference with certain deputies'
5 ability to communicate needs over the radio, written statements
6 on station walls naming deputies as weak or punks, and removing
7 lug nuts from the tires of disfavored deputies.

8 Another LA deputy fully corroborates the Banditos'
9 control of East LA station, the presence of tattoos on the shot
10 callers at the station, the failure to provide backup on
11 dangerous calls, the assaults upon disfavored deputies, and the
12 wrongful arrest of civilians to falsely project satisfactory
13 statistics. This witness declines to testify for fear of
14 retaliation in the witness's career.

15 Third witness who has declined to testify for reasons
16 of career suicide and fear of physical retaliation by being
17 left in a dangerous situation without backup has provided
18 information about the return of the 3000 Boys to the
19 Men's Central Jail with readily identifiable shot callers,
20 leading to needless or excessive force upon inmates.

21 Finally, a ranking officer who has percipient
22 knowledge of the deputy-on-deputy shooting evidenced by this
23 photo has declined to testify for we're -- for fear of career
24 retaliation by the sheriff.

25 This reflects an attempt to remove a deputy gang

1 tattoo for a failure to adhere to the policies of that
2 particular deputy gang.

3 It's out of respect for what we assess as bona fide
4 concerns that we have not, as yet, sought to compel testimony
5 of these and other similarly-situated witnesses. But to
6 expedite achievement of the commission's announced purpose, we
7 request the commission to consider issuing testimonial
8 subpoenas to Larry Del Mese, Chief April Tardy, Undersheriff
9 Murakami, and Sheriff Villanueva.

10 And I understand that we are scheduling a hearing for
11 July 1st, and so it would be our request that those subpoenas,
12 if consistent with the commission's desires, be issued
13 forthwith so they may be served and so we may have either the
14 appearance of the witnesses or proceed to enforce the subpoenas
15 with alacrity.

16 And, unfortunately, I have no witness who can testify
17 today, and so I'm eager to respond to any questions.

18 COMMISSIONER BONNER: That -- that itself speaks volumes
19 that we're sitting here and -- and -- and Matthew Burson,
20 subpoenaed to appear and testify here, is not present.

21 What was -- by the way, what was the spelling of the
22 first witness that you're requesting that the oversight
23 commission consider subpoenaing for our next hearing on
24 July 1st, 2022? Larry Del something, and I --

25 MR. DEIXLER: Del Mese. Two separate words. Del, and

1 then Mese is M-e-s-e.

2 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Thank you, Mr. Deixler.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Mr. Deixler asked if there are any
4 questions?

5 Lael?

6 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Yes. What would you expect
7 Mr. Del Mese to testify to?

8 MR. DEIXLER: So Mr. -- Mr. Del Mese served as the -- will
9 describe him as the chief of staff to the sheriff. He is
10 involved in arranging appointments, scheduling. I believe he
11 will confirm the fact that -- that Chief Burson, at a meeting
12 on or about December 3rd, four days before the instruction that
13 we've just seen in the log with Sheriff Villanueva.

14 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: And what about April Tardy?

15 MR. DEIXLER: April Tardy is the head of the Patrol
16 Division. And she would provide information about the
17 existence of deputy gangs, the efforts made consistent with --
18 with Chief Burson's representation to the public about a full
19 investigation and commitment to that policy.

20 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Was she -- what was her supervisorial
21 relationship to Chief Burson?

22 MR. DEIXLER: I think they were in separate tracks. I
23 have the org chart, and I can -- if you'd like, I can consult
24 with it for a second, but I believe there are a separate --
25 separate tracks.

1 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: I -- I -- I agree. Thank you.

2 I just think that that information is -- is important
3 for other commissioners and also for the record. So thank you
4 for that.

5 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I have a motion, Mr. Chair, that
6 might provoke some additional discussion. I don't know, but
7 it might be appropriate --

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Sure.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: -- based upon -- upon the -- the
10 statements of our -- the lead special counsel -- lead special
11 pro bono counsel for the oversight commission's investigation.
12 And that is that the motion would be that -- that we -- this
13 commission -- by the way, let me state by way of background
14 that while the ad hoc committee on subpoenas can review and
15 approve and then the chair can sign, there's no reason that the
16 commission, when it's convened, can't go ahead and vote to
17 issue subpoenas.

18 So with that in mind, the motion would be to require
19 the following individuals to appear and testify under oath at
20 our next scheduled meeting -- special hearing with respect to
21 the oversight commission's investigation on July 1st, 2022, at
22 9:00 a.m. in the morning. And I believe - I think we can state
23 the place of the hearing is -- it -- likely to be here at
24 Loyola Law School at the Robinson Auditorium.

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: Correct.

1 COMMISSIONER BONNER: The following -- the following
2 individuals: Larry Del Mese, April Tardy -- or Tandy, is it?

3 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Tardy.

4 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Tardy -- April Tardy, Undersecretary
5 Murakami -- strike that Undersecretary. Undersheriff -- boy,
6 it's like the Washington days here, but anyway -- Undersheriff
7 Murakami and Sheriff Alex Villanueva.

8 So that would be the motion, that those subpoenas
9 issued be signed by the chair and that prompt action be taken
10 to serve all four of those subpoenas so that those individuals
11 will be under subpoena to appear and testify at the next
12 hearing.

13 I'm kind of repeating what the motion was, but that's
14 the -- that's the gist of the motion.

15 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: And I'll second that motion.

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: Any discussion amongst the commissioners
17 about this motion to subpoena these four LASD officials?

18 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I will just say I think it's totally
19 appropriate. I'm -- I'm really distressed -- look, let's for
20 the record. Let me make a record here.

21 We -- we -- this -- this commission issued a
22 subpoena -- actually, several subpoenas -- three, in total, to
23 Sheriff Villanueva. At least one subpoena to Under- --
24 Undersheriff Murakami.

25 When did we do that? Last September. Last

1 September, we issued these subpoenas, and -- and they were to
2 appear and testify before this commission at our October -- our
3 regularly scheduled October 2021 meeting. They did not appear.
4 They ignored and flouted our subpoena.

5 We then -- we actually -- we then voted to enforce
6 our subpoenas. And county counsel did, in January of this
7 year, file an action in LA County Superior Court to enforce
8 that subpoena.

9 When I say there were three subpoenas on Sheriff --
10 the one that's pertinent here was the one which we -- we sought
11 his testimony with respect to whether deputy gangs or cliques
12 continued to exist within the Sheriff's Department, whether his
13 policy -- his alleged policy to deal with this issue had been
14 effective or not, and he -- he's not here. So we're still
15 waiting for that testimony. All right?

16 We've been advised -- the -- well, now, you might ask
17 why do we need a subpoena for -- to sheriff. We already have a
18 subpoena for him for this very subject matter. And the reason
19 we do is we've been advised by county counsel that our subpoena
20 then would have allowed him to testify via -- via Zoom-type
21 platform.

22 So if we want him in person, we actually have to
23 issue a new subpoena, and that's what -- that's why we're
24 issuing a new subpoena, in my view, against Sheriff Villanueva,
25 because we already have a subpoena, which we've been trying to

1 enforce for -- since last October.

2 So, in any event, that's the record with respect to
3 Sheriff Villanueva. But we -- we -- we just need to subpoena
4 him and get him here event -- and eventually, hopefully, the
5 Superior Court will understand the urgency of this
6 investigation and that they will act promptly to require that
7 the -- the sheriff appear and testify under oath before this
8 oversight commission on this incredibly important matter that's
9 infecting -- infecting the LA County Sheriff's Department.

10 Excuse me, Mr. Deixler.

11 MR. DEIXLER: Mr. Bonner, may I just add to your record.

12 It should be noted that on three separate occasions,
13 in writing, I've invited the sheriff to come here to testify.
14 He has informed me through a Lieutenant O'Donnell, who perhaps
15 is here today, that he's not going to attend voluntarily, which
16 is in part what informs the request for a -- for a subpoena.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: I think our inspector general would like
18 to comment on this as well.

19 Mr. Huntsman?

20 MR. HUNTSMAN: I wanted to join -- excuse me.

21 I wanted to join Special Counsel Deixler in -- in --
22 in making this record, and although I know many of you know
23 this -- some of our commissioners are newer -- we have served
24 numerous subpoenas, along with the Civilian Oversight
25 Commission, the Inspector General's Office has, in order to

1 conduct investigation in support of what you're doing and vice
2 versa in a more private context.

3 This is, of course, a public hearing in which you're
4 making findings regarding the Penal Code's provisions on deputy
5 gangs, and we've been working privately to begin an
6 investigation. What I have found is that, though, we haven't
7 had any cooperation in terms of our requests or subpoenas --
8 almost none -- and we also have sought to have the subpoenas
9 compelled, and it's been a very slow process; right?

10 I share Commissioner Bonner's hope that this
11 Superior Court will do it more -- more quickly. And I support
12 the motion and -- and encourage you to move forward, even
13 though I do believe this will be a very long and slow road.

14 I -- I greatly appreciate the work you did to begin
15 it at the previous hearing. And I consider the fact that
16 Chief Burson failed to show up, I think, an indicator of the --
17 the -- the step that needs to go next.

18 So I appreciate the motion regarding subpoenas,
19 and -- and I support it.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: JP?

21 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Just for clarification concerning
22 retired Chief Burson, he has been lawfully served the subpoena
23 to appear today, which he has verbally declined to do.

24 So are we looking for an expedited hearing with
25 Superior Court to compel him to come on July 1st, or are we

1 going to issue a whole new subpoena for him for July 1st?

2 COMMISSIONER BONNER: No. We don't need to issue a new
3 subpoena for Matt Burson.

4 And that will be the next motion that I'll make,
5 which will be to enforce our subpoena with respect to
6 Mr. Burson and to request that an expedited hearing before the
7 LA County Superior Court on that issue. But that's -- that'll
8 be the next motion after we determine whether we want to
9 subpoena those four individuals that are part of the instant
10 motion to appear on July 1st, 2022, at our -- our next hearing
11 in this matter. So that's been moved and seconded, but there
12 may be further discussion.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Any -- any other commissioners like to
14 comment on the subpoenas that have been requested?

15 Well, I just want to say that the first special
16 hearing that this commission had produced substantial evidence
17 that deputy gangs are inflicting harm on members of the public,
18 as well as members of the department.

19 And here we are at the second special hearing, and
20 what we hear is that people who have suffered harm at the hands
21 of these deputy gangs are simply too afraid of retaliation and
22 violence to come forward to testify before this body.

23 This climate of fear and retaliation is evidence in
24 and of itself that deputy gangs exist and that they intimidate
25 witnesses from coming forward to testify. The special counsel

1 is operating under impossible conditions, and we appreciate
2 your efforts to bring the evidence into this body so that we
3 can make an informed decision.

4 Worse still, we hear that the LASD official assigned
5 by Sheriff Villanueva to lead the investigation of deputy
6 gangs, Matthew Burson, has failed to appear as required by law,
7 and really has made no arrangements to explain why he has not
8 appeared. That the former head of the Professional Standards
9 Division of the Sheriff's Department would conduct himself in
10 this manner regarding a subpoena suggests that the department
11 has something to hide, in my opinion.

12 It is time to hear from the sheriff and Undersheriff
13 Murakami and the other LASD officials who have the authority to
14 address deputy gangs, but it -- it appears have done nothing to
15 do so.

16 And so I strongly support the motion to subpoena
17 these officials, and if they follow Mr. Burson's example and
18 flout our subpoenas, I agree with Commissioner Bonner that this
19 body should do whatever is necessary to expeditiously enforce
20 these subpoenas because the public has a right to know what is
21 going on in the department, and this behavior is completely
22 unacceptable.

23 With that said, do we need to have public comment
24 regarding the subpoenas?

25 FEMALE SPEAKER: We do, but we don't have anybody signed

1 up for public comment.

2 Unless there's somebody here that would like to
3 comment on this, please raise your hand. If not, we can move
4 forward with the vote.

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Seeing no hands, we will take the vote.

6 FEMALE SPEAKER: Okay.

7 Commissioner Bonner?

8 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Aye.

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Cooper?

10 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Aye.

11 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Garcia?

12 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Aye.

13 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Giggans is outside?

14 Commissioner Harris?

15 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Aye.

16 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Hicks?

17 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Aye.

18 FEMALE SPEAKER: Chair Kennedy?

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

20 FEMALE SPEAKER: And Commissioner Rubin?

21 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Yes.

22 FEMALE SPEAKER: Motion to subpoena individuals from LASD
23 to appear at the next special meeting carries.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

25 I believe there was reference to a final motion that

1 Commissioner Harris had -- had talked about.

2 COMMISSIONER BONNER: You know, if I can -- I'll make that
3 motion, Mr. Chair.

4 In light of the failure to appear of Matthew Burson,
5 after proper service of the subpoena issued by the Civilian
6 Oversight Commission, it's being issued May 31st, 2022, and
7 properly served -- personally served on Matthew Burson on
8 June 2nd, 2022. I would move the following:

9 "That County Counsel forthwith take any and all legal
10 action to enforce the subpoena of the Oversight Commission by,
11 among other things, applying for an order to show cause why
12 Matthew Burson should not be held in contempt of the
13 commission's subpoena, by any and all other legal actions
14 needed to compel Mr. Burson's appearance and testimony under
15 oath at the next commission -- at a commission hearing,
16 including any other relief, including fines, monetary
17 sanctions, incarceration of Mr. Burson until he -- if he
18 continues to refuse to testify, until he's willing to testify,
19 which is, by the way, a typical and ordinary remedy for
20 somebody that is held in contempt for failing to appear for a
21 subpoena.

22 "Further -- further part of the motion would be to
23 request that the LA County Superior Court, for reasons that
24 have been stated here on the record, expedite the enforcement
25 actions to compel Mr. Burson's compliance with the commission's

1 subpoena with a view toward an order compelling Mr. Burson to
2 appear and testify under oath at the commission's next special
3 hearing, into the existence and impact of deputy gangs,
4 cliques, and exclusionary subgroups."

5 It's kind of a long motion, but I think it should all
6 be in there, maybe. I'm happy to have some amendments to it.

7 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: I'll second that motion then.

8 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: I have a question.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Lael?

10 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Just a point of clarification.

11 Commissioner Bonner, your motion specifies -- or
12 requests the Court -- the Superior Court to act in an expedited
13 manner. I'm not clear whether the motion also requests county
14 counsel to move expeditiously or to expedite the filing in the
15 Superior Court.

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: That's a good point, and the -- the
17 part of the motion is directed to the Superior Court. But we
18 certainly -- I think it's clear from the discussion, I'm happy
19 to have any amendment on it, but that we also expect county
20 counsel to move expeditiously to both file legal actions to
21 compel Burson's appearance and to bring -- and to use
22 procedures that are available in the Superior Court for
23 expediting writs and injunctive relief and the like.

24 I mean, those -- those -- those -- those powers exist
25 in the Superior Court. You have to ask the Court to invoke

1 them. So we're asking, certainly by our motion, the intent of
2 the motion is to ask that the county counsel do that.

3 I want to add one other thing. I didn't -- but I
4 don't want to put in the motion. But I would like county
5 counsel -- typically, they appoint somebody, a -- a -- a
6 counsel or a law firm, to do the enforcement action. I
7 certainly don't want delay with that -- with respect to that.
8 I'd like county counsel to consider appointing one -- one or
9 more of these special counsel, not necessarily Mr. Deixler, who
10 already has his hands full here, but we have -- we have a -- a
11 strong team of special pro bono counsel in this matter, and I'd
12 like county counsel to consider appointing one or more of the
13 special counsel who have signed up to assist this commission in
14 the investigation to represent the Oversight Commission and the
15 County with respect to the enforcement action. So that's a
16 request. I'm not going to make that part of a motion, however,
17 but that would be a request that I would hope would also be
18 endorsed by the full commission.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I see that we have -- we don't have
20 county counsel live, but we have county counsel on -- on the
21 screen, and -- and they've asked to be heard.

22 So, Danielle, do you want to address this issue?

23 COUNTY COUNSEL VAPPIE: Yes. Thank you, Chair Kennedy,
24 and thank you, Commissioner Bonner, for your motion.

25 County Counsel would just suggest that in addition to

1 requesting enforcement of the existing subpoena to Mr. Burson
2 that you also subpoena him again for the July 1st meeting. We
3 think that would be a good suggestion for us to be able to add
4 our -- any enforcement --

5 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Why?

6 COUNTY COUNSEL VAPPIE: I think we believe that just
7 having it simultaneously giving Mr. Burson another opportunity
8 to appear, and us being able to inform the Court that we have
9 also subpoenaed him again in addition to the other four, to
10 give him another opportunity. It's just (inaudible) for the
11 motion, but we understand that the (inaudible) requested for
12 immediate enforcement.

13 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, here's how I would proceed as
14 counsel, and I -- I did practice law for quite a few years in
15 Los Angeles, and that is I would file an action to hold him in
16 contempt. I would tell Mr. Burson that he is going to be held
17 in contempt, he is going to be fined, he is going to be
18 sanctioned. If he doesn't appear at the next hearing, we're
19 going to ask that the Court, actually, put him -- incarcerate
20 him until he's ready to testify.

21 Then I would say, "Do you want to agree to be at the
22 next hearing of the Oversight Commission on July 1st at
23 9:00 a.m.?"

24 But we're not issuing a new subpoena for him. We
25 issued a subpoena, we expect him to appear under that subpoena,

1 he has not appeared. We want county counsel -- we want you to
2 enforce the subpoena according to the desires and wishes of
3 this commission. You're -- you're representing us in this
4 matter.

5 All right. Now, go ahead. What's next?

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: Does anyone else want to --

7 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I don't think she was finished
8 with --

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Oh, I'm sorry.

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: -- point one, that we should issue a
11 new subpoena for Burson.

12 What's point two?

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Danielle, I didn't mean to cut you off.

14 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I did. But go ahead.

15 COUNTY COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair Kennedy.

16 I'm finished. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Oh, I'm sorry.

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

19 Do any other commissioners want to weigh in? I mean,
20 we've had a suggestion from county counsel.

21 Rob, I think your position is clear.

22 Does -- does anyone else want to weigh in on this?

23 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Yes, Sean.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: Lael?

25 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: I agree we should not, at this point,

1 issue a new subpoena for Matthew Burson. That's number one.

2 Number two, there's been a lot of discussion as to
3 what the -- what the motion actually says with the -- an -- a
4 suggested amendment that it include requesting county counsel
5 to move as expeditiously as possible to file a motion in
6 Superior Court and to ask the Superior Court to expedite a
7 hearing. So I think it would be important for Commissioner
8 Bonner to restate his motion including that information.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: All right. Let me try to restate
10 the motion. I think the motion should say:

11 "In light of Matthew Burson's intentional failure to
12 appear before this commission after proper service of the
13 commission's subpoena," and I -- I indicated the date of the
14 subpoena I have in front of me here. It was May 31st, 2022,
15 and it was properly and personally served on Mr. Burson on
16 June 2nd, 2022.

17 I move the following:

18 "That county counsel forthwith take any and all legal
19 actions to enforce the subpoena of the LA County Superior --
20 enforce the subpoena in the LA County Superior Court by
21 applying, among other things, for an order to show cause why
22 Matthew Burson should not be held in contempt of the
23 commission's subpoena, as well as any and all other actions
24 needed to compel Matthew Burson's appearance to include seeking
25 fines, monetary sanctions and, if necessary, incarceration

1 until he testifies."

2 Further, the motion is: "To request the LA County
3 Superior Court to expedite enforcement action of the
4 commission's subpoena.

5 "Further" -- and this is the amendment that I believe
6 Commissioner Rubin is making.

7 "Further, it's moved that county counsel
8 expeditiously file the enforcement action and that it also
9 utilize all procedures of the LA County Superior Court to
10 expedite the enforcement of our subpoena -- of the commission's
11 subpoena."

12 And, again, this would be with a view toward
13 compelling Matthew Burson to appear and testify under oath at
14 the commission's -- if possible, at the commission's next
15 special hearing into the matter that we're investigating into
16 the existence and impact of deputy gangs, cliques, and
17 exclusionary subgroups on the Sheriff's Department and our
18 community."

19 So that's -- I -- that's the motion.

20 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: I second the motion.

21 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: I can -- I can draft it up for staff
22 at the appropriate time.

23 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: And I think it would be helpful also
24 to provide staff with a copy of the previous motion that was
25 voted on unanimously by the commission.

1 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yes. Agree.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. The motion has been seconded. I
3 don't see anyone -- oh, go ahead, Irma.

4 COMMISSIONER COOPER: I just want to state that when the
5 commission issues a subpoena it should be taken serious, and we
6 should not have to repeat. We should go right to enforcement.

7 And I feel this commission is important, and I think
8 the sheriff's department and employees are following and
9 they're all doing the same thing by not, you know, complying to
10 our subpoenas. And I think it's time that we take further
11 action and let them know that we're serious.

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: Any public comment?

13 FEMALE SPEAKER: For this particular motion, ma'am?

14 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

15 And it looks like there's one person who would like
16 to comment.

17 FEMALE SPEAKER: Ma'am, would you like to comment on this
18 particular motion, or on general public comment?

19 MS. J. VENTERS: It goes back too far for them to be
20 disrespectful. I'm just happy I'm here. And I'm looking at
21 Mr. Huntsman to deal with things he was supposed to in my case,
22 and this was, like, in 2018. They never responded, and what
23 they decided with me was they told me they wouldn't. So I
24 think it's time (inaudible) because people lie so much
25 (inaudible) their actions, and they're not being held

1 accountable.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

3 If we have any public comment, it helps if you use
4 the microphone for all of our viewers on the web.

5 Anything else? Anyone else would like to make a
6 comment?

7 I don't see that. So I think at this time we need to
8 have another vote.

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Bonner?

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Aye.

11 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Cooper?

12 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Aye.

13 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Garcia?

14 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Aye.

15 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Harris?

16 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Aye.

17 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Hicks?

18 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Aye.

19 FEMALE SPEAKER: Chair Kennedy?

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

21 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Rubin?

22 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Yes.

23 FEMALE SPEAKER: Motion carries.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: Mr. Deixler, I don't think we have any
25 additional business regarding the presentation today; is that

1 right?

2 MR. DEIXLER: Unfortunately we have no witnesses, and
3 we're ready to proceed on the 1st of July, however.

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

5 Is this the time -- I don't think we have anything
6 else on the agenda -- that we take general public comment? I
7 think we also have a family who would like to speak.

8 FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes. We -- we have two general public
9 comments.

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Before we do that, just apropos the
11 subject -- general subject we're on, which is subpoenas for
12 individuals who appear to have relevant testimony either
13 because we have depositions they've given or otherwise, I'm
14 just wondering whether -- I'd like to ask our -- our lead
15 special counsel, Mr. Deixler, if there are any other
16 individuals that we should consider subpoenaing for the
17 July 1st, 2022, meeting?

18 By the way, I -- I want you to understand that if
19 you -- names occur to you after today, you can go through the
20 process of the ad hoc committee regarding subpoenas with
21 respect to additional witnesses. But I'm wondering right now
22 whether there's some that we should consider since we have the
23 full commission here, present with nothing else to do, other
24 than to consider this -- that -- that issue.

25 MR. DEIXLER: So I think the answer properly is that there

1 are other witnesses whom we may have to subpoena. We are in
2 the process of trying to encourage people to testify
3 voluntarily, discussions about allowing them to participate
4 anonymously. And so I would like to exhaust that opportunity
5 in light of what people have told us about what I believe to be
6 bona fide fears, just to put them on the witness stand. It
7 seems we have to -- we have to balance it. So I'd like to
8 exhaust that before I come back.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Fair enough. And that sounds fine
10 to me. I just wanted to raise the issue.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: One would think that the sheriff would
12 encourage every member of the department to cooperate with you
13 in your efforts to unearth all the evidence of deputy gangs
14 within the department.

15 MR. DEIXLER: I made that specific request of the sheriff
16 in my very first letter to him, which he hadn't responded to as
17 yet. But I'm, by nature, an optimist so perhaps his
18 instruction will be forthcoming today.

19 COMMISSIONER BONNER: You are an optimist, Mr. Deixler.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Lael, you wanted to ask Bert?

21 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: No. But I did want to -- and
22 I'm sure I'm Mr. Deixler is aware of the fact that when the
23 Rand study was in progress, the Rand researchers
24 and -- and professors indicated publicly, in their report and
25 in the public hearings and their presentation to the Board of

1 Supervisors and to this commission, that the sheriff had
2 encouraged his staff to meet with and speak with the -- the
3 members of the Rand team and to assist them in the work that
4 they were doing.

5 So while the sheriff -- at least according to Rand --
6 did encourage his staff to participate with Rand, he has gone
7 180 degrees the other direction with this commission.

8 MR. DEIXLER: I -- I would just say in -- in support of
9 that that in the Citizens' Commission for Jail Violence, which
10 I had the opportunity to participate in, the then-sheriff --
11 unfortunately, not available to be here today -- encouraged
12 the -- the participation of -- of the -- of the deputies, which
13 was incredibly important to achieve the goals of that
14 commission. So there's no doubt that an instruction from the
15 sheriff to the deputies and others in the department would go
16 light years toward allowing us to identify this problem and --
17 and solve it.

18 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I think we should just go on
19 record -- this commission should go on record by requesting
20 that Sheriff Villanueva issue a public -- or a statement to the
21 employees and deputies of the LA County Sheriff's Department
22 that they should cooperate with the investigation being
23 conducted by the Civilian Oversight Commission of the
24 Sheriff's Department and its special counsel.

25 I don't know whether we need a motion on that but, I

1 mean, that's -- that's certainly the -- I -- I think the sense
2 of this commission.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: I -- I don't think we need a motion.

4 I -- I -- I think it's a great suggestion. Frankly,
5 I'm surprised that we need to suggest that. I mean, he's the
6 sheriff of the county. He should be part- -- he should be
7 cooperating and helping the special counsel develop this
8 evidence.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, this is our investigation so I
10 think we should make that request of the sheriff that he
11 cooperate in our investigation into deputy gangs, cliques, and
12 exclusionary subgroups.

13 Again, I actually wouldn't mind making it a motion.
14 I mean, I -- I don't know why not. I mean -- I mean, we just
15 ought to make it clear. This isn't Mr. Deixler making this
16 request. This is the Civilian Oversight Commission that has
17 oversight of the sheriff's department that's making this
18 request.

19 I appreciate that Mr. Deixler made the request, and
20 he's been blown off by the sheriff. All right? So let's
21 make -- let's make the request. Well, we'll see what the
22 sheriff does.

23 I'm not an optimist, Mr. Deixler, on -- at least on
24 this issue.

25 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Is that your motion? 'Cause I'll

1 second it, that we officially request the sheriff to encourage
2 all members of the sheriff's department to cooperate with the
3 Civilian Oversight Commission in the investigation of deputy
4 gangs.

5 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: If I can, I would like to offer an
6 amendment to Commissioner Harris's second.

7 Rather than "encourage," I would like the language to
8 be that the sheriff should direct his -- his deputies to
9 cooperate in the investigation.

10 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: I agree with that.

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And I agree with that amendment.

12 Shall we vote on it?

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, we have comments.

14 Irma, you wanted to weigh in?

15 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yeah. I just had a concern because
16 the sheriff has constantly stated in public that this
17 commission was illegal. So are we really going to expect him
18 to do anything, or are we just making this motion just to be on
19 record?

20 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I don't think he's ever suggested
21 the commission is illegal. I mean, the commission has been
22 duly constituted under the charter of the LA County.

23 I think he has -- he's certainly questioned and
24 criticized the commission, and we don't -- I don't know that we
25 want to go into chapter and verse there. Perhaps sometime we

1 should. Perhaps we should be responding to some of the
2 outrageously -- statements that the sheriff is making; that,
3 you know, he's -- he's claimed that this commission is not
4 independent, that it's not independent of the Board of
5 Supervisors. Well, we are independent of the Board of
6 Supervisors, and we are independent of the sheriff's
7 department. We're an oversight commission.

8 And so he's made statements that probably would not
9 give me a high level of expectation that he is going to follow
10 this motion, but I hope he does because it's the right thing to
11 do.

12 The Civilian Oversight Commission has authority to do
13 this investigation. It's this commission that's doing the
14 investigation. We're simply being assisted -- by the way, very
15 ably, by a large number not -- well, it's usually represented
16 by Mr. Deixler, but there are at least 20 or perhaps two dozen
17 very good lawyers who are contributing time pro bono to assist
18 this commission in the investigation.

19 So I -- I appreciate that Mr. Deixler can make
20 requests, but he's actually -- he's assisting us in our
21 investigation. So it's our investigation, and I think it's
22 appropriate for us as a commission to request the sheriff to
23 direct deputies and employees of the sheriff's department to
24 cooperate in our investigation. If he chooses not to do so,
25 well, so be it.

1 But anyway, I don't think he's ever suggested
2 we're -- we're -- we're ultra vires or we're illegal. Maybe he
3 has; I don't know. I don't -- I don't read all of his tweets.

4 COMMISSIONER COOPER: He makes a lot of strange comments
5 about this committee and the fact that he only reports to the
6 citizens, not to the Board of Supervisors and not to you.

7 So it's -- it's just interesting --

8 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER COOPER: -- by his actions that he has never,
10 you know, showed up or, you know, really taken this committee
11 seriously.

12 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay. Understood.

13 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Take public comment.

14 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I think we're -- we're appealing to
15 his sense of honor and decency to direct his deputies to
16 cooperate with the -- the commission and the special counsel on
17 this.

18 So why don't we hear public comment.

19 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Is -- is the motion adopted by
20 unanimous consent of the commission?

21 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Well, we have --

22 CHAIR KENNEDY: I think we have to have the public comment
23 before we vote.

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I'm sorry. I thought it was general
25 public comment.

1 FEMALE SPEAKER: Is there anyone that would like to
2 comment regarding this motion before us?

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Let's take the vote then.

4 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Bonner?

5 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Aye.

6 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

7 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Aye.

8 FEMALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

9 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Aye.

10 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Harris?

11 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Aye.

12 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Hicks?

13 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Aye.

14 FEMALE SPEAKER: Chair Kennedy?

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

16 FEMALE SPEAKER: Commissioner Rubin?

17 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Yes.

18 FEMALE SPEAKER: Motion carries.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: So I think that concludes our slate of
20 motions, and the only thing left is to take general public
21 comment. And I was told that a family member of somebody would
22 like to speak who's been the victim of police violence.

23 FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes. Our first speaker is Chris Vasquez.

24 If you are here, Mr. Vasquez, please move up.

25 MR. C. VAZQUEZ: Good morning. My name is Chris Vazquez.

1 My brother, Marco Vazquez, Junior, was killed on
2 October 6, 2019, by the LASD Pico Rivera Station.

3 These gangs are infiltrating every station, and their
4 rogue tactics are, frankly, appalling.

5 That night, I could have lost my parents, myself as
6 well, not only my brother. I was actually hit by a bullet as
7 well because of the rogue tactics. They just came in and
8 started shooting.

9 No one should have to be going through that. His
10 children, his wife, myself, my parents all witnessed the
11 murder.

12 And, frankly, the fact that they continually
13 investigate themselves is ridiculous because we go nowhere.
14 They continue roadblocking and doing whatever they can to
15 protect themselves.

16 And by swearing over the badge, they're supposed to
17 be protecting us, not killing us. And they have become the
18 new cancer in this world. They take us down one by one, and
19 there's so many impacted families, it's ridiculously how much
20 sorrow they're causing, and what they're doing is appalling.

21 And thank you so much for what you're doing, and I'm
22 here representing my family and others who are -- couldn't be
23 here today. But thank you for everything that you're doing.
24 Hearing the passion that you have to try getting the subpoenas,
25 and we need to get rid of Alex Villanueva and anyone else who

1 is accomplice to their murders.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Thank you.

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you for sharing your story.

5 Is there anyone else?

6 FEMALE SPEAKER: Our next speaker is Jacqueline Venters.

7 MS. J. VENTERS: Good morning.

8 I'm not a stranger here.

9 The sheriff is part of the gang, so we can't expect
10 him to do anything, and he's not going to do anything. He's
11 been disrespectful ever since I -- he's been appointed.

12 I have family members that work with the Los Angeles
13 Sheriff Department that hold high positions, and that's what
14 they didn't know.

15 With God and the help from law enforcement and some
16 of the other agencies, the Department of Justice, the Board of
17 Supervisors, that's what got me here after 12 years. The stuff
18 that I brought here last week, those are facts, and facts
19 outweigh the truth.

20 Investigator Steve Phan has lied, and I -- I need to
21 know where to go from here.

22 My son just called yesterday stating that, you know,
23 he got a letter from Gascòn's office about a hearing. And I'm
24 wondering is this hearing based on this corrupt investigation
25 by Investigator Steve Phan? But he didn't know that I had met

1 with Gascòn two days after he told me that, and Gascòn, right
2 now, is waiting on the information -- the letter that he was
3 supposed to send stating that the deputy had to -- one of his
4 fellow deputies had to tell that he had the gun, or they had to
5 have a witness, which is a lie. We've seen people go to jail
6 with no weapon, and they was found guilty. This deputy is
7 guilty.

8 I'm trying to get this DVD -- I accidentally sent the
9 DVD out with the -- that we fought for 10 years to get his file
10 from, and the KPCC radio and LA Times sued in the Supreme Court
11 to get it.

12 My son Tennell was shot five times in the back, and I
13 need justice. I need to know where I'm at right now.

14 This Department of Justice -- this guy, Steve Phan,
15 he referred me over to somebody else, and this man,
16 Michael Dean, told me he don't even know why he did this.

17 This stuff is ridiculous that, as a parent and a
18 lifetime member of the National Association for Blacks and
19 Criminal Justice, which my friends are not here today, this is
20 a journey for us. And my journey today is not just for my son;
21 it's for justice for all.

22 They are -- it's wrong what they're doing, and we
23 deserve better, and we need you guys' help. We don't need you
24 guys to go anywhere. We need you here. And we appreciate the
25 work that you guys are doing, but now we need to take action

1 and hold them accountable.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

3 FEMALE SPEAKER: That is the last speaker who signed up.

4 Is there anyone who wishes to speak? Please just
5 make your way to the front.

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: I see a couple hands.

7 Go ahead.

8 MR. FREDERICK: Hi, everyone. My name is Frederick.

9 And the point is taken about urgency for taking all
10 of these actions and not issuing another subpoena.

11 But I think that there are various factors at play
12 and that we have an opportunity to take a multi-pronged
13 approach. Continuing in this route, but also finding -- or
14 making it clear what the end game is and what strategies can be
15 taken to gain participation from the people who are afraid to.

16 And for those who are just turning -- tuning in, I
17 think that there's a gap between why this is important and
18 what -- what we're trying to achieve. I've been following
19 along just a little bit, but I think -- I think that's kind of
20 missing in -- in what we're doing here.

21 And I think it's also important to make clear of
22 the -- the immediate goals. Like, we can make policy change if
23 these things are uncovered, but not necessarily just for the
24 families, but what does it -- what does accountability look
25 like one -- once this is all done? I think those things need

1 to be made clear.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

4 We have another speaker?

5 FEMALE SPEAKER 2: Good morning.

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: Morning.

7 FEMALE SPEAKER 2: I'm here to speak for those that are no
8 longer with us, and one of those gentlemen is Michael Zinsu.
9 And he was an ex-Black Panther back in the '80s that spoke of
10 police brutality and was an activist. He spoke of the crime
11 and the abuse in the -- in the sheriff's department, in the
12 police department. It's come to find out that Pasadena is one
13 of the worst police brutality departments.

14 I -- I listen to the meetings. I've been -- during
15 the COVID, I've been listening to you. I want to -- I feel
16 like I know you. I've seen you in the meetings, and I see you
17 and I see you and I see you and I keep hearing the same thing.

18 Mr. Villanueva is not coming. He hasn't come.
19 Please step it up.

20 We need to get to some kind -- the rest of us
21 would've already been in jail. The rest of us -- any brown
22 person would have been in jail.

23 And so in the name of Michael Zinsu -- may he rest in
24 peace -- brother, you were right. The crime is still inside.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

2 Any other comments?

3 Okay. I -- I don't think there is anything else on
4 the agenda.

5 Someone's pointing.

6 FEMALE SPEAKER: I believe there's somebody that would
7 like to speak.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: May I confirm?

10 We want -- we have one more speaker.

11 MS. H. JONES: Hello, Commissioners. Good morning; good
12 day, everybody.

13 My name is Helen Jones, and my son was John Horton.
14 He was murdered March 30th, 2009, by the 3000 Boys deputy
15 sheriff gang members.

16 And this gang -- of course, this commission know that
17 I've been crying this out for, like, the last five-and-a-half
18 years -- really, the last 13 years, but the last five-and-a-
19 half years with this commission.

20 Y'all know how bad the deputy sheriff gangs are.
21 Y'all have investigated them. (Inaudible) has investigated
22 them.

23 Now, it's another report out, right today, that UCLA,
24 Dr. Terrence Keel and Dr. Nick Shapiro has put out. And this
25 is a real report. This report comes from my -- not only my

1 son's death, but all the other family members' death. It's
2 59 autopsies, and I just hope this commission really take a
3 look at this report 'cause this is a real report. This is a
4 report that y'all can look at the autopsy report and see
5 exactly what happened to our children. And this is real.

6 You can look at our autopsies. Like I said before,
7 y'all can go through our depositions. All the information is
8 there. This is not a secret no more. Y'all know how many
9 deputy gangs it is.

10 We have been suffering. I've been suffering for the
11 last 13 years, and since the last 13 years, I have watched
12 family after family after family. And I'm going to tell you
13 something, it's -- it's not easy for me. That's -- it's still
14 hard for me right today. It been 13 years since I lost my son.
15 And when I tell you that I'm still in pain today, people really
16 think, like, "Oh, Helen, it's been 13 years for you."

17 No. It's been 13 years that I've been suffering for
18 13 years. And then to see the system that's supposed to lock
19 these deputy gang -- like, they got more power than anybody.

20 I have never seen a department have more power than
21 the president because that's what it seem like. This -- this
22 sheriff get to do whatever he want to do.

23 Like, today, the new thing that the sheriff
24 department doing right now -- today is, is threatening families
25 not to sue by taking their money from them. That's the new

1 thing that the sheriff is doing today. Bullying families in
2 their way.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

5 Anyone else? Do we have any other comment?

6 I'm going to ask our executive director: Do you have
7 anything to say? Otherwise, I think we're going to finish this
8 special hearing on deputy gangs.

9 DIRECTOR WILLIAMS: No. Just a reminder that our regular
10 commission meeting is next Thursday.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: And that will be virtual.

12 Mr. Deixler, anything else before we conclude?

13 Well, this matter is coming to a head. I hope our
14 colleagues at the county counsel have heard how distressed
15 people are about how long this issue of non-compliance with
16 subpoenas has dragged on. I know that they are doing what they
17 can to move it forward.

18 Mr. Deixler, I think I speak for not just the
19 ad hoc committee but the whole commission. We appreciate your
20 herculean efforts to develop evidence under these
21 circumstances. My hope is that Sheriff Villanueva will change
22 his ways and direct his deputies to cooperate with you.

23 We will resume anew in this Robinson Courtroom on
24 July 1st at 9:00 a.m. in hopes that the members of the
25 department who can actually do something about deputy gangs

1 will respond to our subpoenas and testify at a public hearing.

2 So thank you.

3 Meeting's adjourned.

4 (The special meeting of the Civilian Oversight
5 Commission Regarding Deputy Gangs adjourned.)

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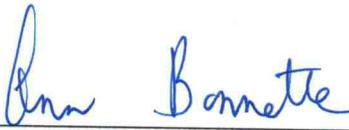
1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2) ss.
3 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)
4

5 I, ANN BONNETTE, California CSR No. 6108, Louisiana Court
6 Reporter No. 85135, Registered Professional Reporter, Certified
7 Manager of Reporting Services, AAERT CERT D-368, do hereby
8 certify:

9 That said digitally recorded audio of the Civilian
10 Oversight Commission Hearing, June 10, 2022, was transcribed
11 into computer-generated text under my direction and
12 supervision, and I hereby certify the foregoing transcript to
13 the best of my ability.

14 I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor
15 related to any party to said action nor in any way interested
16 in the outcome thereof.

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name
18 this 12th day of July, 2022.

19 
20 _____

21 ANN BONNETTE, CSR 6108
22
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24
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