



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING HELD
ONLINE AT: <https://bit.ly/3zUVyKV>
coc.lacounty.gov**



Thursday, November 17, 2022

Attachment: [Video](#)

Present: Chair Sean Kennedy, Vice Chair Jamon R. Hicks, Robert Bonner, Irma Hagans Cooper, Luis S. Garcia, Patricia Giggans, James Harris, Hans Johnson, Lael Rubin and Executive Director Brian K. Williams

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR

Call to Order: Chair Kennedy called the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and requested staff to call the roll. Chair Kennedy then discussed the code of conduct and moved to the consent calendar. Chair Kennedy moved to public comment, however no one commented on this item.

Approval of Consent Calendar: Chair Kennedy called for approval, there being no objection, the [June 10, 2022](#), [June 16, 2022](#), [July 1, 2022](#), [July 25, 2022](#), [August 19, 2022](#), [September 23, 2022](#) and [October 14, 2022](#) minutes were adopted.

Family Impact Remarks: Chair Kennedy advised this item is delayed and moved to item 2.

2. REPORTS & POSSIBLE ACTION

2a. Chair's Report

Chair Kennedy advised that he had nothing to report, he then moved to item 2b.

2b. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Brian K. Williams advised that staff is searching for a location to hold in-person COC meetings and hopes to have a new location for the January 2023 Commission meeting. Mr. Williams advised the December meeting will focus on administrative matters, restructuring ad hoc committees and discussing priorities for the coming year. Chair Kennedy then moved to item 2c.

2c. Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report

Inspector General Max Huntsman discussed the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) report card that was published by OIG. He also stated that per ordinance, LASD should be at every COC meeting and he is hopeful Sheriff Elect Robert Luna will attend the December COC meeting. Following Inspector General Huntsman's comments, Chair Kennedy moved to Commissioner comments. Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2d.

2d. Commissioner Comments / [Ad Hoc Committee](#) Updates

Commissioner Bonner suggested drafting an official letter inviting Sheriff Elect Luna to attend the December COC meeting. Chair Kennedy agreed.

Commissioner Rubin noted that she is looking forward to working with the incoming LASD administration and acknowledged the incident involving LASD trainees earlier in the week. Chair Kennedy thanked Commissioner Rubin for acknowledging the injured deputies and wished them a speedy recovery. Commissioner Giggans advised that despite the lack of cooperation from the current administration, the ad hoc committees were able to make some progress, and she hopes the progress continues with the new administration.

Following Commissioner comments, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment, where three members of the public commented on this item. Chair Kennedy then moved to item 2e.

2e. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

There being no LASD comments, Chair Kennedy moved to item 3.

3. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

3a. L.A County Sheriff's Department Jails

Chair Kennedy introduced Los Angeles County Department of Health Services' Correctional Health Services (CHS) Director Tim Belavich and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sean Henderson, who provided an update on COVID-19, mpox, pregnancies, and deaths in the jails. Chair Kennedy also introduced Melissa Camacho of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) who discussed the overcrowding of jail facilities.

Dr. Henderson reported on COVID-19 and noted the numbers have been consistent without a spike, and he advised they are aggressively vaccinating with the new booster to prevent a spike due to new variants. Dr. Henderson reported that care and isolation numbers have not changed for the COVID-19 Omicron variant. He reported six positive cases of mpox and advised over 600 vaccinations have been administered to at-risk population. Dr. Henderson reported 22 pregnant women in the jails as of November 2022 and 41 babies have been delivered since January 2020. He said 33 people have died in custody since January 2022.

Commissioner Johnson inquired about efforts made regarding reproductive health care. Dr. Henderson stated a full range of reproductive services are offered and that full Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) staff is available to assist. Executive Director Williams inquired about baby bonding time, and Dr. Henderson deferred the question to LASD because he doesn't have control of movement of mothers postpartum.

Commissioner Rubin requested the name of the full-time OB/GYN physician. Dr. Henderson identified it has been recently contractor OB/GYN physician Dr. Noah Nattell. Recently, OB/GYN Dr. Gianna Le has been hired as a full-time employee.

Commissioner Garcia questioned if pregnant people are assigned a social worker for psychological assistance. Dr. Henderson advised that people are not assigned a social worker due to pregnancy, but that many of the pregnant people are enrolled in mental health services for various reasons.

Commissioner Cooper asked how soon patients are seen by OB/GYN. Dr. Henderson reported a urine test is requested upon entry to test for sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy, and if pregnancy results are positive, they're immediately enrolled into the OB/GYN program.

Chair Kennedy requested information on in custody deaths. Dr. Henderson reported 33 people have died in custody since January 2022, with the breakdown of the deceased as 14 Latinos, 9 Black, 6 White, and 4 Other.

Commissioner Garcia inquired about the facility in which these deaths occurred. Dr. Henderson advised he did not have that information readily available but he can provide it later. Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy called on ACLU's Melissa Camacho.

Ms. Camacho expressed concern with inhumane [conditions in the L.A. County jails](#) and overcrowding at the Inmate Reception Center (IRC). She reported that the percentage of people with mental illness continues to grow and that the courts ordered LASD to produce a plan to reduce the jail population. Following Ms. Camacho's comments, Chair Kennedy opened the floor for Commissioner questions.

Commissioner Rubin commented on the urgency to address IRC overcrowding and maintaining a jail population of less than 12,000. LASD Assistant Sheriff Brendan Corbett reported that the moratorium for transfers has been lifted and that 500 incarcerated people are pending transfer to State prison. He reported that IRC conditions have improved since August 2022 and shared the changes made, including transferring incarcerated people with mental health challenges to more appropriate facilities and implementing a 24-hour clock for monitoring. Assistant Sheriff Corbett reported there were no suicide cases this year and that LASD supports the initiatives that the Board of Supervisors and the courts have implemented.

Commissioner Rubin recalled a previous conversation regarding overcrowding and questioned what efforts are being made to reduce the number of people in the jails. Assistant Sheriff Corbett responded that LASD does not have control over intake and that it falls under the Court's jurisdiction. He advised LASD is working with partners to try and reduce the numbers.

Inspector General Huntsman stated that LASD uses the excuse that they do not control the intake of people in jails, which is false because they have closed IRC in the past because of capacity concerns. He also stated that OIG has provided LASD with a list of people who are entitled to be released with shorter sentences and low-level crimes. Inspector General Huntsman also stated that the court ordered that people should not be held in IRC longer than 24 hours, however LASD moves people around to start the 24-hour clock. Assistant Sheriff Corbett provided more detail regarding the newly implemented 24-hour monitoring system and provided a breakdown of the State prison process.

Bonner advised *United States v. Rutherford* case allows early release of incarcerated people who have been sentenced to one year or less and inquired if public safety evaluations are conducted with potential Rutherford releases. Assistant Sheriff Corbett advised that a reduced percentage of sentences only applies to non-serious, non-violent and non-sexual crimes.

Commissioner Garcia inquired if the 24-hour monitoring is limited to the classification section or if medical and mental health assessments are included in that time. Assistant Sheriff Corbett confirmed 24 hours starts from booking and continues until the incarcerated person is housed.

Chair Kennedy thanked Assistant Sheriff Corbett for his professionalism and questioned if Inspector General Huntsman was banned from entering the jails. Assistant Sheriff Corbett stated yes, and that the order came from Sheriff Villanueva's office about one month ago.

Commissioner Cooper inquired about the four overdose cases and requested the name of the drug used and what is being done to alleviate the problem. Assistant Sheriff Corbett reported Fentanyl was used and that incarcerated people are being educated on the drug and that Narcan, a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose, is accessible in the jails.

Ms. Camacho expressed concern over inadequate medical care and the increased number of deaths classified as 'natural cause' involving young people. She requested that natural cause deaths be investigated further.

Commissioner Garcia questioned if CHS has a data report noting the number of in-custody deaths, the cause of death, and in what facility the deaths took place. Dr. Belavich stated CHS does have a report that is forwarded to LASD and that due to protected healthcare laws, the information cannot be made public. Commissioner Rubin requested that the Commission should have access to the information and suggested County Counsel investigate the matter. Following Commissioner comments, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment.

Nine people commented on this item.

Chair Kennedy then called for a 15-minute recess at 11:03 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:18 a.m., present were Chair Sean Kennedy, Vice Chair Jamon R. Hicks, Robert Bonner, Irma Hagans Cooper, Patti Giggans, Luis S. Garcia, James P. Harris, Hans Johnson, Lael Rubin, and Executive Director Brian K. Williams.

3b. Street Takeovers – Staff Report & Motion

Chair Kennedy called on Executive Director Williams to discuss this item. Mr. Williams acknowledged staff member Tracy Jordan for her work on this issue. He advised that the Commission held a [virtual Conference on Street Takeovers Impacting Public Safety](#) on September 7, 2022 and thanked Commissioner Cooper for spearheading the meeting. Mr. Williams advised an LASD representative will discuss their efforts to combat the issue.

Chair Kennedy acknowledged LASD Sergeant Michael Lennig, who shared statistical information and advised this issue affects the entire County. Sgt. Lennig advised that LASD receives multiple calls for the same incident, causing an inflated statistical report. Following LASD comments, Chair Kennedy introduced Lili Trujillo Puckett, who founded the nonprofit organization Street Racing Kills. Ms. Trujillo shared her experience that her daughter was killed by a young man who was street racing and crashed while giving her a ride home. She went on to discuss her involvement to educate the public and current legislation. Following Ms. Trujillo's comments, Chair Kennedy opened the floor for Commissioner questions.

Commissioner Rubin expressed concern with street takeovers and inquired about the existing policy for Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and LASD. Sgt. Lennig stated LASD has limited funding and no agency has taken a collaborative lead on this issue. Following the Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy called on staff to summarize the motion.

Ms. Jordan provided an overview of the [staff report](#) and read the [proposed motion](#) for LASD to develop a Street Takeover Management Plan in collaboration with other agencies; submit a written quarterly report on street takeovers related public safety activities; and develop a Street Takeover County-sponsored Legislative Proposal in collaboration other agencies. Chair Kennedy opened the floor for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Rubin advised she is reluctant to proceed with the motion until she gets clarification of LASD's policy on this issue. Chair Kennedy inquired if there is a policy, and Sgt. Lennig advised LASD does not have a policy. Following Commissioner comments, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment.

Five members of the public commented on this item.

Chair Kennedy proposed the vote on this motion be tabled until the January meeting, when a supplemental report is produced. Commissioner Rubin suggested the Commission make a formal request to LASD for a copy of their policy. Commissioner Harris suggested contacting the California Highway Patrol as well. Following Commissioner comments, Chair Kennedy noted the street takeovers item will be tabled until the next meeting and advised he needed to be excused. He introduced Vice Chair Hicks to oversee the remainder of the meeting.

3c. Issuance and/or Ratification of Subpoenas

Commissioner Bonner advised a previous motion by the Commission regarding the subpoena issued to Eric Strong, who previously testified before the Commission at a special hearing on deputy gangs be ratified. On a motion of Commissioner Bonner and seconded Commissioner Rubin, the vote on the motion was unanimous.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were 5 people who provided general public comment. View [written public comment](#).

FAMILY IMPACT REMARKS

Ms. Vanessa Perez, mother of Joseph Andrew Perez shared her comments. Vice Chair Hicks thanked Ms. Perez for her comments and moved item 5.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Hicks announced the next commission meeting will be held on December 15, 2022 and advised Mr. Williams will inform Commissioners if the meeting will be in person or virtual. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.