



RESOLUTION OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REMOVAL AND USE OF THE FORT APACHE SEAL FROM THE EAST LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S STATION

The Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission of the County of Los Angeles, California, hereby resolves as follows:

WHEREAS, in 2016, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted to create a Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission) to improve public transparency and accountability with respect to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD);

WHEREAS, the Fort Apache seal was created as a negative critique of former Sheriff Peter Pitchess' order that East Los Angeles sheriff station deputies refrain from using force against anti-Vietnam War protestors during the 1970 Chicano Moratorium in a purported effort to de-escalate a tense situation;

WHEREAS, the Fort Apache seal portrays riot gear and mottos that, in context, may suggest that the East Los Angeles sheriff station is a lone outpost where deputies are at war with the local communities that they serve;

WHEREAS, former Sheriff Jim McDonnell, in 2016, banned the Fort Apache seal in order to address longstanding internal and external concerns about the divisive impact of the seal and to correct misimpressions about the East Los Angeles sheriff station that the seal conveyed to members of the public;

WHEREAS, countless members of the community find the Fort Apache seal offensive and culturally insensitive such that when viewed by members of the community, it is seen as repugnant by many and also serves as a constant reminder of the real and perceived tension between the community and the East Los Angeles sheriff station;

WHEREAS, Sheriff Alex Villanueva, in 2019, reignited controversy over the Fort Apache seal by reinstating the seal in the public lobby of the East Los Angeles sheriff station, where many vulnerable community members seeking help from the sheriff's department will be forced to see it;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission condemns the use of this seal by the LASD personnel and calls for the immediate removal of the Fort Apache seal from all public and private areas of the East Los Angeles sheriff station and the LASD as a whole.

Dated

Patti Giggans, Chair

Brian K. Williams, Executive Director, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, does hereby certify that the above is true and correct copy of the Resolution duly adopted by the Commission at its meeting held on July 23, 2019, and that same appears of record in the official Statement of Proceedings of said Commission.

Dated

Brian K. Williams, Executive Director