



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

<https://bit.ly/3FABFiS>

coc.lacounty.gov

Thursday, January 19, 2023



Attachment: [Video](#)

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

Absent: Irma Hagans Cooper

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR

Call to Order: Chair Kennedy called the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and requested staff call the roll. Chair Kennedy stated that Steven Edwards will replace Alex Zuiderweg as the Commission's County Counsel representative. Chair Kennedy reported that Sheriff Robert Luna will appear at 11:00 a.m. and then moved to the consent calendar.

Approval of Consent Calendar: Chair Kennedy called for approval, there being no objection, the [December 15, 2022 meeting minutes](#) were adopted.

Approval of 2023 Commission Meeting Calendar: There was no discussion on this item.

Family Impact Remarks: There were no requests to provide family impact remarks.

Public Comment: No members of the public commented on item 1, and Chair Kennedy moved to item 2.

2. REPORTS & POSSIBLE ACTION

2a. Chair's Report

Chair Kennedy advised that he had nothing to report and moved to item 2c. He advised that we will return to 2b. Executive Director's Report after 2c.

2c. Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report

Inspector General Max Huntsman reported that overcrowding in the jails continues to be an issue and that OIG will continue investigating. Mr. Huntsman stated that he is preparing to interview Deputy Gang members of the Banditos and the Executioners to identify if they are racially and gender stratified. He also stated that he is working with County Counsel regarding

potential legal issues. Mr. Huntsman reported that LASD has been cooperative and that all OIG requests have been granted.

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

Commissioner Rubin reported that a Deputy Gangs draft report and recommendations is expected from Special Counsel Bert Deixler. She advised that the Commission and other vested parties will review the recommendations, and that the Commission will recommend a policy regarding the removal of Deputy Gangs within the LASD.

Commissioner Bonner provided the background history on the formation of the Deputy Cliques/Gangs ad hoc committee and stated that a study was conducted by the RAND Corporation on deputy cliques/gangs. Chair Kennedy thanked the Commissioners for their updates and returned to item 2b. the Executive Directors report.

2b. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Williams discussed the [proposed 2023 meeting schedule](#) and advised that staff is working to secure a permanent meeting location. He discussed adopting the proposed 2023 meeting schedule and advised that staff will provide a meeting location update at the next meeting.

Commissioner Bonner suggested adopting the proposed schedule for the next three months since a permanent location has not yet been identified. Chair Kennedy then inquired if the Board of Supervisors can assist with finding a permanent location to conduct hybrid meetings. Mr. Williams stated an alternate location has been identified and the February, March and April meeting schedule will be adopted. Mr. Williams also discussed the [ad hoc committee list](#) and proposed the [new ad hoc committee structure](#).

Commissioner Bonner suggested the Chair request to use the Board of Supervisors Hearing room until a permanent location is identified. Chair Kennedy advised that he will discuss that with Mr. Williams. Following Mr. Williams' report, Chair Kennedy advised that LASD's update will take place when the Sheriff arrives. He then moved to item 3a.

3. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

a. Street Takeovers

COC staff member Tracy Jordan presented a [staff report on Street Takeovers](#), which included LASD developing a Street Takeover Management Plan and submitting written quarterly reports. She also explained LASD's written response.

Sergeant Michael Downing advised that LASD is working to create a task force and database to monitor and track incidents, and he noted that manpower and resources are challenges. Commissioners Bonner suggested reallocating funds and developing a Countywide task force, and Commissioner Rubin expressed concern over the current procedure in place.

Sgt. Downing advised that the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is attempting to bring back the forfeiture and destroying of cars. He also reported that LASD works in conjunction

with various agencies to share information and identify best practices. Commissioner Johnson raised concern over large vehicles being used as barriers during street takeovers and inquired if the information gathered from takeovers can be used as another form of accountability.

Commissioner Bonner inquired about the number of arrests made and if individuals are charged with a felony or a misdemeanor. Sgt. Downing advised that street takeovers result in misdemeanor arrest and impoundment of the vehicle, unless someone is injured.

Following Sgt. Downing's comments, Ms. Jordan introduced California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer Rodrigo Jimenez and Officer Joseph Davila. Officer Davila stated CHP has a street takeover taskforce and CHP works with nonprofits to share information on street takeover dangers and legal ways to test the performance of vehicles in a safe environment.

Following Mr. Davila's comments, Ms. Jordan introduced Street Racing Kills Executive Director Lili Trujillo Puckett. Ms. Puckett stated that her organization focuses on prevention education by presenting at schools to educate students about the dangers of street takeovers. Following Ms. Puckett's comments, Ms. Jordan called for Commissioner questions.

Commissioner Bonner inquired if the consequences should be more severe by changing the misdemeanor to a felony and suggested forfeiture of the vehicle. Ms. Puckett advised that she is currently working with the legislature on that issue. Sgt. Downing advised that LAPD is looking into forfeiture of the vehicle.

Ms. Jordan requested that the Commission receive and file the report and/or adopt the report. Commissioner Bonner made a motion seconded by Commissioner Rubin to receive the staff report and adopt the second recommendation, requesting a quarterly report from LASD to monitor the street takeovers issue. Chair Kennedy then moved to public comment.

There were five members of the public who commented on item 3a. Following public comment, Chair Kennedy called for a vote on the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with the absence of Commissioner Cooper.

Following item 3a, Chair Kennedy called for a 15-minute recess, which started at 10:32 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:47 a.m. Present were Chair Sean Kennedy, Vice Chair Jamon Hicks, Robert Bonner, Luis Garcia, Patti Giggans, James Harris, Hans Johnson, Lael Rubin, and Executive Director Brian Williams. Following the break, Chair Kennedy advised Sheriff Luna will arrive soon and the importance of him being present to hear item 3b. He then moved to general public comment.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Three community members made general public comment. View the [written comments here](#). Following general public comment Chair Kennedy moved to item 3b.

3b. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Jails, Conditions of Confinement

Ms. Jordan provided an overview of the [staff report on Conditions of Confinement](#) and explained LASD's written response and noted Correctional Health Services' [letter regarding in custody deaths](#). She then introduced subject matter experts from LASD, Correctional Health Services, and the Sybil Brand Commission. LASD Assistant Sheriff Sergio Aloma and

Commander Hugo Macia discussed current conditions in the jails and advised that LASD is complying with AB2761. Assistant Sheriff Aloma discussed various strategies implemented to reduce overcrowding, which included ankle monitoring. He went on to provide statistics on pretrial, post-trial, and the current inmate population.

Commissioner Harris inquired about ankle monitoring accuracy, and Assistant Sheriff Aloma advised that research is being conducted.

Commissioner Johnson inquired about COVID-19 precautions notices posted in the jails and the protection of whistleblowers. Assistant Sheriff Aloma stated that the care and safety of incarcerated people are LASD's primary focus. Correctional Health Services' Dr. Tim Belavich advised that staff is required to wear masks in clinic facilities and in-patient, and Dr. Henderson stated that staff and patients must be masked when patient care is involved.

Ms. Jordan then introduced Sybil Brand Commission Chair Mark-Anthony Clayton-Johnson, who provided data about in-custody deaths, and Sybil Brand Commission member Dr. Cheryl Grills, who discussed pregnant women, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) complaints, and access to medical treatment when complaints are made. Dr. Grills advised that a survey was conducted on Education Based Incarceration (EBI) needs and highlighted statistics on participation, preferences, and access.

Chair Kennedy called on Sheriff Luna to comment on the issue. Sheriff Luna advised that LASD is facing several challenges and that he looks forward to collaborating with all County partners on this and other issues. Chair Kennedy then moved to commissioner questions.

Commissioner Johnson questioned what steps LASD plans to take to ensure equitable access to programs. Assistant Sheriff Aloma advised that certain criminal charges disqualify individuals from enrolling in the programs and agreed that more follow-up is needed. Assistant Sheriff Aloma advised that everyone is encouraged to take advantage of the programs and that LASD is looking into a software program to track data on this issue.

Chair Kennedy inquired if a list of disqualifying factors is available for the Commission to review, and Assistant Sheriff Aloma advised LASD will provide that information.

There were 11 members of the public who commented on item 3b. Chair Kennedy then returned to item 2e and called on Sheriff Robert Luna.

2e. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

Sheriff Luna stated that he has been in the office for 5 weeks and advised that he has inspected all custody facilities, except Century Regional Detention Facility. Sheriff Luna stated that oversight is welcome and that he plans to attend COC meetings and if he is unable to attend, a high ranking LASD staff member will be present to answer questions. He reported that Mr. Huntsman's access has been restored. He advised that restructuring is being discussed and LASD no longer has a Public Integrity Unit. The Sheriff also discussed Body Worn Cameras and advised that he has hired a professional budgeting person, who understands budget planning and presentation. Sheriff Luna voiced his support for eliminating Deputy Gangs and Deputy Cliques within LASD.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy announced the next COC meeting will be held virtually on February 16, 2023, and the meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.