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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF
CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
AUGUST 19, 2022

SPECIAL HEARING ON DEPUTY GANGS IN THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

MEMBERS

COMMISSION CHAIR SEAN KENNEDY
COMMISSIONER ROBERT BONNER
COMMISSIONER PATTI GIGGANS
COMMISSIONER LUIS GARCIA

1	ATTENDEES	
2	Commission Chair, Sean Kennedy	
3	COMMISSIONERS:	
4	Robert Bonner	
5	Patti Giggans	
6	Luis Garcia	
7	Special Counsel: Bert Deixler; Kendall, Brill & Kelly,	
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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Good morning, everybody.

3 We are going to begin the -- the fifth Special
4 Hearing on Deputy Gangs in just a minute, and I want to welcome
5 everyone to Loyola Law School.

6 With the start of the academic year, the -- the sixth
7 special hearing -- we're going to try to pick a Friday that
8 would work here. If not, we will move facilities, and we'll
9 provide a lot of notice where -- where that would be.

10 I'm hoping by the end of this hearing, for our
11 special counsel, I can have a date that works for you so we can
12 announce it. But in the meantime, I think that we should get
13 started.

14 The agenda says the first thing is for us to do the
15 roll call.

16 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Bonner?

17 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Here.

18 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Cooper?

19 COMMISSIONER COOPER: (No audible response.)

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Garcia?

21 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Here.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Giggans?

23 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Here.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Harris?

25 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: (No audible response.)

1 MS. WILLIAMS: Vice Chair Hicks?

2 COMMISSIONER HICKS: (No audible response.)

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Rubin?

4 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: (No audible response.)

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Chair Kennedy?

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: Here.

7 This being August and not a regularly-scheduled
8 meeting, several commissioners had vacation conflicts. So
9 we're a little -- we're a little slimmer than usual, but we
10 have the -- the -- the same pluck, so we're going to just begin
11 anyway.

12 Mr. Deixler, it is -- it is time to bring up any
13 issues. And after that, we can discuss a subpoena issue, and
14 then we can call your witnesses if you like.

15 MR. DEIXLER: Thank you.

16 Good morning, Commissioners.

17 I'd like to start as -- I'd like to start as usual
18 with the procedural rigamarole that we all live through.

19 Today, we're going to have just three witnesses. Two
20 witnesses are going to be in person; a third witness is going
21 to testify anonymously on the computer screen for reasons that
22 will become clear from the testimony of that witness.

23 We had expected to have two more witnesses today.
24 One witness, who had quite substantial, relevant testimony,
25 told me on Wednesday night that for reasons of fear of

1 intimidation and retribution that she was unwilling to testify.

2 Now, I'm optimistic that with passages of some time
3 that the witness will change and be willing to come and
4 testify.

5 In addition, we hope to put on some statistical
6 evidence today, and we're still crunching those numbers so that
7 we can be certain of their accuracy and probative value.

8 I did want to make sure to introduce Erin Neuman and
9 Ashley Bowman, who are two of our pro bono special counsel who
10 are here today and who are going to be playing an important
11 role going forward with the remaining hearings and the report
12 writing that, I understand, is going to be required of -- of
13 our group.

14 I think that covers the information I needed to
15 convey, and I'll leave it to you to tell me when we should call
16 the witnesses.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

18 Mr. Deixler, I just want to make sure -- so our
19 lawyers are Erin Bowman and Ashley Neuman?

20 MR. DEIXLER: Ashley Bowman and Ariel Neuman.

21 CHAIR KENNEDY: Oh, I'm sorry.

22 MR. DEIXLER: Of -- of the Bird Marella firm.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you so much for assisting the
24 commission in this hearing. We really appreciate it.

25 There is an issue of a subpoena. We served a

1 subpoena duces tecum on the custodian of records of the
2 sheriffs. I think it was returnable -- I don't remember the
3 date.

4 MR. DEIXLER: August the 5th, I think --

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: August the 5th.

6 MR. DEIXLER: -- was the day.

7 CHAIR KENNEDY: And it was not complied with, and the
8 question is where do we go from here?

9 Commissioner Bonner, do you --

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 Basically, the -- it was pointed out to us by county
12 counsel that the subpoena duces tecum that we issued did not --
13 was not accompanied by a Declaration of Good Cause.

14 And I think there's an argument that since we're one
15 government entity subpoenaing another government entity in the
16 same county that we don't need that.

17 But nonetheless, counsel was concerned with the
18 enforceability of our subpoena without a Declaration of Good
19 Cause. And so I believe it's prudent for us in this
20 circumstance, since in all probability we'll need enforcement
21 of this subpoena for documents that relate to, among other
22 things, a potential obstruction of justice of the Kennedy Hall
23 investigation -- would be prudent to have one.

24 So county counsel has -- well, has assisted us in
25 developing a Declaration of Good Cause -- by the way, which

1 I've edited it.

2 But nonetheless the -- at this point, I think the
3 action should be to withdraw our previously issued subpoena,
4 and we would notify, of course, the Sheriff and the Sheriff's
5 Department of that.

6 At the same time, we will concurrently therewith,
7 serve a new subpoena that will be subpoena duces tecum,
8 essentially, for the same documents already approved by the
9 Civilian Oversight Commission, and that will be accompanied by
10 a Declaration of Good Cause.

11 I have, by the way, prepared that document, and since
12 the commission, at a full meeting, unanimously was in favor of
13 issuing the subpoena, I don't think we need further action
14 here. We just need to attach the Declaration of Good Cause --

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: I agree.

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: -- to the subpoena, and properly
17 serve it on the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Department.

18 So I have that for you to sign, assuming that we want
19 to go forward with that action today.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: I think that sounds -- this has already
21 been approved, we're just redoing it with the -- the
22 declaration showing good cause so it's -- we don't need to have
23 any vote.

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I don't think we need any vote at
25 all. We've been advised, we agree with the advice the

1 counsel -- county counsel has given us -- and -- regarding
2 enforceability. So we'll -- we'll do that and hopefully serve
3 it promptly.

4 Now, I'm not sure we have a date. We -- I think it's
5 always good to have a date -- a return date on a subpoena. So
6 we'll need to put a new return date, and -- and that's either
7 going to be concurrent with our next hearing, or possibly we
8 could do it without a hearing date. I'm not sure. I would
9 prefer, since this is a hearing, to have set forth the next
10 hearing date.

11 And I know -- by the way, when I was walking in, we
12 were discussing that very issue, and I don't know whether we
13 have our next hearing date fixed at this point.

14 CHAIR KENNEDY: We don't. But I'm hoping before we
15 adjourn today to have that.

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay. That's great.

17 So we'll just insert a date, and we'll be ready to
18 go.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: Mr. Deixler, I think that takes care of
20 the subpoena issue.

21 And if you have any witnesses, why don't we begin?

22 MR. DEIXLER: Our first witness is Jefferson Chow.

23 If you'll excuse me, I'll get him from the green
24 room.

25 MR. CHOW: Where do I go?

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: Here.

2 MR. CHOW: Oh, thank you, sir.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Good morning.

4 MR. CHOW: Morning, sir. How you doing?

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: I'm -- I'm fine.

6 Mr. Chow, can you raise your right hand.

7 MR. CHOW: Oh, I'm sorry.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Do you swear or solemnly affirm under
9 penalty of perjury to tell the truth, the whole truth, and
10 nothing but the truth?

11 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, I do.

12 MR. DEIXLER: Good morning, sir.

13 Would you state your name and spell your last name
14 for the record.

15 MR. CHOW: My first name is Jefferson, sir. Last name is
16 Chow, C-h-o-w, and my first name is spelled J-e-f-f-e-r-s-o-n.

17 MR. DEIXLER: And how are you testifying -- are you
18 testifying today pursuant to a subpoena issued by the
19 commission?

20 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, I am.

21 MR. DEIXLER: And how are you employed?

22 MR. CHOW: I'm LA County Sheriff's Department. I'm a
23 sergeant for the Department at Homicide Bureau as an
24 investigator.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And how long have you been employed by the

1 Sheriff's Department?

2 MR. CHOW: Twenty-six years.

3 MR. DEIXLER: And would you just briefly describe what
4 your current duties are for the LASD?

5 MR. CHOW: Sir, basically, I'm an investigator for people
6 who have murder, suicides. A lot of tragic things will happen,
7 and a lot of times we will go and solve murders and officer-
8 involved shootings. It's pretty sad.

9 MR. DEIXLER: How long have you been detailed to the
10 Homicide Bureau?

11 MR. CHOW: Sir, I'm new. I've been there for eight
12 months.

13 MR. DEIXLER: What were your duties in the LASD in the
14 fall of 2018?

15 MR. CHOW: Sir, I was assigned to Internal Criminal
16 Investigations Bureau, ICIB. I would conduct criminal
17 investigations on department members.

18 MR. DEIXLER: And I'm going to ask that what was
19 previously marked as Exhibit 4 be placed on the board and ask
20 you to take a look at the document, which is now in plain view
21 on the big screen, and ask you, generally, is that from the log
22 you maintained as part of your investigative work for the ICIB?

23 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, it is.

24 MR. DEIXLER: And what was the purpose of the log that you
25 maintained for the ICIB investigation work?

1 MR. CHOW: The purpose is for when I write my supplemental
2 report at the end. Or while I'm doing the investigation,
3 I'll -- I'll be -- I'll be writing my -- my interviews, my
4 actions, what was told to me. Also, it's for my notes for just
5 in case so that I remember certain things that are odd or
6 anything like that.

7 MR. DEIXLER: Was it a document that you maintained in the
8 ordinary course of your business?

9 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, it is.

10 MR. DEIXLER: And did you participate in the investigation
11 of a beating at Kennedy Hall?

12 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, I did.

13 MR. DEIXLER: And would you, for the commission, briefly
14 describe how you conducted that investigation?

15 MR. CHOW: Sir, I responded to the scene when I got the
16 call. I got there -- we went to the scene. We talked to --
17 tried to talk to the inner -- the victims, they wouldn't talk
18 to me. Eventually they did comply and talked to me with an
19 attorney present. They gave me statements.

20 I tried to take video footage from the incident. I
21 tried to get phone records. I tried to get video footage of
22 the incident itself; I was unable to.

23 I did over an excess of, I think, 90 interviews in
24 the course of the seven-month period. I -- that includes
25 detailing the report, which was pretty lengthy.

1 MR. DEIXLER: In the course of your investigation, did you
2 conclude that it was appropriate to determine whether there was
3 a role of a deputy subgroup in connection with the Kennedy Hall
4 incident?

5 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, it was.

6 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and is a deputy subgroup also
7 sometimes referred to as deputy clique?

8 MR. CHOW: It could be, sir.

9 MR. DEIXLER: Yeah.

10 MR. CHOW: It's up to interpretation for each person.

11 MR. DEIXLER: Yeah.

12 Why did you believe investigating the involvement --

13 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Wait -- wait a minute.

14 MR. DEIXLER: -- of deputies...

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Excuse me. I missed that answer
16 (inaudible).

17 MR. DEIXLER: Would you repeat your answer?

18 COMMISSIONER BONNER: It's up to...

19 MR. CHOW: The personal interpretation.

20 COMMISSIONER BONNER: A personal -- like whose -- whose
21 interpretation?

22 MR. CHOW: It's -- for me, it's a clique or just a group
23 of people, sir -- group of deputies.

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: All right.

25 But you have heard the term "deputy cliques"; right?

1 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, I have.

2 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And you've had heard the term
3 "deputy cliques" applied to, among others I assume, the -- the
4 Banditos?

5 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And you've heard that term applied
7 to the Executioners?

8 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: You've heard that term applied to --
10 I don't know, the -- you've been there 26 years -- the Cavemen?

11 MR. CHOW: I've heard that, yes, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yeah.

13 And you've heard that term applied to the Grim
14 Reapers?

15 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: All right.

17 I -- so when we use "deputy cliques," you'll
18 understand us to mean exclusionary subgroups within the
19 Sheriff's Department that have existed on and off over the
20 years -- over the decades?

21 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

22 COMMISSIONER BONNER: All right.

23 Thank you, Mr. Deixler.

24 MR. DEIXLER: With -- with -- with that background, why do
25 you believe investigating the involvement of a deputy clique

1 was appropriate?

2 MR. CHOW: Sir, to find out the motive.

3 MR. DEIXLER: And why is that important in the
4 investigation of criminal -- potential criminal behavior?

5 MR. CHOW: To give a full understanding of why the
6 incident occurred.

7 MR. DEIXLER: Would you take -- take a look at Exhibit 4,
8 page numbered 4, the entry for November 9th, 2018, at 1530.

9 Would you read into the record the portion of that
10 exhibit numbered 4, page numbered 4, which begins at "Also,
11 Lieutenant Chavalier..."

12 MR. CHOW: I'm sorry, sir. I'm looking for it.

13 MR. DEIXLER: It's three items from the bottom.

14 MR. CHOW: Okay.

15 Read it, sir?

16 MR. DEIXLER: Yes. Starting with "also."

17 MR. CHOW: "Also, Lieutenant Chevalier advised me OIG
18 wanted additional questions about the subculture groups at East
19 LA. Captain Burson confirmed additional questions needed to be
20 asked."

21 MR. DEIXLER: And did you make that entry?

22 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, I did.

23 MR. DEIXLER: And was that entry truthful at the time you
24 made it?

25 MR. CHOW: It is still truthful, sir --

1 MR. DEIXLER: Do you have any...

2 Still truthful. That's what I'm asking.

3 There's no reason to believe that in any way it's
4 false, it's been changed, it's amended?

5 MR. CHOW: No, sir.

6 MR. DEIXLER: Okay.

7 Did you, in fact, receive the instructions that were
8 reported?

9 MR. CHOW: Yes.

10 MR. DEIXLER: Would you look at Exhibit 4, page numbered
11 5, the entry for November 27th, 2018, at 1300 hours.

12 MR. CHOW: You want me to read it out, sir?

13 MR. DEIXLER: Yes, if you would read that into the record.

14 MR. CHOW: "Canceled interviews due to Captain -- Chief --
15 excuse me -- due to Captain/Chief Burson. He wanted to make
16 sure I did not have to ask questions about subculture groups at
17 East LA Station. Worked on another case due to the statute
18 date is coming up."

19 MR. DEIXLER: Okay.

20 And was that an entry that you made?

21 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, it is.

22 MR. DEIXLER: And was that entry truthful at the time you
23 made it?

24 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

25 MR. DEIXLER: Did you --

1 MR. CHOW: Still is.

2 MR. DEIXLER: -- did you receive the instructions that are
3 recited in that portion of exhibit numbered 4?

4 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

5 MR. DEIXLER: Is there any reason to think that any
6 portion of that instruction that is memorialized there is
7 untrue?

8 MR. CHOW: No, sir.

9 MR. DEIXLER: Has -- has the record been changed in any
10 way?

11 MR. CHOW: No, sir.

12 MR. DEIXLER: Would you take a look, please, at page 5 of
13 Exhibit 4, the entry for December 7th, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

14 And would you read that into the record.

15 MR. CHOW: "Received the go ahead to start interviewing
16 witnesses for the case. Also, the chief, Burson, informed me
17 that I do not need to ask questions about subculture groups at
18 East LA Station. Spoke to Attorney Sherry Lawrence --
19 representing -- and declined to be interviewed."

20 MR. DEIXLER: And did you make that entry, sir?

21 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, I did.

22 MR. DEIXLER: And is that a truthful recital of the
23 instruction you had received?

24 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, it is.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And in each instance that we have gone over,

1 did you follow the instruction that were -- instructions that
2 were given to you?

3 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, I did.

4 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and why did you follow those
5 instructions?

6 MR. CHOW: Sir, we're a paramilitary agency, sir.

7 MR. DEIXLER: And what do you mean by that?

8 MR. CHOW: We follow orders of chain of command.

9 MR. DEIXLER: And in this particular case, it had been
10 your starting point that it would have been helpful or wise to
11 investigate the existence of subgroups, cliques, or civil or
12 exclusion organizations; is that true?

13 MR. CHOW: True.

14 MR. DEIXLER: Notwithstanding what you believed to be the
15 case, you followed those orders; is that also true?

16 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

17 MR. DEIXLER: By the way, the subgroup we're talking about
18 there is, as Judge Bonner established, is the Banditos in this
19 case; is that correct?

20 MR. CHOW: Correct.

21 MR. DEIXLER: Based upon your investigation, did you
22 conclude that this was just a drunken brawl, a mutual combat,
23 or did you believe it was something more serious?

24 MR. CHOW: My personal belief, something more serious.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And did you believe that it should've been

1 filed as a criminal case?

2 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, I do.

3 MR. DEIXLER: And why was that?

4 MR. CHOW: Sir, it's among -- the fight was amongst deputy
5 sheriffs who shouldn't be fighting at all.

6 MR. DEIXLER: I have no further questions. Pass the
7 witness.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Are there any questions from the
9 commission?

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Did -- let me ask you --

11 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER BONNER: -- just one or two, Detective Chow.

13 Did -- I've forgotten his rank at the time he gave
14 you these. First of all, when -- when -- I think he was
15 Captain Burson in November; is that right? Do you remember his
16 rank within --

17 MR. CHOW: I remember he was a captain of ICIB, yes, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay.

19 So in -- November 27th, when Captain Burson said,
20 "No need to ask any questions about subgroups -- subculture
21 groups," meaning, of course, to you, the Banditos, did he
22 indicate to you in any way that he was issuing that -- first of
23 all, did you consider that to be an order, a directive?

24 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

25 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And did he indicate to you that that

1 order was -- that he had been directed by anybody else to give
2 that order?

3 MR. CHOW: As far as -- sir, I've never personally seen it
4 or heard it, but I believe it came from somebody else, yes,
5 sir.

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay.

7 In other words, your impression was from talking to
8 Captain Burson that his direction or order to you was coming
9 from somebody above him?

10 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And would that also be true of the
12 directive order that you received in -- December 7th, which
13 reaffirmed the previous order that you were not to ask
14 questions about deputy subgroups or the Banditos?

15 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Did he -- I guess I might as well
17 ask. Did he indicate anybody by name given in that
18 directory? Captain Burson.

19 MR. CHOW: You know, sir, I -- I don't -- I didn't ask
20 those questions at that point.

21 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Understood.

22 MR. CHOW: To a chief or a captain? I mean, I'm a
23 sergeant, sir.

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: You know, I -- I guess -- okay.

25 Well -- well -- well said. And I mean that only because you --

1 you -- you have identified the Sheriff's Department as a
2 paramilitary organization, which follows a chain of command,
3 and if you receive an order, you're expected to comply or obey
4 that order, are you not?

5 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And if you don't, it's
7 insubordination, isn't it?

8 MR. CHOW: Correct.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And you could be disciplined for it?

10 MR. CHOW: I could be. Or fired.

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Or fired. I mean, discipline could
12 include termination for insubordination; correct?

13 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, it could.

14 COMMISSIONER BONNER: So the first time you spoke to
15 Captain Burson -- or Burson -- on November 27th, he was a
16 captain. When you spoke to him on -- you said, November 27th,
17 the first time, but when you spoke to him on December 7th,
18 approximately -- I guess about 10 days later -- was he still a
19 captain?

20 MR. CHOW: Sir, I know that the reason I put that in my
21 entry is because at that time we all knew inside -- well,
22 excuse me. I'm not going to say we all knew. I knew that he
23 was going to become a chief -- or that he was about to be a
24 chief.

25 COMMISSIONER BONNER: All right.

1 And -- and on or about December 7th, or shortly
2 thereafter, he was promoted to being a chief, was he not?

3 MR. CHOW: That's what I recall, sir.

4 And that's why I documented it in the log, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yeah.

6 And just so we understand how the Sheriff's
7 Department works, when you go to a captain from a chief, you've
8 jumped two ranks up, have you not?

9 MR. CHOW: That's a lot of ranks, sir.

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yeah.

11 It's a little bit unusual, actually, to jump two
12 ranks, isn't it, in your experience with the Sheriff's
13 Department?

14 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, it is.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay.

16 I don't have anything further.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: Any questions?

18 Mr. Chow, did you think it was weird that Captain or
19 Chief Burson told you not to ask about whether or not the
20 people involved in the fight were members of a deputy clique or
21 deputy gang?

22 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, I did.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Did you -- I mean, I don't -- I -- did you
24 ask why he was giving you that order?

25 MR. CHOW: Sir, I -- am I going to be insubordinate? Am I

1 going to argue with him?

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: So you didn't feel like you could ask why?

3 MR. CHOW: I couldn't.

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: Did you talk to anybody else and ask, "Why
5 are we not asking about their affiliation with a deputy clique
6 or a deputy gang"?

7 MR. CHOW: No, sir.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Do you have interactions with these clique
9 members or deputy gang members at the Department?

10 MR. CHOW: Sir, I don't know who all these deputy cliques
11 are as far as -- we've mentioned -- I'm sorry -- counsel
12 mentioned all the names of the subculture groups, but I don't
13 know who's identified. I don't know.

14 And as far as -- I don't know why I'm asking who are
15 they." I don't need to.

16 All I know is I'm a deputy sheriff, and we work, and
17 I don't care what subgroup -- group they're -- belonged to. I
18 don't.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: Are those -- those cliques or deputy gangs
20 consistent with the paramilitary chain of command that you
21 talked about?

22 MR. CHOW: Sir, gangs? Sir, from what I'm dealing with
23 gang, when a gang kills people, hurts people, wild people,
24 that's a gang, sir.

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

1 MR. CHOW: As far as if -- if the Department members are
2 doing such things and they're deputy sheriffs and they belong
3 to that crew, that group, that's wrong. That's plain wrong.
4 There's no excuse for that, sir.

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Right. But in your experience here with
6 the Kennedy Hall investigation, you were told -- told by high
7 management not to ask about affiliation with a deputy clique or
8 a deputy gang; right?

9 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIR KENNEDY: And so how do you ever get to the bottom
11 of the problem if you can't ask about it?

12 MR. CHOW: Sir, I did the best I could at the time.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

14 Yes, ma'am.

15 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yeah.

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: Patti?

17 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Thank you so much.

18 Yeah. I just want to clarify in terms of your
19 experience as an investigator --

20 MR. CHOW: Yes, ma'am.

21 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: -- in the Investigation Unit --
22 Internal Investigation Unit, has this happened frequently when
23 your supervisors would kind of put the -- a stop on the line of
24 questioning or an angle in an investigation? Does that -- did
25 that happen frequently? occasionally? rarely?

1 MR. CHOW: Ma'am, it never really did until that one point
2 in time. That's why I documented it.

3 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: So you're saying that in your --
4 well, how many years were you in the Investigation Unit?

5 MR. CHOW: At ICIB?

6 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yes.

7 MR. CHOW: Three-and-a-half now.

8 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: So in three-and-a-half years there,
9 you pretty much did your job according to the book?

10 MR. CHOW: Yes, ma'am.

11 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: You looked in every corner, you
12 looked under --

13 MR. CHOW: Every rock.

14 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: -- every rock to -- and you felt
15 confident that you had the support of the Department to do your
16 job well?

17 MR. CHOW: Yes, ma'am.

18 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: And that you were obligated to do
19 your job well --

20 MR. CHOW: Yes, ma'am.

21 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: -- as an investigator?

22 Okay. Thank you so much.

23 MR. CHOW: You're welcome.

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I had just a followup.

25 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I've realized that, ultimately, I --
2 you know, gangs or deputy gangs is both a legal term under
3 statute, and it's -- and it's also a colloquial term sometimes
4 used, and I'm not using that term. I'm just going to use
5 "deputy cliques" with you and your understanding of "deputy
6 cliques."

7 Let's just -- let's -- let's say they -- they don't
8 go out and beat up people or engage in excessive force, but
9 let's say that within a station or the county jail, in Central
10 Jail, they actually dictate who's going to be assigned where,
11 and they dictate who gets trained and the like. In other
12 words, they control those decisions. Is that good for a
13 paramilitary organization to have that kind of thing going on?

14 MR. CHOW: No, sir, it's not. It's weak -- weak
15 leadership.

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And you understand that from
17 time to time deputy cliques have exercised that authority or
18 that power within a station?

19 MR. CHOW: I've heard, yes, sir.

20 COMMISSIONER BONNER: You've heard about that?

21 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

22 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And so that's fundamentally
23 inconsistent with a chain of command that can hold people
24 accountable and responsible if they don't follow policy or the
25 rules; correct?

1 MR. CHOW: Correct, sir.

2 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Just -- I don't know. We haven't
3 really gone into any real details on the investigation. There
4 was -- you said you wrote a report of the Kennedy Hall
5 assaultive behavior, and you said it was a lengthy report.

6 How -- roughly how long -- how -- how -- how many
7 pages is your report? Is it, like, over 100 pages with the
8 interview -- with memoranda to the interview and the like? Or
9 just give me some idea of the volume of it.

10 MR. CHOW: Sir, narrative written, over 60. And then all
11 exhibits and probably transcripts are, I think, probably closer
12 to 2400.

13 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And -- okay.

14 And so, again, you said you interviewed over 70
15 people?

16 MR. CHOW: About close to 90, I believe. I did 90
17 interviews --

18 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay. Excuse me on this.

19 MR. CHOW: That's okay, sir.

20 Ninety interviews, but I had to do -- reinterview
21 some people, whatever, whatnot, but close to 90.

22 COMMISSIONER BONNER: What if -- I mean, I'll say this
23 hypothetically, but what if members of the Banditos at the
24 Kennedy Hall situation were essentially beating up on another
25 group of deputies at the East LA Station who they wanted to

1 drive out of the station? That would be -- that would make it
2 a more serious incident, would it not, than just an assault.

3 MR. CHOW: Well, sir, I have to be honest with you.
4 The -- in my opinion, the stuff that happened was serious
5 enough.

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yep.

7 It -- well, it was serious enough itself because you
8 had assaults that caused serious bodily injury; correct?

9 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: But wouldn't it be even more serious
11 if, in fact, you discovered it was a situation in which there
12 was a deputy clique operating in the station that actually was
13 beating up on other deputies in order to show their authority
14 and control over the East LA Station? Wouldn't that even be
15 more serious?

16 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, it would be.

17 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Because it would reflect a culture
18 within at least the East LA Station that would be troubling;
19 correct?

20 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir, it would be.

21 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And that could be true, too, if you
22 had deputy cliques against the other stations; correct?

23 MR. CHOW: Could be, yes, sir.

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, wouldn't it be true? I guess
25 it could. I'd -- like, it's possible.

1 Wouldn't it be true if you had deputy cliques that
2 were controlling assignments, training, and -- and beating up
3 other deputies that they -- that weren't part of the cliques,
4 that would be -- that would be a -- a very serious situation?

5 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir. Yes, it is.

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay. Nothing further.

7 Thank you, Mr. -- by the way, Sergeant?

8 MR. CHOW: Yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I just wanted to make sure --

10 MR. CHOW: (Inaudible), sir.

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I thought maybe you'd been promoted
12 to lieutenant by now.

13 MR. CHOW: No. No, sir. Not --

14 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible) --

15 MR. CHOW: I'm happy with my career.

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay. Sorry about that.

17 MR. CHOW: I'm okay with that, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay. Fine.

19 Thank you, Sergeant Chow.

20 MR. CHOW: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Appreciate your being here.

22 MR. CHOW: Um-hum.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Mr. Deixler, anything else, or can we
24 excuse --

25 MR. DEIXLER: Nothing else for this witness, except I've

1 been remiss in not thanking him for his service to the
2 community.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Thank you so much.

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Do you have any other witness?

6 MR. DEIXLER: Yes. Our next witness is
7 Captain Angela Walton.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Good morning.

9 MS. WALTON: Good morning, sir.

10 CHAIR KENNEDY: Can you -- well, raise your right...

11 I mean, I have to swear you.

12 Do you swear or solemnly affirm, under penalty of
13 perjury, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
14 the truth?

15 MS. WALTON: I do.

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

17 MS. WALTON: May I be seated?

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes. Please.

19 MR. DEIXLER: Good morning.

20 MS. WALTON: Good morning, sir.

21 MR. DEIXLER: Would you please state your name and spell
22 your last name.

23 MS. WALTON: Yes. My name is Angela Walton, W-a-l-t-o-n,
24 is my last name.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and are you testifying here pursuant

1 to a subpoena?

2 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir, I am.

3 MR. DEIXLER: And how are you employed?

4 MS. WALTON: With the Los Angeles County Sheriff's
5 Department.

6 MR. DEIXLER: And how long have you been with the
7 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department?

8 MS. WALTON: Twenty-seven years.

9 MR. DEIXLER: And what rank do you currently hold?

10 MS. WALTON: Captain.

11 MR. DEIXLER: And what is your responsibility as a captain
12 in the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department?

13 MS. WALTON: I'm the unit commander over various units.
14 That would be Patrol station or jail or a specialized unit.

15 MR. DEIXLER: And what was the last unit that you
16 commanded?

17 MS. WALTON: Court Services, West Bureau, which is
18 actually Court Services Division, West Bureau.

19 MR. DEIXLER: Would you share briefly with the commission
20 an overview of your career at the LASD?

21 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

22 I started in '95 -- 1995. I was at the academy. I
23 graduated from the academy in 1996, at which time I went to
24 Sybil Brand Institute for Women.

25 I was there for about a year until they moved the

1 women over to Twin Towers Correctional Facility, at which time
2 I stayed for a few years. And then I went to Court Services as
3 a bailiff lock-up deputy. I stayed there maybe about half a
4 year.

5 After that time, I went to Patrol to Lennox Station.
6 I worked as a T -- excuse me, a trainee. I was at Transit
7 Service Bureau. I was assigned to TSB; however, I trained at
8 Lennox Station.

9 After I left Lennox Station as a trainee, I went to
10 Transit Service Bureau for a while. And then I went on loan as
11 well to Century Station for the COPS team for about 90 days.

12 While I was there, I received a call from a captain
13 who basically said he was interested in me coming back to
14 Lennox to be a training officer and wanting me to interview for
15 that position. I interviewed; I became a TO at Lennox; I went
16 back to Lennox Station. I stayed at Lennox Station for a
17 little bit, probably about a year, year-and-a-half, at which
18 time I interviewed, and I went to Major Crimes Bureau.

19 And I was a detective at Major Crimes Bureau, which
20 handles -- at that time, I was assigned to the Vice Unit. I
21 also helped out the surveillance team and extraditions at
22 times.

23 After that -- I was there about five years. I was
24 promoted to sergeant, assigned, and went to Altadena Sheriff's
25 Station for a couple of years.

1 And then I went and transferred to Personnel as
2 Recruitment and Background. I worked there as a sergeant.

3 Then I promoted to lieutenant in 2011, and I went to
4 PBC East, which is the ranch, Wayside. I was there for a few
5 years until that facility was closed.

6 And we were -- we had a job fair at CRDF is where I
7 was assigned. And then I was at CRDF from 2013 until 2009 --
8 '18 -- I'm sorry -- '18, at which time I went to Custody
9 Compliance Sustainability Bureau, CCSB. I was there for about
10 a year. I was off for a little bit; I came back to that unit.

11 And in December of 2019, I was promoted to captain,
12 at which time I went to -- back to CRDF as the captain. I was
13 at CRDF until August of last year, 2021, at which time I was
14 moved to Court Services. And I was there until February of
15 this year when I'm off -- I had to go off again.

16 MR. DEIXLER: Well, we -- we thank you for your service
17 to -- to our community.

18 Can I start by asking you, Captain, in your
19 experience does the LASD have deputy cliques or deputy
20 subgroups?

21 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

22 MR. DEIXLER: And has it been that -- has that been the
23 case for your entire 27-year career in the LASD?

24 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

25 MR. DEIXLER: I'd like to turn your attention to the

1 beginning of your career in Patrol. If I remember correctly,
2 your Patrol assignment was at Lennox Station?

3 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

4 MR. DEIXLER: And during what period of time were you at
5 Lennox Station?

6 MS. WALTON: As a trainee, I was there from '90 -- the
7 first part of '99, which is -- being a trainee in the field is
8 six months, and then I returned in '20 -- in 2000. I think
9 around 2000 is when I returned.

10 MR. DEIXLER: And at the time you were there, both in '99
11 as a trainee and thereafter as a training officer, was there a
12 deputy subgroup or clique that was present at Lennox Station?

13 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

14 MR. DEIXLER: And what was the name of that deputy clique?

15 MS. WALTON: The Reapers.

16 MR. DEIXLER: And was it known within the station that the
17 Reapers -- that who -- that there was this deputy clique known
18 as the Reapers?

19 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

20 MR. DEIXLER: And at the time you were familiar with the
21 Lennox operation, was there a shot caller for the Reapers?

22 MS. WALTON: There was chatter of kind of who -- who is,
23 you know, with the Reapers. There was chatter of who was no
24 longer even at the station but still had a lot of control of
25 what was going on.

1 And when I say when there's chatter, when you're
2 working amongst the deputies, that's kind of -- you know, you
3 start hearing things, and you hear who is still kind of calling
4 people or telling people what to do.

5 MR. DEIXLER: And was there a particular name that you
6 heard at that time, a person who was calling people although he
7 or she was no longer at the station?

8 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

9 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and who was that?

10 MS. WALTON: Larry Del Mese.

11 MR. DEIXLER: Larry Del Mese.

12 Is -- is that the same Larry Del Mese who was the
13 first chief of staff for Sheriff Villanueva?

14 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

15 MR. DEIXLER: Was it a secret that the Reapers were
16 present at Lennox Station?

17 MS. WALTON: I don't think it was a secret. I think, you
18 know, if you were in Patrol and you were working and you talked
19 about, you know, everything that's going on, you would hear
20 things, and I don't think it was any secret to people that were
21 there.

22 MR. DEIXLER: Did -- did the Reapers generally work on
23 the same shift at Lennox Station?

24 MS. WALTON: I think a lot of them worked on early
25 mornings, yes, sir.

1 MR. DEIXLER: And did you have the impression that the
2 Reapers were basically running that early morning shift?

3 MS. WALTON: Somewhat, yes, sir.

4 MR. DEIXLER: And what do you mean by that?

5 MS. WALTON: Meaning, I think they kind of -- you know, in
6 early mornings, there's no unit commander there, the captain is
7 not there, you -- you have newer supervisors that are on. And
8 you kind of, you know, would hear things that kind of maybe
9 gave the impression that they kind of -- they do what they want
10 to do whenever they want. So those are kind of things that,
11 you know, you would hear.

12 MR. DEIXLER: Is Dispatch an important responsibility in
13 the operation of a Sheriff's station?

14 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

15 MR. DEIXLER: And why is that an important responsibility?

16 MS. WALTON: Because that is the person who basically
17 ensures that everyone is dispatched to calls, and they want to
18 make sure that everyone is going to the calls and that we're
19 serving the community. We're serving, you know, the people as
20 well as we're handling what we need to handle.

21 MR. DEIXLER: Were the Reapers significantly involved in
22 Dispatch in Lennox during the time that you were both a trainee
23 and a training officer?

24 MS. WALTON: At times there were, yes.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And did that increase their influence in the

1 station?

2 MS. WALTON: I believe so.

3 MR. DEIXLER: You earlier testified that you were
4 approached at one point by a captain and urged to seek a
5 position as a training officer. Do you recall approximately
6 when that approach came from the captain?

7 MS. WALTON: 2000, maybe. Somewhere in 2000.

8 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and did you, in fact, apply for the
9 position of training officer?

10 MS. WALTON: I didn't want to, but I did, yes, sir.

11 MR. DEIXLER: And not withstanding your desires, were you
12 able to attain that position at least on an interim basis?

13 MS. WALTON: I did, sir, yes.

14 MR. DEIXLER: Did you learn what some of your colleagues
15 at Lennox thought about your remaining as a training officer at
16 Lennox Station?

17 MS. WALTON: I did.

18 MR. DEIXLER: Would you please describe for the commission
19 the reception that you received from your professional
20 colleagues at Lennox Station when it became apparent that you'd
21 be a training officer?

22 MS. WALTON: Well, when I went to Lennox, I went back to
23 Lennox as a training officer. I requested to have a trainee
24 that was just coming out of Custody so it kind of just -- we
25 wouldn't have to have anything that was a lot that we'd have to

1 handle at -- you know, I wanted someone that was new from
2 Custody. I explained that to the captain. He was okay with it
3 as well as the training and scheduling.

4 So I had -- my first trainee was a older gentleman.
5 When I say "older," he was -- you know, I was a little bit
6 older than him. And I would allow him to eat, and I would
7 allow him -- he had a young kid at home. And so we worked p.m.
8 shift, and I allowed him to sometimes call his child to make
9 sure his child was okay. And -- and I didn't have any problem
10 with that because we're here to just do a job. I need you to
11 be able to do the -- the work.

12 And so one day, we come out of briefing, and -- and I
13 don't know if it was this trainee or the other trainee that I
14 had after him because I don't really recall -- it's been so
15 long -- exact time period. But one of the -- a person that I
16 knew to be a Reaper approached me and said, "Hey, Angela. Have
17 your trainee ride with my partner."

18 He didn't have a trainee that day, and he said, "And
19 I want you to come and ride with me."

20 And I said, "Okay."

21 So he got in the car with me, I drove, and we drove
22 to Chester Washington Golf Course. Backed in just the -- it
23 was the backway. It's off of 120th, I think, and Normandy.
24 It's just south of the 105 freeway by Southwest College.

25 And he told me, you know, "Take off your radio. Do

1 you have any recorders on? your phone?" All this.

2 And I don't remember if we put it on the hood of the
3 car or the, you know -- or the trunk. I mean, I don't know
4 where we put it, but I didn't have anything on me.

5 MR. DEIXLER: May I just interrupt?

6 This was in a sheriff's car you were being asked by a
7 colleague if you had recording information [sic] on you?

8 MS. WALTON: Yes. Because we always keep recorders on us,
9 so he wanted to make sure I didn't have a recording -- a
10 recorder on me.

11 And so I took -- we took everything off, and I
12 said -- I'm not going to say his name -- I said, "What is the
13 problem?" you know, "What's up?"

14 And he said, "Listen," you know, "I'm just going to
15 tell you; we didn't want you back here."

16 And he said, "And we don't like what you're doing.
17 We don't like that you allow your trainees to eat. We don't
18 like how you're doing things."

19 And I don't remember, you know, the extent of the
20 conversation, but it -- it -- it wasn't a friendly, "Hey," you
21 know, "welcome."

22 And I proceeded to also tell him that you guys don't
23 talk to me, you don't help me out here, and that's fine. I
24 don't need your help. I'll figure it out.

25 But I told him -- my unit number was 31 Boy because

1 33 -- Lennox is the third station, so 31 is the number of the
2 cars. And so I told him what happens in 31 Boy is what happens
3 in 31 Boy. I don't ask you what happens in your car. All I
4 care is if you back me, I back you, and we're supposed to do
5 what we're supposed to do. I don't care what happens in your
6 car, and you shouldn't care what happens to me either.

7 Shortly after -- thereafter, I kind of got back with
8 my trainee. I don't recall if I told my trainee or not. I
9 think I was just frustrated the rest of the day because I just
10 thought the nerve of him to tell me what I can and what I can't
11 do. And that was one day.

12 Another time --

13 MR. DEIXLER: May I just inquire: Was this person a
14 supervisor? a captain? a lieutenant? a sergeant?

15 MS. WALTON: No. He was a peer.

16 MR. DEIXLER: He was a deputy sheriff?

17 MS. WALTON: He was a deputy, yes.

18 MR. DEIXLER: And was he a training officer?

19 MS. WALTON: I don't recall if he was a training officer.
20 I don't recall of him.

21 MR. DEIXLER: But he was a Reaper?

22 MS. WALTON: Yes.

23 MR. DEIXLER: When he said, "We don't like you around
24 here; we didn't want you back," who did you understand him to
25 be referring to when he said "we"?

1 MS. WALTON: Him and his -- him and his -- his buddies.
2 The people that he hangs out.

3 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and -- and just generally, who do you
4 mean by "his buddies"?

5 MS. WALTON: It might be the Reapers; it might be other
6 people also there. Because there was people that also
7 approached me that were very welcoming to me being there.

8 So I -- I got the message what he was trying to say.

9 And another day, another time, I was coming back into
10 the station, and the way the station used to be was Lennox
11 Station was a small station. It's a hallway, and there's a
12 bulletin board on the side where you can put advertising and,
13 you know, put pieces of paper up.

14 And one day, I was walking, and I looked, and my
15 business card was there with a "X" in it. It was just X'd out.
16 And I took that business card; I still have it to this day.
17 I -- I still have it because I just -- I just couldn't believe
18 that someone did that.

19 And another day, another time we would sign up to
20 participate in Baker to Vegas and other events, and I signed my
21 name up to participate, and someone had scratched my name out.
22 Just scratched it out. So that happened. And then I -- like I
23 said, all this happened when I was there.

24 Then one time I had to -- my trainee and I were
25 instructed to take a prisoner to Compton Station, and Dispatch

1 said, "Hey, we're dispatching you. You're going to take
2 this -- you and your trainee are going to go take the inmate
3 over to -- a prisoner, I should stay -- over to Compton."

4 Took the prisoner to Compton. When I arrived at
5 Compton Station, I saw a friend that I hadn't seen in a while.
6 And so we were outside talking briefly. The prisoner was
7 already dropped off, and I was talking to this person briefly.
8 And at that time, all of a sudden, a guy walks by who I know
9 used to be at Lennox and who I pretty much think is, you know,
10 one of the Reapers, and he looks at me, and I looked at him --
11 I know he doesn't care for me.

12 And I said, "Watch. He's going to tell Dispatch that
13 I'm talking to you." And so I said -- you know, kind of
14 finished my conversation to my friend -- "Let me, you know, go
15 ahead and get in the car and get back to the area."

16 Got back to the area. I don't recall if there was a
17 message in the buffer that says, "Hey, let me know when you get
18 back" from Dispatch. I don't really recall because it was so
19 long ago.

20 But the minute I got back into the area, we let them
21 know we're back in the area, I was hammered. And when I say,
22 "hammered," that means that Dispatch gave me, I would say,
23 every call that was in the buffer. They gave me a call that
24 was on the Central side. They give me a call in Gardena. They
25 gave me calls in Vermont. And I was a Vermont car, I mean,

1 that was my area. So my trainee and I were literally trying to
2 handle all these different calls and going to all these
3 different areas so I just -- I just got upset.

4 And I contacted my field sergeant and said, "I'm
5 going to be out of the field for a little bit. I've got --
6 I've got to handle this."

7 And I think the sergeant knew because the sergeant
8 just said, "Okay."

9 I said, "I'm going to the station. I'm going to be
10 out of the field for a little bit."

11 And I walked into the station, and I told the
12 dispatcher, who is a Reaper, and I said, "I want to see you
13 outside."

14 Went outside, and I pretty much told him that I don't
15 appreciate what he's doing, I know what he's doing, and I know
16 why he's doing it.

17 And, you know, he said, "Hey, wait, wait, wait. You
18 know, we like you, but we don't like you. We didn't want you
19 back here as a TO."

20 And I said, "Listen, I'm not here to be liked. I'm
21 not here to have beers with you guys. I don't care. I'm just
22 here to do my job."

23 And -- but it was not very nice, and our conversation
24 must have -- it was loud -- it got loud, and I really -- I
25 didn't know what was going to happen.

1 And the reason I say that is because the next day, I
2 had about three or four people that had been at the station
3 that were detectives also that approached me and apologized and
4 said if I need any help, to always let them know.

5 So somehow, some way, this got out of what happened
6 that night. But from that point on, I didn't really have any
7 more issues with them. And shortly thereafter, I think I
8 interviewed, and I went to Major Crimes.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: So you --

10 MR. DEIXLER: What --

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Excuse me. You -- you did what?

12 MS. WALTON: I went to Major Crimes.

13 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Oh, so you left Lennox Station?

14 MS. WALTON: Yes. Not too long after that, sir, yes.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. DEIXLER: But I want to try to understand what the
17 transgressions were that you committed that would cause this
18 kind of reaction and an attempt to push you -- push you out.

19 You said earlier you allowed your trainees to eat.
20 Could -- could you explain -- could you explain what that --
21 what that means in this context?

22 MS. WALTON: Well, there's a policy. You can't haze
23 people. That falls under hazing. You can't tell people they
24 can't eat; they can't use the bathroom.

25 Maybe somewhere, many, many, many moons ago, maybe

1 they were doing that, but you can't do that; right? And that's
2 not how I was trained. I had an excellent training officer at
3 Lennox that was great. And he let -- you know, he -- I didn't
4 sit down and eat with him but he allowed me to eat.

5 So I didn't play games. I just was trying to train
6 someone. I was trying -- that person was my partner. Even
7 though they were a trainee, they were my partner.

8 MR. DEIXLER: Let me ask you about the significance to you
9 in your job as a Sheriff's deputy as well as the impact on the
10 community to this being run around by the dispatcher.

11 Could you talk a little bit about how that affected
12 you and how you believe it affected your capabilities to serve
13 the community that you are responsible for serving?

14 MS. WALTON: Sure.

15 Well, it affects me because I can't be the best
16 deputy sheriff I can be; right? I can't be -- I can't be as
17 attentive as I should be.

18 Luckily, all this happened toward the end of the
19 shift. It wasn't the -- it wasn't -- it was nighttime. It
20 happened toward the end of the shift.

21 But that means that all of the different calls --
22 instead of handling or sending the calls to people that can
23 handle them, that means that the public had to wait that much
24 longer for calls. They had to wait that much longer for
25 services all because someone wanted to play a game.

1 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and just, finally, on this point, is
2 it usual for deputies and dispatchers to determine who will be
3 at a station and what role the person would play?

4 MS. WALTON: What do you mean, "the dispatcher"?

5 MR. DEIXLER: So dispatcher, for example, spoke with you
6 and said, "We don't really want you around here," and was
7 trying to, I guess, push you. Is that a kind of ordinary,
8 customary way to run a -- the Sheriff's Department?

9 MS. WALTON: No. Absolutely not.

10 MR. DEIXLER: You felt you were being picked on or forced
11 to go somewhere else? That --

12 MS. WALTON: Yes.

13 MR. DEIXLER: -- was the intention?

14 MS. WALTON: Yes.

15 MR. DEIXLER: Let me ask you about your familiarity with
16 certain other stations. We can talk about Palmdale and
17 Lancaster. Are you familiar with the stations there?

18 MS. WALTON: Yes. A little bit, yes, sir.

19 MR. DEIXLER: And how did you gain your familiarity with
20 those stations?

21 MS. WALTON: When I worked Major Crimes as a Vice
22 detective, we would go to Lancaster to conduct undercover
23 operations. And what I learned when you're -- when I was
24 working Major Crimes is that we did not let Lancaster know when
25 we were coming many times because there was chatter.

1 There was nothing that we ever had. You know, there
2 was no investigation or anything, but there was talk that the
3 deputies would either dime off the -- the prostitutes or the
4 girls working. Or there was also talk at one time that one of
5 the deputies might have even been running prostitutes. So we
6 never told them when we were coming out.

7 And usually, when I worked Major Crimes, we let the
8 unit know because we wanted to work together with them. We
9 want to have an operation, and we want them to know that we're
10 coming. But we did not let them know. We would just come in
11 the night before, stay there, and then we would conduct the
12 operation. When we started arresting people, then they would
13 know that we were in town.

14 MR. DEIXLER: And what years did this occur?

15 MS. WALTON: 2002, '3, '4. Somewhere in there.

16 MR. DEIXLER: So in -- in the early 2000, it was part of
17 your work to be careful with other colleagues in the Sheriff's
18 Department for fear that they would compromise an
19 investigation?

20 MS. WALTON: Yes.

21 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and -- and is that a kind of usual
22 concern that one would have in a professional policing
23 organization?

24 MS. WALTON: You shouldn't have that.

25 MR. DEIXLER: Have -- what was the ethnic makeup of the

1 deputies in the Lancaster and Palmdale Stations?

2 MS. WALTON: Predominantly white.

3 MR. DEIXLER: And have you heard of a deputy clique called
4 the Cowboys?

5 MS. WALTON: Yeah. I heard of it, yes.

6 MR. DEIXLER: And do you know whether they were reported
7 to have been based in the Palmdale-Lancaster area?

8 MS. WALTON: That's just what I heard, but that's -- they
9 are up there in that area. That's what I've heard.

10 MR. DEIXLER: Would you talk a little bit about what your
11 understanding was about the environment or atmosphere in those
12 two stations in terms of how people related and how they were
13 all connected.

14 MS. WALTON: Well, it was always under -- it was always
15 understood -- I should say I was -- it was always told to me,
16 and I started to see it when I was there working Major Crimes,
17 that a lot of people grow up there. They go to high school
18 there. They go to -- I think they go to AV College. They stay
19 there. They stay there. Then they become a deputy. Then they
20 stay as a sergeant. They stay as a lieutenant. So they're
21 very, very enclosed. They're all together. So they don't
22 really branch out. A lot of them don't come down south. When
23 I say, "Down south," that's the northern county. They don't
24 come to the southern county to work.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And is Lancaster a contract city?

1 MS. WALTON: Yes.

2 MR. DEIXLER: And would you describe what a contract city
3 is.

4 MS. WALTON: A contract city is when the City contracts
5 with the County to provide these services for their city.

6 MR. DEIXLER: Were you invited to apply to become the
7 captain at Lancaster?

8 MS. WALTON: I was.

9 MR. DEIXLER: And how did that invitation to apply come
10 about?

11 MS. WALTON: My old captain, who was a commander, called
12 me and said that because I understood DOJ, I understood --
13 meaning, working from Custody -- I understood a lot of the
14 different compliance measures and what was required at DOJ,
15 this commander thought that I would do well since Lancaster was
16 currently under a DOJ mandate and that I could help the City
17 and I can help the station kind of get out of that, you
18 know, the DOJ mandate.

19 MR. DEIXLER: And was it an exciting opportunity for you
20 to consider working in Lancaster after you've had this
21 professional experience with them?

22 MS. WALTON: Absolutely not.

23 And I'm sorry. I just said that because I'm born and
24 raised in LA. I -- I've never lived up there. So when I say
25 "absolutely not," that means I was going to have to make some

1 adjustments. But I was willing to do it, and I wanted to do it
2 for the better of everything.

3 MR. DEIXLER: And so, in fact, you applied?

4 MS. WALTON: I did apply.

5 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and did you get that position?

6 MS. WALTON: I did not.

7 MR. DEIXLER: Would you describe for the commission the
8 circumstances of the -- the interview and the application
9 process?

10 MS. WALTON: The application process consists of -- well,
11 first of all, I was the only captain to apply. The other --

12 MR. DEIXLER: Were you the only captain to apply for a
13 captain's position in Lancaster?

14 MS. WALTON: I -- I'm sorry. Let me correct myself.

15 MR. DEIXLER: Yes.

16 MS. WALTON: I cannot speak on the first part.

17 For the -- for interviews at a station, there's -- a
18 special contract station -- there's two parts.

19 So the first part, you interview with the
20 undersheriff and the assistant sheriff. And then if you make
21 that cut, which is five, then you go on to actual -- the actual
22 interview with the actual City. So I can't speak for the first
23 part; so I don't know. But the last -- the second part --

24 MR. DEIXLER: You -- you made it through the first part?

25 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir. I made it through the --

1 MR. DEIXLER: The undersheriff and the -- and -- approved
2 you to be considered by MICAP --

3 MS. WALTON: Yes. That is correct.

4 MR. DEIXLER: Okay. I just wanted to follow up.

5 MS. WALTON: So the second part is with the city council,
6 and they interview you. They basically have an interview
7 process.

8 MR. DEIXLER: Who was the undersheriff at the time?

9 MS. WALTON: Murakami.

10 MR. DEIXLER: And now would you describe for the
11 commission the interview process at the City of Lancaster?

12 MS. WALTON: So the interview process of the City of
13 Lancaster, it was about a U-shaped table with you being, you
14 know, on the end. I think it was about six or seven. It
15 consists of the mayor, the vice mayor, some other individuals.
16 I'm sorry. I don't -- I draw a blank of exactly who it was.

17 And they have a series of questions that they ask you
18 about what would you do and how would you be -- you know, how
19 would you be a unit commander; how would you be the captain of
20 Lancaster Station?

21 They ask you questions about crime. They ask you,
22 kind of, how you would do things. They ask about your
23 background. And so they ask a -- a few questions.

24 MR. DEIXLER: And was there anything particularly unusual
25 or directed towards you that was different from what you

1 expected?

2 MS. WALTON: Yes.

3 So I guess there was some discussion about something
4 I had posted on a social media site, and I don't know if that
5 was the trigger point. But there was -- it was -- that was a
6 discussion as well as the -- one of the individuals let it be
7 known to me that he's receiving numerous phone calls to -- not
8 to hire me and do not bring me up there. And he was adamant
9 about it.

10 And he, you know, kept on saying, "Out of all the
11 applicants that are applying, you're the only one that I'm
12 getting phone calls of don't hire you, don't bring you."

13 And I tried to explain to him, you know, I don't know
14 why, but, you know, I'm going to do my job. At -- when I was
15 at CRDF last year, I was doing a great job so I don't know what
16 someone would call and say. But I can't tell you, you know,
17 why they're telling you not to pick me.

18 MR. DEIXLER: Let me -- before I ask you -- well, let me
19 just ask. Was there a Reaper at Lancaster Station?

20 MS. WALTON: Yes.

21 MR. DEIXLER: And --

22 MS. WALTON: Well, let me back up. He was not -- he was
23 either at Lancaster or Palmdale, but he was at -- he was in the
24 area, yes.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And did you have reason to believe that he

1 was involved in providing a, I'll say, reference for you in
2 connection to that job?

3 MS. WALTON: Possible, yes.

4 MR. DEIXLER: Yeah.

5 Have you heard the term "having a jacket"?

6 MS. WALTON: Yes.

7 MR. DEIXLER: What does having a jacket mean?

8 MS. WALTON: It's kind of a slang that we use that that
9 person has a jacket before they get to the unit. People ask,
10 you know, about them. They want their reputation before they
11 get there. People want to know the good and the bad about
12 them. And so that's kind of a jacket.

13 Most of the time, though, you know, it's -- the
14 jacket is going to be a negative thing.

15 MR. DEIXLER: Did you believe that you had a jacket from
16 20 years before when you were at Lennox Station and were
17 unwelcomed by the Reapers?

18 MS. WALTON: I believe so, at some point, yes.

19 MR. DEIXLER: And did you believe that that jacket was a
20 factor in your not being appointed captain at the Lancaster
21 Station?

22 MS. WALTON: I think that had something to do with it as
23 well, yes.

24 MR. DEIXLER: You made some reference to the success you
25 had at CRDF before or while you were applying to Lancaster.

1 Would you just talk a little bit about the level of success you
2 had achieved.

3 MS. WALTON: Sure.

4 When I was promoted to captain at CRDF, unfortunately
5 it was right when COVID was starting. So I was able to -- when
6 I say, "I," I mean not just me. When I say, "I," I mean my
7 team. It's -- we're a team.

8 So we -- I had -- my team and I were able to create
9 an intake -- Routine Intake Observation Unit. We called it the
10 RIO. And what we did was prisoners that were coming from the
11 street, instead of us putting them directly into modules with
12 everyone else, we made them -- named them "cohort." We put
13 them all together so that we'd make sure that if they came in
14 and they were COVID-positive that they would all stay together.
15 So we kept them there for the 14-day period, and then once they
16 were clear, they didn't have COVID, then we were able to put
17 them into other -- other units; I should say other dorms or
18 other cells.

19 We were so successful that last year we received the
20 American Jail Innovation Award unanimously for having such a
21 successful program in making sure that we kept that out of --
22 kept -- you know, COVID did not come inside the facility.

23 That -- I mean, we were doing amazing things with
24 our -- our force packets, we were -- when I say that.

25 So I don't want to kind of go on, but we were doing

1 some great things. So I didn't understand why I had this
2 negative jacket, so to speak, of why I, you know, shouldn't go
3 to Lancaster.

4 At the time, one of the questions was, "Would you be
5 willing to move up here?" And I told them I would be willing
6 to get an apartment because it was very near and dear to that
7 council that they wanted their captain to also really be
8 involved in the community.

9 MR. DEIXLER: Let me ask you since you had some experience
10 with -- with the Reapers, you know about the Cowboys.

11 Familiar with the East LA Station?

12 MS. WALTON: Yes.

13 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and what reputation does the
14 East LA Station have among those of you who have long-term
15 service in the Sheriff's Department?

16 MS. WALTON: They -- they kind of just -- they just kind
17 of do what they want to do many times.

18 MR. DEIXLER: Did -- did you have occasion to visit the
19 East LA Station during your time?

20 MS. WALTON: I have been there before, yes.

21 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and how welcoming were they to you
22 upon those occasions?

23 MS. WALTON: I don't know if I really had any issues when
24 I've gone in there before, just me, personally, but not like
25 I'd had the issues when I was, you know, in Patrol. But -- but

1 at that time also, I was at Major Crimes; so I'm at Major
2 Crimes, I'm bringing, you know, inmates in, or I should say
3 prisoners in for, you know, arrests for prostitution. I didn't
4 really have a whole lot of interaction with people so...

5 MR. DEIXLER: Did you attend the swearing in of
6 Sheriff Villanueva?

7 MS. WALTON: I did.

8 MR. DEIXLER: And was the East LA Station singled out in
9 any way at the swearing in ceremony?

10 MS. WALTON: Yes.

11 MR. DEIXLER: Would you describe for the commission how
12 you perceived that.

13 MS. WALTON: Yeah.

14 So at the swearing in -- there was about two or three
15 rows that were reserved, and many of us later found out that
16 they were reserved for East LA Station.

17 MR. DEIXLER: And what was your reaction to -- to that --

18 MS. WALTON: I didn't think that was right.

19 MR. DEIXLER: -- special seating arrangement?

20 MS. WALTON: Yeah. I don't think that's right. We -- we
21 shouldn't do that.

22 MR. DEIXLER: And in the matter of full disclosure here,
23 you brought a lawsuit against the County and the Sheriff. It's
24 pending now, is that so?

25 MS. WALTON: That's correct.

1 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and why have you done that?

2 MS. WALTON: Because, you know, the Sheriff's Department
3 I've been on for 27 years, and you try to follow the protocol
4 that the Sheriff Department puts in place to handle issues, and
5 when you try to follow the protocol and the Sheriff Department
6 goes right behind and just still does whatever, where do you
7 turn? You have nowhere else to turn but to basically sue.

8 It's not proactive. The Department, unfortunately,
9 is very reactive. And it's not that -- I'm at 27 years. Other
10 people that have lawsuits, nobody just wants to come to the end
11 of their career and say, "I just want to sue the Department."
12 That's not how you want to go out.

13 MR. DEIXLER: What's the specific issue that you focus on
14 in this lawsuit?

15 MS. WALTON: Retaliation.

16 MR. DEIXLER: And in connection with what?

17 MS. WALTON: In connection with two things.

18 First, I made a -- I complained about my commander.
19 I complained to the chief about what she was doing, and there's
20 a protocol that you have to follow. It was not followed. Not
21 only was it not followed, two days later I was moved. You
22 don't move the person that basically makes the complaint.

23 MR. DEIXLER: And what's the other aspect of your claim?

24 MS. WALTON: The -- the incident with the use of force
25 that was at San Fernando Valley that's ongoing right now.

1 MR. DEIXLER: And that relates to the alleged kneeling on
2 the neck of a prisoner by a deputy sheriff?

3 MS. WALTON: That is correct.

4 MR. DEIXLER: And the question of when Sheriff Villanueva
5 was aware or saw a video of that behavior?

6 MS. WALTON: That's correct.

7 MR. DEIXLER: And your lawsuit addresses what you observed
8 and reported in connection with that?

9 MS. WALTON: That's correct.

10 MR. DEIXLER: One of the tasks of the commission is to
11 recommend policies that will end deputy cliques and improve the
12 culture to create a -- a better department. Here's your chance
13 to give some suggestions for the commission as to how that can
14 be accomplished.

15 Could you -- could you speak to the commission, and
16 tell them what you think is the way forward for --

17 MS. WALTON: Sure.

18 MR. DEIXLER: -- the Department?

19 MS. WALTON: So I truly believe leadership starts from the
20 top, and it trickles down. So if we have leadership -- we have
21 leaders that are not following the rules, are not following
22 policies, that's problematic right there. Leadership, you have
23 to -- it's about gaining trust. And if we don't have trust,
24 from not just people within the Department and the community,
25 then what do we have?

1 So -- and it's not just one race. It's not just one
2 gender. It's not just one creed. It has to be across the
3 board. We have to have the diversity. We have to have
4 inclusion. It may not be popular, people may not like it, but
5 we have to do it.

6 So where do you start? So, first of all, I think you
7 have to start that with that mindset. It's not selective
8 transparency; it's not selective truth. It is the truth and
9 transparency, not selective.

10 If we want to talk about -- I worked recruitment and
11 background. You want to get recruiters and -- and background
12 investigators that don't have implicit biases, that understand,
13 that don't have certain stereotypes because they're the first
14 people that get applicants, and they're the first people that
15 can really weed applicants out. Do some people need to be
16 weeded out? Absolutely.

17 Whether there's some people that could have been on
18 the Department and didn't get on because maybe had -- someone
19 had some biases, it's possible as well.

20 After you have applicants, your diverse pool should
21 be a pool of diverse people and not just "I only want these,"
22 you know, "I only want this race coming in," or "I don't want
23 these guys coming in." It has to be fair and ethical across
24 the board.

25 When they go to the academy, the academy staff

1 shouldn't just be one race or one gender. It should be
2 diverse. You should -- that's what you should see. That's
3 what -- because that's the first impressions that they see.

4 When they come to the jails, it's responsible of the
5 unit commanders, the lieutenants, and the sergeants to ensure
6 that these young deputies that are coming in, they understand
7 it's okay to party with your friends and kind of clique off
8 with certain groups of friends that you work with, but when
9 that friendship-clique starts becoming various behavior or
10 starts becoming illegal or immoral, you got to figure out who
11 are you as a person. You have to realize that you're okay with
12 your self-worth. You don't need to be accepted by the clique.
13 You took a oath. You have to do right, and you have to be
14 right and not -- it's not about being popular, it's about being
15 what's right and doing what's right. I should say being right.

16 Then also, I believe there needs to be someone like a
17 think tank -- think tank covert committee that is a diverse
18 group of people that consists of people on the Department, off
19 the Department. Talk to units and bureaus within the
20 Department and the community.

21 We have some amazing people in the Department. We
22 have some remarkable people in the Department. We have 18,000
23 employees. Everybody is not bad. And there's people that have
24 also retired that would help this department get back on track
25 in a heartbeat. But everybody has to be on the same page, and

1 it has to be welcoming.

2 So I think it would take a combination of, you know,
3 making sure that we're recruiting the right people, making sure
4 that the supervisors understand that you kind of continue to
5 instill that and then really getting people at the table to
6 come to the table to figure out how do we ensure that we --
7 that we basically squash any issues that we might have and
8 really listen to not only the community, but you also have to
9 listen to your deputy personnel.

10 MR. DEIXLER: May I just ask in closing, is it your desire
11 to remain a member of the LASD?

12 MS. WALTON: Yes. Yes.

13 MR. DEIXLER: And is it your desire to help it become a
14 better organization?

15 MS. WALTON: Oh, I'd love to. I would love to help it,
16 yes.

17 MR. DEIXLER: I have no further questions. Pass the
18 witness.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. Deixler.

20 Are there any questions from the commission?

21 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, I got a couple --

22 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: (Inaudible) --

23 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Oh, excuse me, Patti. Go ahead.
24 You go first.

25 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: -- just quick.

1 COMMISSIONER BONNER: No, no.

2 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yeah. Thank you for being here
3 today.

4 And I just want to get a little bit on the dates --
5 the date that you were -- when you were -- what was your rank?
6 You were captain just before; correct? When COVID hit, you
7 were already the captain?

8 MS. WALTON: December 2019, I was the captain, yes.

9 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Okay. Okay.

10 And that whole situation that happened with the --
11 the -- in the car, and, you know, make sure you don't have any
12 recordings, do you recall when that happened?

13 MS. WALTON: That was probably sometime in 2000.

14 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: In 2000.

15 MS. WALTON: 2000, 2001. Somewhere in there.

16 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Okay.

17 So even though you felt, and it seems from your
18 impression that there were the times that you felt that there
19 were people who did not want you to belong to the Department
20 was from 2000 to -- COVID was what? -- 2018?

21 MS. WALTON: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: 2019; right?

23 MS. WALTON: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: So that's almost 20-year period?

25 MS. WALTON: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: You were not dissuaded from your
2 commitment to work in the Department for those 20 years even
3 though there were times when you were -- as I said --
4 mentioned -- the way I would describe it is that you felt that
5 you weren't welcome?

6 MS. WALTON: That's correct. No, I wasn't.

7 Unfortunately, ma'am, we do have some people that do
8 leave the Department because of that. We have young people
9 that leave the Department; we have executives that leave the
10 Department. However, I'm not going to have somebody push me
11 out just because they don't want me there.

12 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: I guess I'm done. Thank you.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Rob?

14 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yeah.

15 I'm kind of interested in, you know, your
16 recommendations because you kind of indicated, of course, the
17 obvious, and that is that deputies may -- after -- off duty may
18 associate with other deputies and -- or anybody else in the
19 world. But when you have deputy cliques that are actually
20 calling shots at a station, deciding who can be at a station
21 and who can't, who are deciding who can be training officers
22 and who can't be training officers, who control assignments of
23 who gets the night shift and who gets this shift and so forth,
24 but that's not just -- that -- that's -- that's pernicious.
25 And that's what -- that's been the history of deputy cliques

1 throughout the Department's history. And, unfortunately, it
2 just continues to exist, at least at certain stations. We have
3 hard evidence of that. It's been brought forth at this
4 hearing.

5 So the question is: Why not have as a matter of
6 policy in the -- in the manual essentially a prohibition
7 against a deputy joining, participating, or soliciting others
8 to join a deputy clique?

9 MS. WALTON: I wouldn't see any problem with that. But I
10 think everything has to go through the union and it has to go
11 through Civil Service, but I wouldn't have any problems with
12 that if -- if -- if that's what you need to help you get ahold
13 of it. We can't keep doing things the way we've done in the
14 past and expect different changes.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: That's interesting. So does the
16 union control the Department and departmental policy? I --
17 I -- I mean --

18 MS. WALTON: No.

19 COMMISSIONER BONNER: -- maybe -- maybe this is part of
20 the problem with deputy cliques is the -- is -- is the --

21 MS. WALTON: No. I don't think --

22 COMMISSIONER BONNER: -- ALADS. I mean...

23 MS. WALTON: I don't think that the union, but I think
24 that part of the union and the policy, and you have the Peace
25 Officer Bill of Rights and all these different other things, I

1 think that talking to them and making -- you know, just being
2 on board, everyone's on -- on the same page.

3 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Nothing wrong with talking to them,
4 but let me ask you this question because you've been around for
5 27 years: Has ALADS ever taken the position that deputy
6 cliques are a bad thing and they should be abolished and
7 prevented?

8 MS. WALTON: I -- I can't speak for that. I don't know if
9 they have.

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I know. But you would've heard of
11 that. Believe me. We would have heard that had ALADS ever
12 taken that position, and it doesn't take that position. It's
13 taken a position that essentially protects, preserves, and
14 fosters and furthers deputy cliques.

15 That's a rhetorical question. Do not answer.

16 But -- so it's why --

17 MS. WALTON: Sir, that's why I say I think a think tank or
18 a group to really work the Sheriff and give recommendations;
19 right? So if you have a -- if you have a group of individuals
20 that are actually going to the stations, and people can really
21 be honest with -- have, like, a -- a free zone, really a good
22 zone or, you know, area to talk about things, and then that's
23 when you can get information and you take that to the Sheriff
24 and then you tell the Sheriff and you talk with the Sheriff
25 about how do we basically enforce some of these things? How do

1 we make sure we keep our finger on the pulse on all these
2 different things that are happening?

3 That's what's important. That's what good leadership
4 is.

5 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, let me -- let me explore that
6 a little bit.

7 We had a think tank, RAND Corporation, which is
8 definitely a think tank and a well-thought-of think tank, and
9 it's -- it went around, and it did some interviewing.

10 And I think -- I don't want to misstate this, but I
11 think it indicated that something like 15 percent of the
12 deputies were either in cliques or had been, at least,
13 solicited to be in cliques. You've got members of cliques that
14 have the tattoos, you've got people who want to be in the
15 cliques, and then you have people that can't get into the
16 cliques because they're excluded from them for various reasons,
17 including, by the way, gender, race.

18 So this is -- so we've got -- we've had the -- we've
19 had the study -- the -- the think-tank study. You've got this
20 Oversight Commission. We're here.

21 We made a recommendation to this Sheriff to adopt a
22 policy that just flat out says that a deputy is prohibited from
23 joining, participating -- this is in the future, going
24 forward -- joining, participating, or soliciting others to join
25 a deputy clique.

1 If that were put into effect, that could be subject
2 to discipline; right? And you could be terminated for joining
3 or participating in a deputy clique. And yet he refuses to
4 adopt that policy, and I -- to the -- for the life of me, I
5 don't understand why. Maybe you can explain to me. Can you?

6 No. Let me make that a rhetorical question. It's an
7 unfair question. I shouldn't be asking a captain to read the
8 state of mind of the -- the elected Sheriff; so I withdraw my
9 question.

10 But you can see our frustration, and we -- we think
11 that this is a -- the existence of deputy cliques historically
12 and -- and continuing to this day is essentially a cancer on
13 the Sheriff's Department. It needs to be eradicated. So it
14 needs a strong policy that's put into place, and then that
15 policy needs to be enforced through Internal Affairs Bureau by
16 a sheriff that has the leadership to do it. And,
17 unfortunately, it just doesn't look like we have that kind of
18 leadership. And you were talking about how important
19 leadership is to solving problems. Anyway, I'll -- I'll end my
20 soliloquy there.

21 Thank you though for -- for testifying. Appreciate
22 your being here.

23 MS. WALTON: Yes, ma'am.

24 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yes.

25 MS. WALTON: Yes, ma'am.

1 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: So you've been there 27 years.
2 You're bringing up these good suggestions and --

3 MS. WALTON: Can I just say, ma'am, I'm not the only one.

4 When I say that there's amazing people, there's a lot
5 of people. Unfortunately, we get the view of the deputy gangs
6 and the sub-cliques, but there's a lot of great people on our
7 department that have some great ideas. And I don't mean just
8 at the top. I mean from top to bottom; right?

9 But if you don't have that -- if you don't have the
10 platform to really talk about it and for it to be embraced,
11 then they don't talk about it. So that's kind of -- if we --
12 if they have the platform, we've got some amazing people that
13 have got some great ideas. Absolutely.

14 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Well, I agree with you. And
15 I've -- I've met them since becoming a commissioner. Since
16 we -- what are we? -- five? I think we're five years into it.
17 Is this six years? Six years now. And I agree with you, and
18 I've met them and I'm very grateful.

19 My question is around this, like you say, think tank
20 or other means of soliciting ideas and moving forward. The
21 department is 100 years old and has never had oversight before
22 this commission started six years ago.

23 So my question is: Along with internal groups that
24 you're thinking about to really elicit the best from the best
25 and the brightest in the department and implement those ideas,

1 do you believe that the Sheriff's Department should have
2 civilian oversight like other law enforcement agencies have
3 around the country?

4 MS. WALTON: Checks and balance, yes, ma'am.

5 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Thank you.

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: So, Captain Walton, when you were at the
7 Lennox Station, there is a clique or deputy gang that
8 associates under a symbol of the Grim Reaper --

9 MS. WALTON: Yes.

10 CHAIR KENNEDY: -- is that right?

11 MS. WALTON: Yes.

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: And the Grim Reaper is a symbol of death;
13 right?

14 MS. WALTON: Yes.

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: And how do you think it makes the
16 community that the deputies at the Lennox station are supposed
17 to serve feel when they hear that the station is run by a
18 clique or a gang that associates under a symbol of death?

19 MS. WALTON: I don't think it's very welcoming. It
20 doesn't feel good. It doesn't feel like you're protected.

21 CHAIR KENNEDY: You certainly didn't feel welcome there;
22 right? And you're actually a sworn law enforcement officer.

23 MS. WALTON: I did not.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: So how do you think the people in the
25 community feel when they hear these things?

1 MS. WALTON: I know how they feel. I know.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: And then when you walk into the station
3 one day and your business card is on a bulletin board with an
4 "X" in it --

5 MS. WALTON: Yes.

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: -- did you perceive that as a threat to
7 your safety?

8 MS. WALTON: I - I think I did, but I also was just -- I
9 was just -- I was in disbelief that someone would do that, and
10 I didn't know exactly what does that mean. Does that mean that
11 you're going to come after me? Does that mean just go away?

12 It was -- like I said, I still have that card to this
13 day.

14 CHAIR KENNEDY: Did you tell the leadership that it
15 happened to you and how it made you feel?

16 MS. WALTON: I don't think I shared it that time.

17 I -- the gentleman I was dating used to work Lennox
18 about 10 years before that. So when I told him that, he
19 clearly understood exactly what I was telling him, and he knew
20 what was happening.

21 CHAIR KENNEDY: And you've been at the Department for
22 27 years, and these deputy cliques or deputy gangs, they've
23 been there the whole time you've been there?

24 MS. WALTON: Yes.

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: Why is -- I mean, you're a captain so this

1 is why I ask you, and you're very forthcoming so thank you.
2 Why is the LASD leadership so invested in maintaining these
3 deputy gangs or deputy cliques, whatever you want to call them?
4 What -- what do they get out of it is what I'm asking?

5 MS. WALTON: So I -- this is just -- this is just what I
6 believe. I do believe when I think about some of them that
7 started, I believe that they -- I don't know if they started
8 with nefarious or bad intentions. I don't know if they were
9 just like a -- a group that just started hanging out. I don't
10 know that.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, it's a Grim Reaper tattoo. Does
12 that sound like it's good intentions?

13 MS. WALTON: No. But I don't know if it was always the
14 Grim -- Grim Reaper tattoo. That's all I'm saying.

15 So I don't know what the intentions were when it was
16 first started, but somehow, some way, it went south, is what
17 I'm saying, and it is obvious that it went south.

18 I can only believe that they still hold on to it
19 because of a tradition of -- of that's who they are and -- and
20 their connection. I -- I can't really speak for them because
21 I'm not part of the clique. I don't know what their mindset
22 is.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: But what about the leadership? The
24 leadership of the Department hears that there's a group
25 associating under the symbol of death, threatening other

1 deputies, doing God knows what to community members. What does
2 the leadership say about the appropriateness of this kind of
3 conduct in a law enforcement organization?

4 MS. WALTON: I can't speak for the leader, but what I can
5 tell you is that it's not good leadership. That is -- that's
6 all I can tell you. I can't speak for why, but that isn't --
7 that does not -- that's why I initially said, sir, leadership
8 starts from the top; right? So if the top is tolerating
9 things, then that's why it flows all the way down. If the top
10 thinks that they don't have to follow the law, then that's why
11 people -- it flows down. Other people don't think that they
12 don't have to follow the law as well.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: I -- I'm listening.

14 But you mentioned a think tank, but if that's true, a
15 think tank won't do any good because the think tank will study
16 it and give recommendations and they won't be accepted.
17 They'll be ignored. They'll be rejected.

18 MS. WALTON: Well, what if you have a sheriff that
19 embraces it?

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Good point. Good point.

21 Because Commissioner Bonner mentioned the RAND
22 report, and our Sheriff's reaction was to attack the -- the
23 rank.

24 MS. WALTON: So -- so, sir, if we're right, we're right,
25 but when we're wrong, we're wrong, and that is what good

1 leadership is. You have to own up to it.

2 So if we have a -- a think tank that says, "Hey,
3 let's talk about this. Let's do this," and you have a sheriff
4 that says, "I'm open to it. I'm open to us working to --
5 together to collaborate with the community, to collaborate with
6 everybody involved," then that's the only way that this is
7 going to move forward. We cannot have resistance.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

9 But we've had many different sheriffs over the course
10 of decades, and these gangs, they exist alongside all the
11 different sheriffs. So my question is do you think there's
12 something institutional about this department that you have
13 worked with that facilitates or supports or enables deputy
14 gangs?

15 MS. WALTON: It's possible. But I also believe -- when I
16 say "It's possible" -- but I also believe that the more -- like
17 you have this COC that's been established, you guys are
18 established, but the more you hammer it and the more we're on
19 top of it, it's going to change. I have faith, and I believe
20 that it's going to change. I really do.

21 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I appreciate that.

22 Now the Sheriff, he doesn't accept our
23 recommendations about deputy gangs either. He attacks us.

24 MS. WALTON: Like I said, when you have everyone at the
25 table working together and you have a sheriff that wants to

1 work together and to collaborate on everything, with everyone,
2 then that's when I think this will start getting uprighted, and
3 it would move in the right direction.

4 I think we're kind of inching there, but you have to
5 have the right person with an open mind who is open to listen
6 and to make the recommendations.

7 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

8 The Grim Reapers, do they accept women? Do you -- do
9 you know any women to belong to that deputy clique, or deputy
10 gang, in my opinion?

11 MS. WALTON: I don't think there's -- not that I know of,
12 no, sir.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: People of color?

14 MS. WALTON: I think there's one or two, but I don't think
15 (inaudible).

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: And you mentioned you're --

17 MS. WALTON: So when you say "people of color," do you
18 mean Hispanic? do you mean black? What -- what do you mean,
19 sir?

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Anyone who isn't a white male.

21 MS. WALTON: No. They --

22 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah. Okay.

23 MS. WALTON: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Any blacks?

25 MS. WALTON: I do believe there's one or two.

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: And you also talked about your experiences
2 in the -- with the Antelope Valley stations.

3 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: And you referred to the fact that the
5 Department up there in those stations is under a DOJ mandate.

6 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

7 CHAIR KENNEDY: Can you tell us what that -- what -- what
8 that means?

9 MS. WALTON: They're under a mandate because of some of
10 their patrol practices. The Department of Justice came in and
11 put a mandate, and there's -- I forgot exactly how many
12 compliance issues that they have to comply with. But they're
13 under a mandate to make sure that they police their community
14 the way they -- they should police their community. Not just
15 one race or one gender, they need to police their community
16 across the board.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: And so the mandate is because the
18 United States Department of Justice determined that the
19 Antelope Valley stations were enforcing the law in a racially
20 discriminatory manner against the residents of -- in the
21 Antelope Valley; right?

22 MS. WALTON: That is correct, sir.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: And that's been -- that mandate -- that --
24 that's been since -- what? -- ten years it's been under the
25 mandate?

1 MS. WALTON: I believe it's been a long time, yes, sir.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: And then you said there was a deputy
3 clique or gang that you're familiar with there in Lancaster,
4 the Cowboys?

5 MS. WALTON: That's all I -- I don't know more than that
6 that's up there, the Cowboys.

7 CHAIR KENNEDY: Do you know about the Rattlesnakes?

8 MS. WALTON: No, sir.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: So you don't know that they were mentioned
10 in the DOJ study that they were part of the problem?

11 MS. WALTON: No, sir. I didn't read that.

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: But someone asked you to go up there and
13 apply to be a captain?

14 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: And you did, and you were not successful?

16 MS. WALTON: No, sir.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: And do you know why?

18 MS. WALTON: I have a feeling why. Do I know for a fact?
19 No. But I have a feeling that I did not fit the makeup that
20 they wanted because the person they picked was a white male.

21 And I was -- in the interview, I was asked, you know,
22 how do I handle people that don't want me there? And I told
23 them that it's going to need a little work but we can get
24 through it.

25 One of the gentlemen was very adamant that I was

1 not, I didn't think, his cup of tea, so to speak. I'll say
2 that.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Wow.

4 Do you think the proliferation of these deputy gangs
5 or deputy cliques has added to the problem of racially
6 discriminatory enforcement of the laws?

7 MS. WALTON: Unfortunately, yes, I do.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Why?

9 MS. WALTON: Because when you have cliques or when you
10 have a group of people that are patrolling areas and they're
11 predominantly one race and the area that they're patrolling is
12 predominantly black or brown, then that's extremely problematic
13 because it -- it -- it shows your -- your biases; right? It
14 shows that you're not being fair. It shows that you -- are you
15 really patrolling or are you patrolling some other -- and
16 I'm -- some other direction is what I should say.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: And you observed that it's okay to start
18 your career in the Department with a group of friends, and I --
19 I -- I think you said engage in some kind of clique activity,
20 but it's not okay when it crosses over to immoral and illegal
21 conduct.

22 MS. WALTON: Yes. And I've been friends with some of the
23 same people that I met as a young deputy, but -- and I work
24 with them but I don't -- we don't do illegal things; right?
25 But when you start doing illegal things or when you start

1 trying to be liked or be accepted or want to be part of the
2 "cool kids," so to speak, that's what the problem is because
3 you have some people that don't know how to tell people "no."

4 Everyone doesn't have the fortitude and -- and -- and
5 the gumption to basically push past. It just -- it's just the
6 fact of the matter. That's why the Department has to have
7 supervisors that kind of help people along, ensure that they
8 don't fall prey to this.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: And what is the Department doing to reduce
10 this gang culture that causes all these problems? Are they
11 doing anything affirmatively right now?

12 MS. WALTON: I think there is a -- I haven't really worked
13 in a few months, but I do believe the last time I worked there
14 was a -- an email or something that was sent out by the Sheriff
15 or notification about gangs or cliques. I don't really recall
16 what it was, but there was some type of notification that was
17 sent. A newsletter.

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: Are you allowed to ask people if they're
19 in a deputy gang or clique?

20 MS. WALTON: I don't think -- I think you can, but I've
21 never asked anyone. It's just kind of, you know, it's been --
22 you just kind of know who's in the gang. It -- it -- it's --
23 one thing about our department, 18,000, 10,000 sworn. So big,
24 but yet very small, meaning people talk a lot. People talk,
25 they talk a lot, and, you know things, and people are very

1 eager to tell on other people.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

3 So since everyone knows when the Sheriff makes
4 Larry Del Mese his chief of staff, everyone knew he just
5 appointed a Grim Reaper as his chief of staff.

6 MS. WALTON: Well, not everyone. Because every -- you
7 know, we got new -- not everyone, but -- but yes, it was known.
8 The people that understood and understood that he was connected
9 to the organization, the Reapers, then yes, you knew that --
10 that that was -- that's who was going to be in the Sheriff's
11 Office, yes.

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: Can I ask: Is there a downside to a
13 supervisor just clarifying with who works for her or him
14 are you in this deputy gang or clique and recording that
15 information so everyone in charge can share that information
16 with each other, and, you know, you know it?

17 MS. WALTON: I don't know because I've never been in that
18 position where I've asked anyone. But I know that there's
19 been -- I -- I think there's been some pushback before.

20 My understanding is when people were asking, you
21 know, if people were in gangs, I think there's been some
22 pushback. There's -- there's no -- there's not been a clear
23 line if you can say it or you can ask, is my understanding.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: It's unclear to you.

25 MS. WALTON: Yes, sir.

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: Pushback from whom?

2 MS. WALTON: I mean, I think it was -- my understanding
3 is, you know, it might be the union; it might be county
4 counsel. I don't really -- I've never -- this is only through
5 rumors.

6 I -- I've never sat in that seat where someone has
7 called me and pushed back and said, "Hey, Angela. You can't
8 ask this question."

9 So there's no -- there's no clear line of what and
10 how we can or can you ask this stuff.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

12 But, Captain, there's been pushback the other way
13 because the community certainly wants to know who's in the
14 deputy gang.

15 MS. WALTON: Absolutely.

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: And there's lots of complaints about it.
17 There's lots of stuff on it out there in the community --

18 MS. WALTON: Absolutely, yes.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: -- but have -- do you know? Is there --
20 has anyone addressed how this makes the communities that are
21 served by LASD --

22 MS. WALTON: I can't --

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: -- feel?

24 MS. WALTON: -- answer that question also because as a
25 captain -- I've been in -- a captain in Court Services and

1 Custody, not Patrol.

2 Patrol stations is where you're going to find --
3 that's where the -- the cliques are. So I can't speak on that
4 because I have not been a captain at those stations so I don't
5 know if there's been, you know, community that -- activists or
6 community organizations --

7 CHAIR KENNEDY: Uh-huh. Right.

8 MS. WALTON: -- kind of brought that to the attention of a
9 unit commander at that station. I -- I never worked a Patrol
10 station as a captain.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

12 Any other questions?

13 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Yeah. I had a question.

14 CHAIR KENNEDY: Luis?

15 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: You talked about leadership, and
16 leadership, you know, one of the first foundations is trust.
17 And I -- you know, I can see that internally as -- as, you
18 know, trust in your -- in the department, you know, is -- in a
19 paramilitary organization, it's centered on trust --

20 MS. WALTON: I'm sorry. I didn't hear that part.

21 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: -- centered in a paramilitary
22 organization built on trust, you have...

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Excuse me. I -- I'm sorry. There's...

24 Can we turn off the cell phones just so it doesn't
25 interfere with the testimony?

1 Go ahead.

2 MS. WALTON: (Inaudible), sir.

3 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: It would start with trust, you know,
4 in -- in the department. Now, in terms of outside of the
5 department, in the community, you know, we've heard testimony
6 about the Banditos at East LA and when you had commented about
7 East LA doing whatever they want, you know.

8 And we've also heard of the -- the decal on, you
9 know, in the -- the entryway to the East LA Station with the
10 boot and, you know, that symbol has a lot of meaning, and
11 traumatic meaning, I think, for the community, you know, with
12 the history of East LA and the Sheriff's Department.

13 And do you think that symbol erodes community trust?
14 Like, how do you get past that to try to build trust with the
15 community when you have a symbol that has such a powerful
16 meaning behind it?

17 MS. WALTON: I think you have to have a sheriff that is
18 willing to basically tell them to remove that. You have to
19 start somewhere. And if you don't have a leader that's willing
20 to say that or do that, then what message am I conveying to you
21 as a leader? That it's okay.

22 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Yeah.

23 MS. WALTON: And it's not okay.

24 So that's why I said initially leadership starts from
25 the top and trickles down; right? So if the leader is

1 conducting themselves in a certain way, then everyone all the
2 way down to -- to -- to one of our law enforcement tech -- you
3 know, the -- our runners, they -- they might not think that
4 they have to follow the law at all as well. So that's very
5 important to me.

6 It's very disappointing. It's very disappointing to
7 me being on this department this year -- this -- this -- excuse
8 me -- this long, and to be here in 2022 and thinking that we
9 would progress, and we're not progressing.

10 There's a lot of people that really want this
11 department to change and change for the better. I'm not
12 speaking the community. Yes, I -- I know the community. I'm
13 talking about within. I don't want people to just think the
14 Department is just okay with all this bad stuff. There's a lot
15 of people that this -- it -- it hurts our heart, and they want
16 it to change. It's not just the community. They want it to
17 change from within as well.

18 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Thank you.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: We're going to take a break -- 15 minutes.

20 I -- I -- Mr. Deixler, can we excuse Captain Walton
21 or...

22 MR. DEIXLER: Yes, and with our thanks.

23 MS. WALTON: Okay.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you so much. You're done. Yes.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. WALTON: Thank you so much.

2 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Thank you so much.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

4 We'll take a 15-minute break now.

5 (A break was taken from 10:45 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.)

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: We're going to resume the fifth Special
7 Hearing on Deputy Gangs.

8 Captain Walton has been excused.

9 Mr. Deixler, do you have any other witnesses today?

10 MR. DEIXLER: Yes. We have -- we have one more -- one
11 more witness who will be testifying anonymously and testifying
12 through the screen assuming that the technology is fine and
13 handled. So hope springs eternal.

14 CHAIR KENNEDY: So I guess we'll just swear the witness
15 like we did last time via the screen.

16 MR. DEIXLER: Yes. Yes.

17 Roll 'em.

18 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You will not see the person.

19 MR. DEIXLER: We will not see the person.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: All right. It was the same. It was the
21 same.

22 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yep.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: I just need to know when.

24 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They -- they honestly could now if
25 they unmute themselves.

1 MR. DEIXLER: Okay.

2 So we're calling our next anonymous witness, who I
3 hope will unmute now.

4 And if -- if possible, would you -- would you
5 acknowledge that you're on, Anonymous Witness?

6 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Hello?

7 MR. DEIXLER: Welcome.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

9 For Anonymous Witness, we're in the hearing, and it's
10 going to be -- we're just going to act as if you're here.

11 Can you raise your right hand.

12 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Okay.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Do you swear -- do you swear or solemnly
14 affirm under penalty of perjury to tell the truth, the whole
15 truth, and nothing but the truth?

16 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I do.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

18 MR. DEIXLER: Good morning.

19 Would you -- how long have you been an employee of
20 the LASD?

21 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Eight years.

22 MR. DEIXLER: And you've requested to appear anonymously;
23 is that correct?

24 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And why have you requested to appear

1 anonymously?

2 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Because of fear of retaliation.

3 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and what -- what's the nature of the
4 fear? Does it relate to your career, to your physical safety?

5 Please explain.

6 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Both. Physical (inaudible) and
7 retaliation for my career at the Sheriff's Department.

8 MR. DEIXLER: Do you know of anybody receiving threats
9 designed to intimidate them or prevent them from cooperating
10 with investigations of wrongdoing in the LASD?

11 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

12 MR. DEIXLER: And could you just briefly describe what
13 you -- what you know about such efforts?

14 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

15 Banditos leave dead rats in front of people's homes
16 or in their backyard.

17 MR. DEIXLER: Let me put up -- I hope you'll be able to
18 see this picture.

19 And you've testified that there are groups of people
20 who have received dead rats on their patios or at their
21 residence who are believed to be cooperating with LASD
22 investigations.

23 Did I understand that correctly?

24 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And without going into any detail, would it

1 be correct to say that you are a recipient of such a gift?

2 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

3 MR. DEIXLER: And on more than one occasion?

4 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Correct.

5 MR. DEIXLER: And that's also true of others that you know
6 of; is that correct?

7 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

8 MR. DEIXLER: Were you ever stationed at East LA?

9 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

10 MR. DEIXLER: And for how long were you stationed in
11 East LA?

12 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: About two years.

13 MR. DEIXLER: Before you went to East LA, had you been
14 warned about how people were treated there?

15 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

16 MR. DEIXLER: And what, in substance, were you told about
17 the treatment that you might expect if you went to East LA?

18 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I was told trainees were (inaudible),
19 they were harassed, and that there was a hostile work
20 environment.

21 MR. DEIXLER: I'm sorry. You're -- you -- you break up
22 from time to time.

23 Did you say that people were told about being
24 harassed?

25 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Correct.

1 MR. DEIXLER: And did you say, "A hostile work
2 environment"?

3 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

4 MR. DEIXLER: And anything else that -- that you were
5 warned about before you went to East LA?

6 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: And that the trainees were hazed.

7 MR. DEIXLER: Trainees were hazed?

8 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Correct.

9 MR. DEIXLER: Did you experience any of the mistreatment
10 about which you were warned while you were stationed at
11 East LA?

12 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

13 MR. DEIXLER: Was there a particular ringleader or a
14 person who was responsible, you believe, for that treatment?

15 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

16 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and -- and who was that person?

17 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Rene Munoz.

18 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Who?

19 MR. DEIXLER: Did you say, "Rene Munoz"?

20 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Correct.

21 MR. DEIXLER: And did you observe that there was a
22 practice at East LA perhaps red -- led by Mr. Munoz regarding
23 how disfavored deputies were treated?

24 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And could you describe in a general way how

1 such deputies were treated during the time you were in East LA?

2 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

3 Deputies in the Banditos would withhold backup from
4 the deputies they didn't like.

5 MR. DEIXLER: Did -- did you say "Banditos"?

6 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Correct.

7 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and what were the Banditos?

8 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: They're a deputy gang.

9 MR. DEIXLER: Deputy gang.

10 And what do you mean by "deputy gang"?

11 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: They commit crimes.

12 MR. DEIXLER: When you said there was no backup for the
13 disfavored deputies, would you describe what you meant by that,
14 please?

15 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

16 Banditos would purposely not show up to calls for
17 service to help their partner -- the partners they didn't like
18 and they wanted out of the station.

19 MR. DEIXLER: Was there anything hidden about the
20 Banditos' presence in the East LA Station?

21 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: No.

22 MR. DEIXLER: How did the Banditos show their power or
23 influence in the East LA Station during the time you and other
24 disfavored deputies were present?

25 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: They had control over the station.

1 They made decisions rather than the supervisors, whether it was
2 scheduling, who was going to be in what shift, who was going to
3 get what spot, who would get promoted to training officer, et
4 cetera.

5 MR. DEIXLER: Were they involved also in dispatching
6 calls?

7 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes. Very much so.

8 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and was that an important source of
9 power for the Banditos during the time that you and other
10 disfavored deputies were there?

11 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

12 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and why was that?

13 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Because that's how we get the help.
14 That's how calls get dispatched. And that was a big thing for
15 them, to make sure whether people wouldn't get the help, or
16 certain people would get more calls than others, et cetera.

17 MR. DEIXLER: And was it your experience that you and
18 other disfavored deputies had the experience of getting
19 multiple calls?

20 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

21 MR. DEIXLER: And was it your experience that the multiple
22 calls were throughout the area that was to be policed by the
23 sheriffs from the East LA Station?

24 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

25 MR. DEIXLER: And what effect did that have, first, on you

1 as a sheriff's deputy trying to do a job?

2 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: It was very difficult. When in a car
3 by myself in East LA and have to go to certain calls by myself,
4 having to worry about backup, and on top of that, getting so
5 many calls, I felt tired, burned out. And the point of the
6 Banditos was that, to make me tired, burned out so that they
7 could run you out of a station and force you out willingly.

8 MR. DEIXLER: And what about the effect on the community
9 of having police deputies -- Sheriff's deputies who were being
10 handled in the manner in which you describe being run around
11 the area and being called for multiple calls?

12 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: People from the public were not
13 getting help in a timely manner. And certain procedures that
14 required more deputies to be there to get it done would take a
15 long time because they weren't helping.

16 MR. DEIXLER: Did you decide to attend the Kennedy Hall
17 event at which the deputies were beaten?

18 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: No.

19 MR. DEIXLER: Why did you decide to not attend that, I
20 guess, celebratory event?

21 Well, let me ask you: Did you understand that that
22 was to be a celebration of people getting off training?

23 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

24 MR. DEIXLER: And so why did you decide to not attend a
25 station celebration?

1 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Because there was already tension in
2 the stint at the station, and I did not feel safe.

3 MR. DEIXLER: And why was that?

4 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Because the Banditos were already
5 being very expressive about who they didn't want in there. And
6 they were willing to do whatever it took to get them out of the
7 station, and I was afraid for my safety going there.

8 MR. DEIXLER: Let me ask you about the treatment
9 specifically of women deputies.

10 But first, before I do that, were women members of
11 the Banditos?

12 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: No. They were not allowed. They are,
13 however, associates.

14 MR. DEIXLER: And what do you mean by an "associate"?

15 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: They're not fully in. They -- they
16 don't get the tattoo. They just pretty much help them be the
17 women, like, leader.

18 MR. DEIXLER: Did you ever hear about something called
19 "cigar night"?

20 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

21 MR. DEIXLER: And would you describe what cigar night was.

22 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: It's an event hosted by Banditos to go
23 sell cigars to deputies.

24 MR. DEIXLER: And was that an event that you chose to not
25 attend?

1 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Correct. I did not.

2 MR. DEIXLER: And why was that?

3 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I did not like the fact that they
4 wanted to use women to sell the cigars because they said it
5 would sell more to have women be the ones to sell them.

6 MR. DEIXLER: When you were at the East LA Station, did
7 you ever hear that trainees were taxed?

8 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

9 MR. DEIXLER: What did it mean to be taxed when you were
10 at the LA Station?

11 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: To volunteer to work hours -- a lot of
12 hours of overtime. It would mean to give them money for the
13 Banditos' parties and their barbecues.

14 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and who imposed the taxes?

15 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: The Banditos.

16 MR. DEIXLER: Were women at East LA generally pressured to
17 give money at the request of the Banditos?

18 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

19 MR. DEIXLER: Did you do so?

20 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: One time.

21 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and why did you decide to give money
22 at the request of the Banditos?

23 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I was fairly new, and I was afraid of
24 retaliation.

25 MR. DEIXLER: Was it widely known that the Banditos were

1 imposing taxes on trainees?

2 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

3 MR. DEIXLER: What was done about that by the supervisors
4 in the East LA Station?

5 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Nothing.

6 MR. DEIXLER: You talked about the fact that disfavored
7 deputies didn't get backup because of the Banditos. Did those
8 of you who were disfavored deputies develop a kind of
9 workaround?

10 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

11 MR. DEIXLER: Would you describe for the commission how
12 you disfavored deputies were forced to protect yourselves.

13 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

14 There wasn't a lot of us, but there were some shifts
15 where we would actually have at least one person that was
16 against everything bad the Banditos would do. So we -- we
17 would back each other up on calls and try our best to keep each
18 other safe.

19 MR. DEIXLER: And in -- in trying to keep each other safe
20 among the disfavored deputies, was that something that was
21 easily accomplished because people were close to one another,
22 or was that a challenge based alone on geography?

23 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: It -- it was a big challenge, yes.

24 MR. DEIXLER: And -- and why was that?

25 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Just having -- just the job is already

1 stressful enough going into the unknown all the time, and on
2 top of that, having to worry about your partner, not just in
3 your city, but on the other city. It -- it was very difficult
4 to keep track of that.

5 MR. DEIXLER: Was the fact that the Banditos were running
6 scheduling, assigning trainees, dispatching calls in the way
7 you describe, was that generally known in the East LA Station
8 by those people who were there?

9 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

10 MR. DEIXLER: Would it have to have been known by the
11 captains, the lieutenants, and others who were in charge?

12 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

13 MR. DEIXLER: During the time you were at East LA Station,
14 did you ever hear the expression "work backwards"?

15 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

16 MR. DEIXLER: And what did you understand the term
17 "work backwards" to mean during the time you and others were at
18 East LA Station?

19 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: It was finding someone committing a
20 crime; however, the retention or arrest would be violating
21 their 4th Amendment rights, and later on, having to find out
22 how to make it look legal on paper.

23 MR. DEIXLER: Now, you didn't work backwards in connection
24 with your enforcement of any laws or investigation of crime; is
25 that right?

1 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Correct. I did not.

2 MR. DEIXLER: Did you hear talk while you were at East LA
3 from -- from other deputies about their having worked backwards
4 on cases?

5 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

6 MR. DEIXLER: Was membership in the Banditos open to just
7 anybody who wished to join?

8 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: No.

9 MR. DEIXLER: What was the ethnic makeup of the Banditos?

10 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Latinos.

11 MR. DEIXLER: Sheriff Villanueva has stated that his first
12 act as a sheriff was to employ the new captain in East LA and
13 transfer 36 people from East LA.

14 First of all, the incidents you've described about a
15 lack of backup, cigar nights, taxing, et cetera, were those
16 events all during the time that Sheriff Villanueva was the
17 sheriff?

18 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes, they were.

19 MR. DEIXLER: Were all of the Banditos removed from
20 East LA upon Sheriff Villanueva's taking office?

21 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: No. Some were promoted.

22 MR. DEIXLER: Were the 36 people he has claimed to have
23 transferred -- were those, to your knowledge, voluntary or
24 involuntary?

25 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Voluntary.

1 MR. DEIXLER: I have no further questions of the witness.
2 Pass the witness.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

4 Any questions from the commission?

5 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: I have a question.

6 This -- this -- the transferring of deputies, what's
7 the process usually like? Thirty-six deputies were
8 transferred. Were they transferred kind of in the same
9 timeframe?

10 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I never saw 36 people (inaudible).

11 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Okay.

12 Do transfers usually happen because people put in
13 for -- they want to go work somewhere else, for whatever
14 reason, or was it usually a -- an organizational decision to
15 make
16 to -- to ask people to transfer?

17 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: If it's voluntary, you'd submit a
18 paper. I believe it's every six months you get the
19 opportunity. And then if it's involuntary, then you can get
20 what they call "overnighted." Pretty much you leave the same
21 day.

22 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: When you were there, did you
23 experience people being overnighted, that you came to work on
24 Monday and then you came to work on Wednesday and they weren't
25 there?

1 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Not after the Kennedy Hall incident.

2 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: So after the Kennedy Hall incident,
3 you did not -- you did not, in -- to your best knowledge,
4 notice any overnighthing where people were immediately
5 transferred?

6 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: After the Kennedy Hall, I did see, not
7 36, but very, very, very small amounts of people right after
8 the Kennedy Hall incident.

9 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: When you -- when you say a small
10 amount, are you thinking three, four, or five people?

11 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: About four people were -- three, four.

12 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Four people.

13 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Three or four people.

14 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Did she say -- did she say four? I
15 couldn't...

16 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Three to four people, she said --

17 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Three to four.

18 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: -- I believe. Yeah.

19 Are you currently with the Department?

20 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Okay. Thank you so much.

22 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Let me just follow up if I could.

23 This is Robert Bonner, one of the commissioners.

24 The -- so your testimony is that after Sheriff

25 Villanueva became sheriff there were not 36 people transferred

1 from East LA to other stations or assigned; is that accurate?

2 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER BONNER: To your knowledge, were any persons
4 of -- I hesitate to use the "involuntary." We know there were
5 no involuntary transfers, but were there any noticeable,
6 significant numbers of voluntary transfers out of East LA after
7 Sheriff Villanueva became sheriff in December of 2018?

8 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Not that I saw.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Did -- do you know: Did any
10 disfavored deputies, as that term was used in your testimony,
11 did any disfavored deputies take -- take an opportunity to get
12 transferred out of the East LA Station after the Kennedy Hall
13 incident?

14 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And do you know approximately how
16 many were -- first of all, was -- I take it those transfers are
17 with the consent of the Sheriff's Department management, that
18 is to say, the -- the captain of the station and above; is that
19 correct?

20 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Because you -- if you want to
22 voluntarily transfer out of a station, you can't necessarily
23 just do it right away, can you, within the Sheriff's Department
24 rules? Can you?

25 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: You -- you can transfer voluntarily.

1 It takes some time. It doesn't happen overnight.

2 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Right.

3 Okay. So it's a process, basically.

4 But how -- do you know approximately how many
5 disfavored deputies were able to transfer out of East LA
6 Station after the Kennedy Hall incident?

7 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: To my knowledge --

8 COMMISSIONER BONNER: What's your estimate?

9 Yeah. Excuse me. Go ahead.

10 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: To my knowledge, about eight people.

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: About eight.

12 And were any of those after Sheriff Villanueva became
13 sheriff?

14 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And about -- of the eight,
16 approximately how many of them were -- were voluntarily
17 transferred out after he became Sheriff?

18 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: It was voluntary. At the same time
19 that I would say it was sort of forced. I'm sure if the
20 circumstances were different, people would want to stay there.

21 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yeah. Okay. I'm not quite sure,
22 but did -- could you give me an estimate as to the number after
23 Sheriff Villanueva became sheriff that voluntarily transferred
24 out of East LA Station? Disfavored deputies.

25 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: To my knowledge, eight.

1 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Eight. Okay.

2 All right. So I guess you're saying then that those
3 eight were all transferred after Sheriff Villanueva became
4 sheriff; correct?

5 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: In other words, you have the
7 Kennedy Hall incident -- I've forgotten the date of that but
8 that preceded by a number of months that Sheriff Villanueva
9 actually taking office of sheriff and being sworn in December
10 of 2018.

11 In any event -- so I'm trying to make that
12 differentiation. So to your knowledge, were any Banditos --
13 deputies who were part of the Banditos clique in the East LA
14 Station -- were any of them involuntarily transferred? And I
15 say -- I'm involuntary now -- were any of them involuntarily
16 transferred out of the East LA Station after Sheriff Villanueva
17 became sheriff, to your knowledge?

18 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I wouldn't know.

19 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay.

20 Do you know if any of them were voluntarily --
21 voluntarily -- any Banditos deputies --

22 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Oh, Banditos.

23 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yeah. I'm talking about -- I --
24 first of all, I don't think anybody was involuntarily
25 transferred, but it's your testimony, not mine.

1 So my first question was -- was -- were any Banditos,
2 deputies that were members of the Banditos deputy clique, gang,
3 or exclusionary subgroup, were any of them involuntarily
4 transferred out the East LA Station but after Sheriff
5 Villanueva became sheriff?

6 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I would say they were involuntary.
7 I -- I don't -- I think they (inaudible).

8 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Would it be your testimony that
9 you -- you have no knowledge that anybody was involuntarily
10 transferred; correct?

11 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Say that again.

12 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yeah.

13 Do you have any knowledge as to whether anybody was
14 involuntarily transferred?

15 Just so you understand what I'm saying is, I'm saying
16 that people, deputies who were identified as part of a deputy
17 clique, were any of them involuntarily transferred out of the
18 East LA Station after Sheriff Villanueva became sheriff?

19 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay.

21 Approximately how many?

22 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I -- I wouldn't know.

23 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay.

24 Can you even give me an estimate on that in terms of
25 numbers?

1 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I'm just talking about the same three,
2 but I guess -- I don't -- they were transferred. I'm counting
3 the same three, four that I told you earlier about.

4 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay.

5 I'm not quite -- you were breaking up a little bit,
6 for me, anyway, but is -- was -- was your estimate about three
7 or four?

8 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Correct.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: All right.

10 Okay. Now, you -- you indicated that -- I believe,
11 in your testimony, that some Banditos -- deputy sheriffs, who
12 were Banditos, were promoted after the Kennedy Hall incident;
13 is that correct?

14 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Approximately how many were
16 promoted, to your knowledge?

17 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: To my knowledge, that I know for sure,
18 two.

19 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Two -- two were promoted.

20 I almost want to ask their names, but I -- I'll --
21 I'll -- I'll leave -- I'll won't right now, but we might be
22 interested in that.

23 But when you say two were promoted, they were
24 promoted -- what? -- to -- from deputies to sergeants?

25 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Detective.

1 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Pardon?

2 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Detectives.

3 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Detectives.

4 But when you're promoted to a detective, don't you
5 become a sergeant?

6 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: No.

7 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay.

8 Well, I always wondered things about the Sheriff's
9 Department.

10 Okay. So they were promoted to detectives. And when
11 they're promoted to detectives, do -- are they -- are they
12 transferred out of East LA Station, or did they stay at the
13 East LA Station?

14 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: It depends on the preference.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay.

16 Well, what about the two we're talking about? Did
17 they stay at the East LA Station, or did they -- were they
18 moved some -- were they transferred somewhere else?

19 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: They stayed.

20 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay. So they're promoted at the
21 station.

22 All right. Thank you. Appreciate your testimony.

23 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Thank you.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: Patti?

25 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yes.

1 Yeah. Thank you again. I do have another question.

2 Were you already stationed at East LA when the former
3 Sheriff McDonnell removed the insignia logo from the station?
4 Were you there -- were you stationed there then?

5 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: And were you there when it was
7 replaced, when it was put back up with some change?

8 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: When I got there, it wasn't there
9 anymore. And then it was -- I was there when it got brought
10 back up.

11 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Got brought back. Okay.

12 And then I'm wondering if -- while you were at
13 East LA if you were -- since you're aware of your treatment,
14 your treatment for yourself and some others, were you aware of
15 any harassment? You know, kind of driving by the houses of
16 community members, or any type of aggressive or annoyances that
17 some of the deputies at East LA may have done to community
18 members who may have had some prior knowledge and/or
19 confrontations with East LA deputies?

20 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Are -- is your question more between
21 the deputies and the public? I'm a little confused.

22 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yes. Yes. Deputies and some
23 members of the public, some family members, some people who may
24 have had some interaction with deputies in the past and
25 that -- have you -- have you heard about any kind of harassment

1 or retaliation against the community members?

2 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Retaliation, I would say -- can you
3 hear me?

4 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yeah. Did you say -- you said
5 you've heard of --

6 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Retaliation.

7 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: -- you've heard of retaliation.

8 Yes? Is that a "yes"?

9 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Okay. And is it -- was it in the
11 form of kind of harassments and annoyances?

12 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

13 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: What form -- what -- what form did
14 the retaliation take, as far as you know?

15 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Maybe if something -- for an example
16 I -- I could give you, if they're not happy with how a certain
17 person of the public is behaving or they got their feelings
18 hurt, then they'll go the extra mile to find all the little
19 stuff that they can add onto. Whether it's a citation or the
20 arrest, they'll -- they'll try to add anything they can just
21 because of retaliation.

22 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Okay. Thank you so much.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you for testifying.

24 You've told us pretty extensively of how the Banditos
25 mistreat trainees or other deputies at the East LA Station.

1 Along the same lines as Commissioner Giggans, I want to know
2 how did the Banditos treat the community members in East LA?
3 Do you know?

4 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: The Banditos?

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

6 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I was -- I tried to stay away from
7 them as much as possible. I -- I -- I didn't work with them so
8 I -- I -- I didn't work close with them, I should say, so
9 I -- I wouldn't know.

10 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

11 And you told us about female associates of the
12 Banditos. Do you know, like, what are the requirements or
13 expectations of the female deputies who associate with the
14 Banditos but aren't admitted?

15 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: The requirements to become an
16 associate?

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

18 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: To flirt with them, sleep with them.
19 That will get you in for sure.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: So to be a female associate of the
21 Banditos there's an expectation that you will sleep with them?

22 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Are you aware of sexual harassment claims
24 at the East LA Station?

25 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: Are there a lot of them? If you know.

2 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: To my knowledge, two.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: And when you -- when you receive a dead
4 rat like we saw in the beginning, does that convey any
5 particular message to you or -- and others who get these dead
6 rats?

7 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Is it a threat?

9 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Absolutely.

10 CHAIR KENNEDY: And that's the way you perceived it?

11 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: And can you go to your boss or the
13 leadership and express your fears about working with the
14 Banditos?

15 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Not at all. I've already tried, and
16 it didn't go well.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: Why not? Tell us about that.

18 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I'd rather not say too much
19 information that would give up my identity; however, it --

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

21 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: -- (inaudible).

22 CHAIR KENNEDY: I understand.

23 But generally -- so people who are mistreated or
24 cross the Banditos, your view is you can't tell the leadership
25 at -- at the Department about that because they don't -- they

1 don't want to receive that information?

2 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Do you have any idea as a -- you've been
4 there, what, seven or eight years with the Department?

5 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Yes.

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: Do you have any idea why the leadership
7 would want to support deputy gangs like this; like, why they
8 would not be supportive of -- of you all who are complaining
9 about being mistreated in this manner?

10 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I wouldn't know.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: No idea?

12 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: No.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Do you think that high-ranking members of
14 the Department are members of deputy gangs themselves?

15 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: I'm sorry. I just can't hear your...

17 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: I said, "Not to my knowledge." I
18 wouldn't be able to confirm that.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

20 Anyone else?

21 Mr. Deixler?

22 MR. DEIXLER: Thank the witness and excuse the witness.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you very much, Anonymous Witness.
24 We really appreciate you testifying here today.

25 ANONYMOUS WITNESS: Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Wow.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Mr. Deixler?

3 MR. DEIXLER: That's all we have today. We hoped to have
4 more, but these are the cards we've been dealt in terms of
5 witnesses availability.

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, it sounds like we'll have to have
7 another special hearing.

8 My understanding is our contempt proceedings against
9 the Sheriff and the Undersheriff are set for September 7th now.
10 They've been advanced so we'll at least have a hearing after
11 that. And so after we select a date and a location, we can let
12 everyone know about the sixth special hearing.

13 If you don't have anything, Bert, I think that the
14 agenda now provides for commissioner comments and questions
15 followed by public comment from members of the community who
16 are here today.

17 So I -- I'm going to ask my colleagues, does anyone
18 want to say or make any remarks before we open it up to the
19 public?

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Hearing --

21 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: (Inaudible.)

22 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Just a comment -- just a comment
24 that I find it very heartening that there are members of this
25 department who are willing to come forward, whether they are

1 coming in person, very obvious, or whether they, for safety
2 reasons, deemed to give us testimony anonymously via -- via
3 the -- via the videos.

4 So I think -- I think it's extraordinary that we
5 continue to hear not only the -- not only the criticisms of the
6 flaws but also the -- continue and continue to hear about not
7 everybody that wants to go along with some of the policies that
8 the Department has imposed and that there are members within
9 the Department who are really interested in change happening.

10 So I just wanted to -- yeah, I just wanted to mention
11 that -- that -- that's -- it's very heartening. And I feel
12 very grateful to these people who take the risk to come forward
13 and tell their truths to us and to the public and the community
14 at large.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: You know, I might want to just add
16 something to that thought of Commissioner Giggans, which I
17 fully, fully concur with.

18 But, you know, I would say as our -- our evidentiary
19 hearings have been moved -- have been moving forward with the
20 able assistance of special counsel, Mr. Deixler, and -- and
21 other pro bono counsel that have -- are assisting the
22 commission in its investigation of deputy cliques, gangs,
23 and/or exclusionary subgroups, the evidence is mounting that
24 not only do deputy cliques exist and continue to exist within
25 the Department, at least some of the stations of the

1 Department, but they have extraordinary pernicious effect both,
2 by the way, on the public but also within the Sheriff's
3 Department. They're hurting the Sheriff's Department.

4 And -- and -- and for that reason alone, I would also
5 say that it's extraordinarily important that the message go out
6 to all of the good men and women of the Department -- the --
7 the LA County Sheriff's Department that you've got to come
8 forward. This is the time to put an end to this.

9 But -- and we realize, because we've heard that there
10 is intimidation being used here -- dead rats at doorsteps, for
11 God sakes -- what kind of a department is it? We've got to ask
12 ourselves this question.

13 But it's extraordinarily important for the good
14 men -- men -- good men and women of the Sheriff's Department,
15 the deputies out there who are not part of this cancer, they
16 need to come forward. You need to come forward to this
17 commission and tell us the effects and impacts of the deputy
18 cliques, subgroups, gangs are having within their own
19 department.

20 So that's a plea, basically, but I know it's -- it's
21 sometimes been difficult, understandably, in a way. But it's
22 time now that -- that everybody summon up all the courage they
23 can and assist this oversight commission in getting to the
24 bottom of how these deputy cliques operate and why they need to
25 be eradicated once and for all from the Sheriff's Department.

1 Thanks, Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

3 Well, I certainly agree that the -- with each
4 hearing, the evidence of gang culture within the Department
5 grows. And it is of huge concern to this commission because we
6 will never achieve 21st-century policing, constitutional
7 policing, community policing, when you have so many deputy
8 gangs within the Department that go unchecked and even support
9 it.

10 So I think we will just -- I know it makes
11 Sheriff Villanueva very upset, but we're going to keep
12 developing the evidence and try to shine the light on as much
13 of it as we possibly can in order to push the LASD leadership
14 to reform things.

15 So, Mr. Deixler, once again, our great thanks to you,
16 and let's open it up for public comment.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Our first speaker Isaac Asbury, followed by
18 Ron Dowell, followed by Steve Hill.

19 MR. ASBURY: Good morning.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Morning.

21 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Morning.

22 MR. ASBURY: My name is Isaac Asbury. I'm a resident of
23 the city of Compton. I grew up in Compton so I am aware of the
24 deputy sheriffs from 2000 on. They were called the Vikings.
25 When they were called the Vikings, it was mostly white officers

1 from the South, pretty much. So they had a name in the
2 community as the Vikings. They had no problem with that.

3 So as the years went on, the Vikings got -- got
4 older, then they started allowing minorities to join the force.
5 Then they began to change the names to the Jump Out Boys, to
6 the Executioners, so on and so on.

7 I've worked in a federal prison for 25 years, and I
8 was in charge of investigating prison gangs. So when I
9 retired, I started a program called Team Intervention Program,
10 and I would deal with the residents in Compton that were part
11 of a, you know, gang, keeping them out of trouble.

12 In 2009 -- Sergio Reyes was his name -- he shot a
13 young man by the name of Avery Cody, Jr. He was 16 years old,
14 and he shot him in the back in broad daylight. And from that
15 day on, I been studying every shooting in LA County.

16 Basically, I want to say, I want to thank the
17 attorneys that's here. I want to thank the commission because
18 I've been fighting this fight for about 14 years. Okay? And I
19 was looking at some information of a report -- it was 2001 --
20 and Max Huntsman was the walkthrough investigator from that
21 long ago.

22 So I'm somewhat frustrated, but I can say from
23 talking to different law enforcement, they're coming forward
24 because they're watching you guys, and they're watching all
25 these attorneys that's here representing.

1 That's all I have to say on that.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Our second speaker Ron Dowell, followed by
4 Steve Hill, followed by Michele Infante.

5 MR. DOWELL: The City of Compton is unaccountable for its
6 part in allowing deputy gangs to fester, unchecked, since 2001.

7 The City treats its 24.5 million-dollar LASD contract
8 as a separate department with no organization chart reporting
9 relationship. Yet the Sheriff makes up a sizable portion of
10 this general fund while a youth, recreation, and senior
11 citizen's program is practically nonexistent.

12 LASD does not disclose publicly who works from the
13 Compton Station despite repeated requests. Compton's lack of
14 oversight is potentially a public safety threat to its
15 citizenry, and that resulted in millions of use-of-force
16 payouts, Donta Taylor being one of many examples.

17 The City is seemingly unaware of deputy work
18 slowdowns and slow call response times identified by this
19 commission. There is no public discussion of the quality of
20 LASD service by Compton officials. For example, despite being
21 an ordinance violation, the city is overrun with cannabis
22 dispensaries and street shutdowns.

23 As a way to get a handle on the accurate level of
24 so-called crime in the city, the Concerned Citizens of Compton
25 recommended to Compton officials that the Sheriff adopt the

1 National Incident-Based Reporting System in Compton. This
2 information, once collected, should be accessible on the City's
3 website in real time.

4 Finally, in addition to Executioners, Banditos, and
5 Reapers, Chief Tardy should add members of the Proud Boys,
6 Three Percenters, and Oath Keepers to her list of persons to be
7 purged from the Compton Station.

8 Lastly, I'll say that by Compton, the Sheriff of --
9 the majority of folks who work for the Sheriff have gotten a
10 bad reputation based on the activities of the minority, just
11 like the city of Compton blamed for the gang -- the gang
12 behavior of the few. It's not an indictment against all
13 Sheriff employees because some of them are just like the
14 captain that came today -- of our witness here. We're
15 suffering the same frustration. So I would encourage all of
16 them that know better to speak up now while you have the
17 opportunity.

18 MS. WILLIAMS: Sir, your time is up.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Steve Hill, followed by Michele Infante,
21 followed by Jacqueline Venters.

22 MR. HILL: Hello, Committee.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Hi.

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Hi.

25 MR. HILL: Okay. I was -- my name is Steve Hill. I live

1 in the Antelope Valley up where the -- our settlement agreement
2 is currently taking place.

3 Listen, I was arrested by the shot caller at Los
4 Angeles County Sheriff's Department on March 7th. Today is
5 August 19th. I still don't know why I was arrested, and nobody
6 can find out. The DOJ refuses -- they -- their direct words:
7 They reject filing charges against me. They can't even find
8 out why I was arrested. I was arrested for political
9 retribution for speaking out at a town hall meeting.

10 The DOJ suggests I get an attorney. Because of my
11 religion, I can't even find an attorney. I have a credit score
12 that can't get any higher, I own a business, and I can't find
13 legal representation because of my religion or -- or lack
14 thereof.

15 I am pleading with the commission. Subpoena the
16 Sheriff's Department to find out why I was arrested, and that's
17 where you'll find all the bullshit political retaliation by law
18 enforcement.

19 I'm a veteran. I'm a retired peace officer.

20 You know, I'm at my wit's end. I -- I don't know
21 what else to do. Who -- who am I to go to? I've been to
22 Mike Garcia, Scott Wilk, Tom Lacky, the mayor of Palmdale.
23 I've been to all the CAC meetings up there. I've talked to the
24 federal Department of Justice. Nobody is doing nothing. I
25 don't know if it's incompetence, negligent -- I don't know what

1 it is. But as a veteran, I shouldn't have to deal with this
2 shit.

3 I'm pleading with you. Do something.

4 Thank you. And I really apologize for having to
5 speak this way. Thanks.

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

7 MS. WILLIAMS: Michele Infante, followed by Jacqueline
8 Venters, followed by Valerie Vargas.

9 MS. INFANTE: Good morning. My name is Michele Infante,
10 and I'm going to talk about Ruby Beltran.

11 Ruby Beltran is 31 years old, pregnant, with
12 fourth-stage liver cancer at Century Regional Detention
13 Facility.

14 Her first grievance was, number one, Deputy
15 Hernandez -- please write that down -- Deputy Hernandez put his
16 hands down Ruby's pants and touched her vagina and did the same
17 to several other girls.

18 Second one, Deputy Mercado has been verbally and
19 sexually harassing Ruby since she has been there at CRDF since
20 June.

21 Number 3, Deputy Mercado walked Ruby to her prenatal
22 and threw her into an unoccupied cell onto a bed with all of
23 his weight on top of her body. He made her -- put her in the
24 hole, and then Deputy Mercado told -- told her, "Remember my
25 face."

1 Number 4, Deputy Martin retaliated on Ruby because
2 she had been filing grievances by not -- by not allowing a
3 pregnant Ruby to order extra food at commissary.

4 Number 5, Deputy Martin took Ruby from her cell into
5 a room yesterday with a Deputy Rice and wanted Ruby to say that
6 she has been lying the whole time and that she would get her
7 privileges back.

8 Number 6, Deputy Martin told Ruby this will be --
9 this will make them look bad for preaudit -- for preaudit. And
10 Deputy Rice told Ruby that Deputy Martin could lose her
11 license.

12 Number 7, because her grievances were thrown in the
13 trash can by deputies, Ruby did not receive medical care in a
14 timely manner, and she kept bleeding and lost her baby.

15 Number 8, Medical tried to get Ruby to sign papers
16 that stated that she requested an abortion.

17 Number 9, a female from LASD, last week, came to
18 Ruby's cell and stated, if she would just stop, they will
19 release her.

20 There has been a progression of aggression from the
21 Sheriff's Department, along with retaliation, intimidation,
22 coercion, verbal harassment, sexual harassment, a lack of
23 medical care, and sexual assaults from the Los Angeles County
24 Sheriff's Department and their deputies.

25 This is not an anomaly. This is a sick culture that

1 helps foster a lack of accountability and transparency with
2 those who are committing criminal acts inside our county jails
3 every day. This department is full of, yes, sheriff deputy
4 gangs. The deputy gangs are the ones that are the rapists and
5 the child molesters.

6 So today I would ask you, what are you going to do
7 about this? Thank you.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Jacqueline Venters, followed by Valerie
10 Vargas, followed by Stephen [sic] Luna.

11 MS. VENTERS: Good morning.

12 First, I want to say thank you to all the
13 commissioners. You guys are doing a awesome job.

14 I want to say I'm glad that Gascon wasn't recalled
15 because from what I'm seeing, he's helping us. You know, he
16 was part of the law enforcement. He's seen a lot of the
17 corruption.

18 I had left a package back there for you guys, that
19 2011, the same year that my son was shot five times in the
20 back, it was another young man, and the -- based on the
21 deputy's testimony -- that's all they had -- this young man
22 was -- sentence is 39 years. Gascon has his case now, and
23 they're going to release this man after 12 years because they
24 found that this deputy lied.

25 Now it's time to hold them accountable, you know.

1 It's like they committing crimes. This is sexual crime,
2 murder, attempted murder. So what is the accountability for
3 these deputies now that, you know, some of this stuff has been
4 exposed?

5 And it's hurtful to see chiefs, captains, deputies up
6 here sharing their stories for many, many years that they have
7 been victims of the same corruption that the citizens out on
8 the street are receiving. We got to stop. We got to stop.

9 I'm praying for justice. I've been on a journey for
10 justice. You guys been seeing my face. My son's case is now
11 in Gascon's office, and I'm praying him home after they told me
12 I couldn't do anything. It has been a cover up from the
13 beginning.

14 And I -- what I've witnessed, I hope nobody else have
15 to go through this, but coming to these meetings, I'm seeing
16 other people cry out for help, which I've been crying out for
17 help. But it shouldn't take 12 years for us to get help when
18 they know that these things exist in these departments. It's
19 very hurtful and heartbreaking. You know, to see these
20 families that's been experiencing these difficulties, not
21 having funds to get attorneys, not being able to address the
22 issue in a timely manner to where our loved ones can come home,
23 but --

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

1 MS. VENTERS: -- we're hoping this change.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Valerie Vargas, followed by Stephen --
4 Stephanie Luna, followed by Franky Carrillo.

5 MS. VARGAS: Good morning. My name is Valerie Vargas; I
6 am the -- of the surviving family of Anthony Vargas.

7 His birthday was July 27th, and we recently
8 commemorated his four-year "angelversary" on the 12th. He
9 would've been 25 this year.

10 We spent the past four years fighting and surviving
11 the retaliation of the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Department at
12 the cause of the deputy gang brutality.

13 It's -- it's interesting sitting here listening to,
14 you know, these testimonies. I would just like to see more
15 probing into the people who are actually testifying because it
16 seems like they're a little bit more reluctant to -- to talk
17 about things. And I get it. I get legalities, but it's just
18 surreal.

19 I just wanted to -- to tell you it's been four years
20 since we've been fighting the deputy gangs, and especially at
21 the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and I just want to
22 say happy birthday to Anthony.

23 That's it.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

25 Stephanie Luna, followed by Franky Carrillo, followed

1 by our last speaker Douglas Jessop.

2 MS. LUNA: Hello, everyone. My name is Stephanie Luna. I
3 am also surviving family of Anthony Vargas.

4 I, first, want to come up and thank this commission
5 for continuing and being, you know, so consistent with really
6 holding not just Alex Villanueva but holding the entire
7 Sheriff's Department accountable.

8 It has been four years since we've seen anything like
9 this happen so it definitely is surreal being in this room, you
10 know.

11 Hearing the witnesses testify, I think that one thing
12 has been really consistent throughout all of their testimonies,
13 and it's the fact that regardless of whatever policies are
14 being put into place, with the current leadership that's
15 withholding the Sheriff's Department right now, it doesn't
16 matter what policy is put into place if you have a leader
17 that's not willing to follow them himself. He's actively
18 enabling every deputy in his departments to not follow them as
19 well.

20 You know, my family has endured countless harassment,
21 relative intimidation that comes in various forms. It's not
22 just them, you know, driving in front of our home. It's not
23 just them stalking us on social media. It's not just them
24 showing up at Anthony's "angelversaries," his tree memorials.
25 It definitely comes in different forms. Much like what the

1 deputies are facing, there's active families facing the exact
2 same thing.

3 I would ask you all to please look into the incident
4 that was spoken by Ms. Infante that's happening in the Lynwood
5 Jail. I think that that's definitely very concerning because
6 while we know deputy gangs are thriving in the streets, they're
7 also thriving while behind bars. And I would just urge the
8 commission to, you know, really look into that, and make sure
9 something is done to help the individual that's suffering in
10 there.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Franky Carrillo, followed by
14 Douglas Jessop.

15 MR. CARRILLO: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is
16 Franky Carrillo. I'd like to begin by just thanking you for
17 the work you guys are doing.

18 Eleven years ago, I sat not too far from where I'm
19 standing right now after being exonerated here in California
20 for a crime I didn't commit. I spent 20 years of my life in
21 prison from the age of 16 to 37. And it was discovered during
22 that exoneration the Lynwood Sheriff's Department,
23 specifically -- or the LA County Sheriff's Department
24 substation of Lynwood, more specifically, the Vikings, were
25 involved in framing me. They coerced young boys. I was a

1 young boy myself. They coerced other young -- young boys to
2 lie against me. They abused their power and their authority to
3 make sure that the conviction was what they wanted.

4 I am here today -- I've been watching you guys, but I
5 wanted to come here and get the sense of the room. And I think
6 what I and the community at large has been hoping for was for
7 good people, courageous people to come together, and expose
8 what's being exposed here.

9 I thank Office of Inspector General, obviously, and
10 everyone who's involved because it takes a village in -- at
11 this point, it's more than just a village that were -- we've
12 gathered.

13 And I think I hear the -- the pain in other people's
14 voices who were testifying, and it's a collective voice. And
15 the fact that people such as yourselves have -- have joined in
16 on that fight for a systemic change, obviously, if there's a
17 name that we can focus on -- an individual person, but a
18 systemic change that we're -- that we're requesting.

19 And so I thank you.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Douglas Jessop?

22 He is our last speaker.

23 MR. JESSOP: Hey, what's up, Commission? So my name is
24 Douglas S. Jessop.

25 Also, I was unlawfully incarcerated on Martin Luther

1 King Day, 2016. Picked up by the sheriffs, thrown in
2 prison -- or thrown in jail, subsequently, sentenced to a
3 five-year prison term.

4 In that timeframe, I became the prison law clerk and
5 faced an extreme amount of retaliation. I had -- I had to file
6 multiple appeals against prison guards to get them removed,
7 helped other inmates face this corruption as well; so
8 everything you guys are talking about, I'm very familiar with.

9 Once I was out, I was rendered homeless, immediately
10 started to facing the same exact treatment by the sheriffs. It
11 went into hyper mode when Alex Villanueva got into office.

12 Nobody -- what would happen is anywhere that I went,
13 whether it was a medical facility, anything that ran my name,
14 you would find sheriffs coming in droves; right? What that did
15 is it created the hyper-vigilance around me that I was some
16 sort of dangerous individual so nobody would actually program
17 with me.

18 They've -- they've infiltrated my school. When I go
19 to -- when I go to school, they'll, like, come up in droves and
20 things of that nature.

21 I faced every single retaliation that I was facing in
22 prison while I was fighting for my innocence. Like -- so, for
23 me, actually going through this experience and coming out here
24 and sharing it, it's -- it's -- it's a major risk for me;
25 right? -- to come up here and talk about it because I've seen

1 how this works.

2 When we talk about the Anthony Vargases, when we talk
3 about all the individuals that are getting killed, there's a
4 process how that happened, how that occurs; right? There's so
5 many different individuals that I've faced that I don't even
6 know that would have it in their mind made up already because
7 there's -- they -- they are not aware that they program with
8 informants.

9 But I am; right? I was a prison law clerk, and I
10 filed my case in the California Supreme Court, and I have --
11 and subsequently, I won on an appeal.

12 The reason why I'm coming forward and bringing this
13 up is because people of color have been abused and exploited
14 for far too long, far too long. Individuals that are pretty
15 much of color, we need to stop pointing the finger at them and
16 look at the people that really are accountable. The sheriffs
17 are as corrupt as they get because they use this system like
18 their own personal mafia.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

21 I think that concludes -- yeah. I think that
22 concludes the public comment.

23 And our inspector general is here. We heard some
24 comments about a person who is detained in the Lynwood Jail,
25 Ruby Beltran, and I was just wondering if your office could

1 look into that.

2 MR. HUNTSMAN: I will -- we will. Thank you.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

4 Brian, our executive director, is there anything you
5 need to say?

6 We don't have the date and facility picked for our
7 next special hearing. I'm going to try to take care of that
8 sometime today, and we can announce it after I speak with
9 Mr. Deixler.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: We -- we don't.

11 I did want to announce our September regular COC
12 meeting will be moved by a week because we needed to subpoena
13 the Civilian Oversight Conference. Our meeting will be on
14 September 22nd rather than on September 15th.

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

16 And is that a virtual meeting -- our regular meeting?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. It's going to be a virtual meeting.

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: So we'll have our -- our regular meeting,
19 but I expect we're going to have a sixth Special Hearing on
20 Deputy Gangs.

21 So for those who follow these proceedings, as soon as
22 we have a date and a location, we will announce it for your
23 planning purposes.

24 With that said, I think we can adjourn this meeting.

25 Some of the testimony and the public comments were

1 quite sobering. It looks like we have, still, a lot of work to
2 do.

3 Thank you.

4 (The hearing was concluded.)

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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, August 19, 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 19th day September, 2022.

19 
20

21 ANN BONNETTE, CSR 6108

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25

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