



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING HELD AT:
St. Anne's Conference and Event Center
155 N. Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026
coc.lacounty.gov**



Thursday, February 16, 2023

Attachment: [Video](#) and [audio](#)

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

Absent: James P. Harris, Vice-Chair Jamon R. Hicks

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR

Call to Order: Chair Kennedy announced a delay in the meeting due to technical issues. He called the Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission) meeting to order at 9:21 am. He discussed the code of conduct and requested staff call the roll.

Approval of Consent Calendar: Chair Kennedy called for approval, there being no objection, the [January 19, 2022 meeting minutes](#) were adopted.

Family Impact Remarks: There were no requests to provide family impact remarks. No members of the public commented on item 1, and Chair Kennedy then moved to item 2.

2. REPORTS & POSSIBLE ACTION

2a. Chair's Report

Chair Kennedy announced the presence of Sheriff Robert Luna and his staff. Sheriff Luna thanked the Commission for the invitation and acknowledged the presence of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Assistant Sheriff Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Jill Torres, who would provide information about the budget. Sheriff Luna also noted the creation of the new LASD Office of Constitutional Policing and that he has appointed Eileen Decker as the director. Following Sheriff Luna's comments, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2b.

2b. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Brian K. Williams presented Commissioner Rubin with a plaque and thanked her for her role as Chair of the Commission from 2020-2021. Mr. Williams then advised that this would be his last Commission meeting, as he will be taking a position as the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety with the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Williams thanked the Commission for their hard work and stated he looks forward to working together in the future.

2c. Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report

Inspector General Max Huntsman reported on jails conditions, including inappropriate tethering. Mr. Huntsman stated that OIG is working on a policy that would limit circumstances where people can be tethered. He also advised that people's constitutional rights will continue to be violated in the Inmate Reception Center (IRC) if jail overcrowding continues. Mr. Huntsman stated that Dr. Belavich had addressed the overcrowding issue with the Board of Supervisors and said it is impossible to perform the legal obligations without reducing the jail population. Following Mr. Huntsman's comments, Chair Kennedy asked Commissioners if they have questions.

Commissioner Rubin inquired what the Commission could do to assist LASD with ending this practice. Mr. Huntsman stated that LASD needs to use legal mechanisms to reduce the jail population. He suggested the Commission recommend the County pursue tools to reduce the population and provide recommendations to consider. Commissioner Rubin suggested one of the ad hoc committees explore the issue and submit a report to the Commission.

Commissioner Bonner inquired on how to better facilitate the processing issue. Sheriff Luna called on Assistant Sheriff Sergio Aloma to address custody division issues.

Following Commissioner comments, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2d.

2d. Commissioner Comments / Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Commissioner Rubin reported that recommendations of the Commission's deputy gangs ad hoc will be provided during the March meeting. Chair Kennedy then moved to item 2e.

2e. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

Assistant Sheriff Sergio Aloma advised that LASD and County partners are working collaboratively on the issues of overcrowding and tethering. He advised that County Counsel was in Federal District Court for a status update on the Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement agreement and will go back tomorrow with timelines and recommendations to implement their plan for compliance with the DOJ settlement agreement. Assistant Sheriff Aloma stated that he believes staff is misinterpreting the tethering policy. He also shared several practices currently being used to reduce the number of incarcerated people and stated that unannounced visits are made to the jails regularly.

Commissioner Rubin noted that it is imperative to have LASD representation at all Commission meetings and inquired about LASD's timeline to reduce the population. Assistant Sheriff Aloma shared several practices currently being used to reduce the number of incarcerated people.

Sheriff Luna advised that LASD needs upgraded facilities because the current inadequate facilities negatively affect quality of care. Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy moved to item 3.

3. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

3a. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Budget

Commissioner Cooper provided an overview of the LASD Budget and introduced Commission staff member Tracy Jordan who discussed the [staff report on LASD's Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2023-24 budget](#). Ms. Jordan shared the County Budget process flow chart and discussed LASD's 12 priorities and 9 unmet needs.

Following Ms. Jordan's comments, LASD CFO Torres shared a [presentation on the LASD budget](#) process, priorities, and challenges. She also discussed each budget priority and the challenges they face, including sworn and civilian staff vacancies and outdated equipment. CFO Torres announced that LASD will meet with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) next week to further discuss budget priorities, and she advised that the CEO will present the budget to the Board in April with final changes in June and that a Supplemental budget process occurs in September or early October.

Commissioner Rubin asked about the percentage of LASD's budget that is allocated to settlements. CFO Torres advised she does not have that information on hand but will be happy to forward the budget amount to the Commission later.

Chair Kennedy emphasized the critical need of Mental Evaluation Team (MET) units. Sheriff Luna stated that he will review the MET report and recommendations again. Sheriff Luna advised that one of the challenges LASD faces is the limited availability of clinicians and deputies to provide MET services during specific times and days.

Commissioner Cooper asked if LASD has a recruitment budget. CFO Torres advised that recruitment is included in the budget, and LASD will be meeting with a marketing team to advise on recruitment and with Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources to discuss retention strategies, which was identified as one of LASD's challenges.

Following Commissioner comments, Chair Kennedy called for a 15-minute break at 10:52 a.m. The meeting returned at 11:07 a.m. Present were Chair Sean Kennedy, Robert Bonner, Irma Hagans Cooper, Luis Garcia, Patti Giggans, Hans Johnson, Lael Rubin, and Executive Director Brian Williams.

Chair Kennedy called on staff member Tracy Jordan who provided an overview of two recommendations the Commission is waiting for a response from LASD. The recommendations relate to 1.) LASD developing an annual Budget Mitigation Plan or Budget Status Report and 2.) that the CEO and Board approve select portions of LASD FY2023-24 Budget Priorities and Unmet Needs that are consistent with various County strategic goals.

Ms. Jordan announced that the Commission will be hosting a virtual conference on March 2 on LASD's budget. Following Ms. Jordan's comments, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment.

There were four members of the public who commented on item 3a. Following public comment, Chair Kennedy moved on to item 3b.

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

Commissioner Cooper provided a brief synopsis of the issue and introduced staff member Tracy Jordan who provided an overview of the [staff report on Conditions of Confinement](#) and LASD's written responses. Ms. Jordan summarized three recommendations submitted to LASD and then turned the item over for the Commission to adopt.

Commissioner Giggans questioned if LASD had agreed to the Commission's recommendations, and Ms. Jordan confirmed that LASD agreed with the recommendations.

Chair Kennedy called for public comment, however, there were no public comments made on item 3b. Chair Kennedy then moved to item 4.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Three community members made general public comment. View the [written comments here](#).

Following general public comment, Chair Kennedy requested a report on MET be submitted. Chair Kennedy then thanked Sheriff Luna and his staff for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Johnson inquired about the Statewide police officer registry system and screening related to potential hires and if LASD could provide a report periodically. Sheriff Luna advised that he would review the information and report back.

Chair Kennedy then called for a vote to adopt the recommendations of the two staff reports presented – [LASD Budget Priorities](#) and [Conditions of Confinement](#). The vote to accept the staff reports and adopt the recommendations was unanimous, with the absence of Commissioner Harris and Vice Chair Hicks.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy announced the next Commission meeting will be held virtually on March 16, 2023, and the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.