



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ONLINE AT THE LINK BELOW:**

**<https://bit.ly/3o1Vi3X>**

**[coc.lacounty.gov](http://coc.lacounty.gov)**



**Thursday, February 18, 2021**

Attachment: [Video](#)

Present: Chair Lael Rubin, Robert Bonner, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Priscilla Ocen, Casimiro Tolentino, and Executive Director Brian K. Williams.

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR**

• **Call to Order**

Chair Lael Rubin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and announced March 18, 2021 as the next Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) meeting date. Chair Rubin announced the Commission will be hosting a virtual conference open to the public on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. on *Enhancing Accountability: Improving the Law Enforcement Officer Discipline Process*. Chair Rubin then requested staff member Ingrid Williams to take roll, and Commissioner Harris to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Rubin advised that those interested in submitting their public comments in writing can access the link at [coc.lacounty.gov](http://coc.lacounty.gov) and all submissions will be part of the official record.

Following the announcement, Chair Rubin moved to the Consent Calendar.

• **Approval of Consent Calendar**

No members of the public commented on this item.

There being no objection, the consent calendar was approved.

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**2a. Ad hoc committee on LASD use of electronic data collection**

Chair Rubin stated various forms of electronic data collection and surveillance devices are being used by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) and stated members of the public have expressed concern. Chair Rubin reported that staff member Frederick Chung conducted research on devices being used by LASD and recommended an ad hoc committee be developed to explore the issue. Chair Rubin then requested Commissioner Harris to act as lead of the newly established committee.

There were six members of the public who commented on item 2a.

Following public comment, Chair Rubin moved to item 2b.

## **2b. Crisis Response from a Trauma Centered Perspective presentation**

Chair Rubin introduced Wendy Blanco, Director of Counseling Services and Trauma Recovery at Peace Over Violence. Ms. Blanco shared [a PowerPoint presentation](#), discussed the benefits of a trauma informed approach, and highlighted community programs. Following Ms. Blanco's remarks, Chair Rubin opened the floor for questions.

There were 15 members of the public who commented on item 2b.

Commissioner Giggans reported that the Family Assistance Program has been inactive, and funding has been low. She thanked the Department of Mental Health for their efforts and shared that there are efforts to revitalize the program.

The meeting recessed at 10:30 am.

Open session reconvened at 10:45 am. Present were Chair Lael Rubin, James P. Harris, Sean Kennedy, Priscilla Ocen, Vice Chair Casimiro Tolentino, Patti Giggans and Executive Director Brian K. Williams.

Following the recess, Chair Rubin moved to item 2c.

## **2c. Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Review and Analysis of Misconduct Investigations and Disciplinary Process**

Chair Rubin introduced Inspector General Max Huntsman, who advised that the discipline process within LASD is non-functional and needs to be reformed. He stated the current administration lacks in many areas including cooperation, when compared to the previous administration. Mr. Huntsman reported inconsistencies in the discipline process and delays in investigations and highlighted examples from the [OIG report](#) and [appendices](#), including one involving the Undersheriff, who used a racial slur and the Sheriff chose not reprimanded him.

Inspector General Huntsman recommended all shootings be investigated externally by a "county-wide task force that has civilian oversight controlling it." He said adopting that model will alleviate law enforcement investigating law enforcement and will ensure investigation efforts are consistent and done "fairly, completely and in timely manner."

Chair Rubin stated she is hopeful Sheriff Villanueva will respond to the OIG report. Mr. Huntsman reported that Sheriff Villanueva still has not responded to numerous reports, including the report on "unlawful conduct that was submitted back in December 2020."

Chair Rubin expressed her interest in the idea of county-wide law enforcement standards and questioned if other jurisdictions have been explored. Mr. Huntsman informed the Commission that no other jurisdictions have been explored, and he felt it would not be feasible considering each jurisdiction is dealing with different issues. He suggested adopting the system currently being used by the Chicago Police Department which has externalized a major part of their discipline process, specifically, those related to shootings.

Following Mr. Huntsman's comments, Chair Rubin opened the floor for Commissioner questions and comments.

Commissioner Bonner commended the OIG efforts. He shared that the Use of Force ad hoc committee along with staff has been working to identify ways to achieve greater discipline and accountability within LASD, and they will include recommendations identified by OIG to help achieve that goal.

Commissioner Ocen also thanked OIG staff. She noted the current system has no mechanism to hold deputies accountable, and as a first step, she suggested developing a mechanism to have the Sheriff removed.

Vice Chair Tolentino agreed with Commissioner Ocen's comments, and he expressed the need for a response from the Sheriff regarding the OIG report, to move forward.

There were 14 members of the public who commented on item 2c.

Chair Rubin thanked Mr. Huntsman again for his detailed report, and she acknowledged the Use of Force ad hoc committees work in the area and suggested the Commission develop a proposal to submit to the Board of Supervisors.

Following item 2c, Chair Rubin moved to item 3.

### **3. REMARKS & REPORTS**

#### **3a. Family Impact Remarks**

Chair Rubin stated one request was received for Family Impact Remarks from the family of Dana Malik Young Jr. Ms. Khadijah Shabazz shared her remarks.

Chair Rubin thanked Ms. Shabazz for her remarks and moved to 3b.

#### **3b. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Brian K. Williams announced that staff will host a virtual conference on February 25, 2021 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., which is open to the public titled "Enhancing Accountability: Improving the Law Enforcement Officer Disciplinary Process." He encouraged the public to register at [coc.lacounty.gov](http://coc.lacounty.gov). Mr. Williams noted a Town Hall on LASD's Use of Force will be held in March and advised information will be shared later. He stated during the last meeting, staff was tasked with exploring website improvements and asked staff member Jennifer Osborn to give an update.

Ms. Osborn shared that she has been in communication with the public as well as with the Board of Supervisors Information Technology (IT) team, and she reported that interactive boards or anything similar is not recommended due to security risks and possible hackers violating the system. Mr. Williams reported staff will continue to research other avenues on this issue.

Mr. Williams also reported receiving a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) regarding grant funding that may be available to the County to address overcrowded jails. He suggested the Commission review the letter for grant funding to be received and place it on next month's agenda for discussion; and if time is limited, he suggested staff and the Chair draft a letter in support of receiving the funds.

Commissioner Ocen clarified the public was not requesting an interactive mechanism, but a way for the public to leave additional comments via voice memo or video, due to the limited amount of time allowed to speak during Commission meetings. Ms. Osborn informed Commissioner Ocen that the COC website currently has a mechanism in place for the public to leave additional written comments, and she noted that an inquiry was made to incorporate audio and video uploads but has not received a resolution.

Commissioner Ocen expressed her support for State funding to help alleviate overcrowded jails in Los Angeles County.

### **3c. Inspector General's Report**

No additional report out came from the Inspector General.

### **3d. Commissioner Comments/Ad Hoc Committee Update**

Commissioner Tolentino reported on Mental Evaluation Team (MET).

Commissioner Ocen reported that the Measure R ad hoc was tasked with producing a comprehensive justice reinvestment feasibility report, and that the committee has not received approval to obtain consultants and resources are limited. Commissioner Ocen reported the committee is currently evaluating two proposals submitted by consultants in addition to pro bono. She reported actively seeking resources and is hopeful for full funding.

Chair Rubin reported Deputy Cliques has been meeting, and she noted an update will be provided at the March meeting.

Commissioner Harris made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Tolentino requesting the COC draft a letter to the Department of Mental Health requesting them to increase their priority level for funding of MET to total 45 units. Commissioner Ocen objected. Chair Rubin called on staff member Ingrid Williams to take the roll call vote. The vote was approved 5 – 1. Commissioners Bonner and Thompson were absent during the vote.

### **3e. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update**

Assistant Sheriff Chase reported LASD COVID-19 numbers are going down. He reported there are 32 sick, 19 symptomatic and 13 asymptomatic inmates with no inmates in critical care and the State sentenced inmates are nearing 4,000. Assistant Sheriff Chase reported that the LASD is currently working on alternatives to incarceration and reported 400 felony and 63 misdemeanor inmates who have been deemed incompetent to stand trial.

Assistant Sheriff Chase advised LASD is reviewing the OIG report and will respond. He said it will take time to submit a response as many of the cases identified took place during the previous administration. Assistant Sheriff Chase disagreed with the OIG report stating Unit Commanders are actively opening administrative cases and noted that the OIG attends weekly case reviews for "employees facing discipline 15 days to discharge." Chase then went on to introduce Kelly Porowski as the new Chief of Professional Standards and Brenden Corbett to report on the Wage Theft Task Force.

Chief Porowski provided an overview of her background and said she is looking forward

to working with the Commission, OIG and subject matter experts. Chief Porowski expressed the importance of transparency and noted that she is reviewing the policies and procedures to identify ways to improve.

Chief Corbett provided background and shared the goals of the Wage Theft Task Force. He provided statistics on individuals affected by the issues and expressed the need to work with Wendy Blanco at Peace Over Violence to assist individuals with trauma.

Following Chief Corbett's comments, Chair Rubin opened for the floor for Commissioner questions and comments.

Commissioner Ocen expressed concern over the practice used to track COVID-19 positivity rates. Commissioner Ocen inquired about additional mass testing and asked if there is a plan in place to vaccinate inmates 65 and over and those most vulnerable.

Assistant Sheriff Chase reported LASD has no plans to do additional mass testing. Assistant Sheriff Chase stated that random surveillance testing is ongoing for those most vulnerable and Correctional Health Services makes rounds daily to swab those with symptoms. Assistant Sheriff Chase also advised they follow the Center for Disease Control guidelines and noted ongoing vaccinations are being administered to inmates 65 and older and those medically vulnerable.

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

There were nine members of the public who commented on item 4.

View the [written public comments for the February 18, 2021 meeting.](#)

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Rubin again announced the virtual conference on Improving the Law Enforcement Officer Disciplinary Process scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2021 and encouraged everyone to register. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.