



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING HELD
ONLINE AT: <https://bit.ly/2REPxYG>
coc.lacounty.gov**



Thursday, May 20, 2021

Attachment: [Video](#)

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

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR

- **Call to Order**

Chair Rubin welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Rubin announced June 17, 2021 as the next Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) meeting date and reported that nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair will take place. Rubin then requested staff take roll and Commissioner Harris to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Rubin advised the public may submit written public comments by visiting the link at 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, including the [April 15, 2021](#) meeting minutes. Chair Rubin moved on to item 2a.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

2a. Family Impact Remarks

Chair Rubin reported one [Family Impact Remarks](#) request was received from the family of David Ordaz Jr, and she introduced Ms. Hilda Pedrosa, sister of David Ordaz Jr., who shared her remarks and an audio recording from her father, David Ordaz. Chair Rubin thanked Ms. Pedrosa for her comments and requested staff contact Ms. Pedrosa for follow up. Following Family Impact Remarks, Chair Rubin moved to item 2b.

2b. Discussion and Update regarding COVID-19 in L.A. County Jails

Chair Rubin introduced Dr. Sean Henderson of L.A. County Department of Health Services Correctional Health Services and Chief Sergio Aloma from Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Custody Services Division.

Chief Aloma discussed the reopening of visitations at Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) with 81 visitors for Mother's Day and he noted the following weekend the number of visitors doubled. He advised of the plan to reopen visitations in other jails and noted that reopening information is on the LASD website. Chief Aloma reported the Men's facility open for visitation in early June and continue thru Father's Day weekend.

Dr. Henderson then provided an update on COVID-19 vaccine distributions in the jails. Dr. Henderson reported 20,700 vaccines were offered; 11,124 have been issued; and 5,721 inmates are fully vaccinated. Henderson reported 57% of the vaccines were issued to Latinos, 26% to African Americans or Blacks, 14% to Whites and 4% to other. Dr. Henderson advised that the numbers have stabilized, and the focus is now directed to vaccinate inmates upon entry to the facility at the Inmate Reception Center.

Following these updates, Chair Rubin opened the floor for Commissioner questions. Chair Rubin expressed concern over the lack of publicity displayed by LASD to inform families about the reopening of visitation. Commissioner Ocen inquired about those who receive the first dose of the vaccine but are released prior to receiving their second dose, and she asked if they are tracking Custody and Correctional staff. Dr. Henderson stated there is no tracking mechanism in place for the inmates, but prior to their release they are issued a CDC vaccination card and given a letter from Public Health with follow-up instructions on how to receive the second dose. Chief Aloma reported tracking information for Custody staff can be found on the LASD website.

Commissioner Tolentino inquired about the vaccine acceptance rate at the Inmate Reception Center and if Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is in place. Dr. Henderson reported the acceptance rate generally falls between 30-50% and confirmed PPE is in place. Commissioner Thompson questioned if patient hospitalizations or deaths have occurred from receiving the vaccine. Dr. Henderson reported one patient experienced a reaction to the vaccine, but no serious illness. Commissioner Ocen inquired if hospitalizations and deaths in the jails are higher than usual and questioned where the inmate welfare funds go since programs have been limited due to the pandemic. Dr. Henderson reported the mortality rate has increased due to 13 COVID-19 related deaths. Chief Aloma reported that unused funds remain in the fund.

There were 3 members of the public who commented on item 2b.

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

2c. Presentation from the Office of Inspector General regarding the Fourth Report Back on Implementing Body-Worn Cameras in Los Angeles County

Chair Rubin introduced Dara Williams, Chief Deputy for the L.A. County Office of Inspector General (OIG) who shared a [PowerPoint presentation](#) and discussed the [Report on Implementing Body-Worn Cameras](#). Ms. Williams reported 11 stations currently have cameras and noted the goal is full distribution by August 2021. Ms. Williams identified OIG concerns regarding cameras, which included: when the deputies activate cameras; allowing deputies to review videos prior to write their report; and there is no policy in place for OIG to view and audit videos. Williams advised that OIG currently has the same access as the public. Ms. Williams reported that a request was made to LASD to incorporate OIG access to viewing and auditing rights into their policy.

Following Ms. Williams presentation, Chair Rubin called for Commissioner questions. Commissioner Harris inquired who is responsible for granting authorization to preview videos and who is over the Body Worn Camera program. Ms. Williams reported the homicide lieutenant gives authorization to preview videos and advised that Jeffrey Chadwick oversees the program. Commissioner Kennedy inquired about LASD compared to Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Ms. Williams noted that she is not familiar with LAPD's policy. Executive Director Brian Williams questioned if citizen complaints have increased or decreased and if LASD videos are produced in-house or by an outside agency. Ms. Williams will follow-up and report back. Commissioner Tolentino inquired about the policy on deputies using their own personal cameras. Ms. Williams advised that using personal cameras is against the current LASD policy.

There were 16 members of the public who commented on item 2c.

The meeting recessed at 11:22 a.m. and open session reconvened at 11:37 a.m. and continued with item 2d. Present were Chair Lael Rubin, Robert Bonner, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Sean Kennedy, Priscilla Ocen, Vice-Chair Casimiro Tolentino, and Executive Director Brian K. Williams.

2d. Update regarding Measure R

Commissioner Ocen provided a Measure R mandate overview and discussed the Ad Hoc Committee's progress on developing a Comprehensive Public Safety Reinvestment Plan and a Feasibility Study. She also made a motion to send a letter to the L.A. County Board of Supervisors requesting Measure R funding to hire a consultant.

There were 10 members of the public who commented on item 2d.

On a motion by Commissioner Ocen, seconded by Commissioner Bonner, the motion to send [proposed letter requesting Measure R funding](#) was unanimously approved.

Following item 2d Chair Rubin moved item 2e, however due to the delay of Sheriff Alex Villanueva, Chair Rubin moved item 3.

3. REMARKS & REPORTS

3a. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Williams discussed an upcoming Town Hall regarding changes in crime scheduled for June 8, 2021, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in addition to a joint Town Hall with the City of West Hollywood scheduled for June 14, 2021. He noted more information will be provided as it becomes available. Mr. Williams reported that the Board of Supervisors is currently deliberating on the budget, and noted communication was sent to the Board regarding the Sheriff's budget and encouraged the Commissioners and the public to send their comments to the Board as well.

3b. Inspector General's Report

Inspector General Max Huntsman reported numerous requests that have been made to the Sheriff that have not been answered. He noted a request to provide OIG access to review all body camera footage to verify if harassment complaints are supported, has also gone unanswered. Commissioner Bonner inquired about the presence of Mental Evaluation Teams (MET) during the incident involving David Ordaz Jr., and Mr. Huntsman reported he will follow-up and report back.

3c. Commissioner Comments/Ad Hoc Committee Update

Commissioner Ocen reminded the Commission about the [letter sent to the Board regarding funding for MET operation and expansion](#). She again expressed concern over funding for mental health crisis being issued to LASD and the need to redirect the funds to the Department of Mental Health. Commissioner Ocen expressed the need to explore other options and made a motion to develop an ad hoc committee to explore other alternatives related to the current MET structure. Chair Rubin acknowledged the importance of the issue and reminded Commissioner Ocen of previous discussions about merging it with an existing ad hoc and suggested further discussion later.

Following Commissioner Ocen's comments, Chair Rubin acknowledged the presence of Sheriff Villanueva and returned to item 2e.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

2e. Discussion with Sheriff Villanueva and Update regarding Deputy Cliques

Chair Rubin reminded Sheriff Villanueva how important his presence is and thanked him for coming. She informed the Sheriff that the Commission continues to monitor Deputy Clique-related incidents and highlighted the fact that they have not been eradicated. Chair Rubin called on Sheriff Villanueva to support a request to have County Counsel issue a new opinion regarding the Constitutionality of the [proposed policy recommendation](#) and to draft a new ordinance regarding Deputy Cliques.

Sheriff Villanueva provided a statement regarding the Deputy Cliques policy. Villanueva welcomed a new opinion by County Counsel and reported he "is sponsoring legislation with Mike Gipson at the State level addressing Peace Officer cliques in the workplace."

Following his statements, Sheriff Villanueva answered questions posed by the Commission. Commissioner Bonner inquired about the number of terminations administered since the Sheriff's policy was enacted. Commissioner Harris questioned if all files related to Deputy Clique investigations will be provided to the OIG. Sheriff Villanueva agreed that OIG will be given the files in their entirety. Commissioner Ocen questioned if joining a clique is against policy, and the Sheriff confirmed that joining a clique is not against policy and that some type of misconduct must be involved.

Commissioner Thompson requested an update on recent Deputy Involved Shootings and asked if deputies involved are still in the field. The Sheriff reported 96 names were recently released and are now available online, and he reported additional information related to unarmed individuals will be released. He reported deputies involved in shootings are removed from the field until an investigation is completed.

Chair Rubin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ocen, requesting County Counsel issue a new opinion on the Constitutionality of the [proposed policy, which includes a preamble explaining the background for the policy](#), and draft an ordinance banning deputy cliques. Following Commissioner comments, Chair Rubin moved to public comment.

There were 16 members of the public who commented on item 2c.

Chair Rubin called for a vote on the aforementioned motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. REMARKS & REPORTS

3d. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed.

View the [written public comments for the May 20, 2021 meeting](#).

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rubin announced the next COC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2021 and encouraged everyone to register. The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.