



STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

St. Anne's Conference and Event Center
155 N. Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026

coc.lacounty.gov

Thursday, March 16, 2023



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

Present: Chair Sean Kennedy, Vice Chair Jamon R. Hicks, Irma Hagans Cooper, Luis S. Garcia, Patricia Giggans, James P. Harris, Hans Johnson, and Interim Executive Director Danielle Butler Vappie

Absent: Robert Bonner and Lael Rubin

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR

Call to Order: Chair Kennedy called the Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission) meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., requested that staff call the roll, and discussed the code of conduct. Chair Kennedy called for a vote to allow Vice Chair Hicks to attend the meeting virtually, which was unanimously approved. He called for public comment, but no one signed up for this item.

Approval of Consent Calendar: Chair Kennedy called for approval of the consent calendar, there being no objection, the [February 16, 2023, minutes](#) were adopted unanimously.

Family Impact Remarks: Chair Kennedy advised no family members asked to make remarks, so he moved to item 2.

2. REPORTS & POSSIBLE ACTION

2a. Chair's Report

Chair Kennedy advised he will hold Sheriff Robert Luna's report until the Sheriff arrives and moved to item 2b.

2b. Executive Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Danielle Butler Vappie advised she had no report at this time, and Chair Kennedy then moved to item 2c.

2c. Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report

Chief Deputy Inspector General Dara Williams advised that OIG plans to conduct investigatory work on deputy gangs and is finalizing questions and identifying individuals to interview. She stated OIG is working with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) to identify ways to reduce the jail population, and she reported OIG is working on reports about racial disparities in traffic stops, school resource deputies, and body worn cameras (BWC). She stated that OIG is reviewing proposed BWC policy revisions and providing recommendations.

Chair Kennedy then took Commissioner comments and moved to item 2d.

2d. Commissioner Comments / Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Commissioner Harris reported that the Commission submitted the [adopted Budget staff report](#) to the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the Board of Supervisors (BOS). He noted the CEO will go before the BOS with the Recommended Budget on April 18, 2023, and the BOS will have a Public Hearing on May 10, 2023.

Commissioner Johnson reported that the Technology Ad Hoc is reviewing LASD's use of tasers and is asking for public input. He advised that a link is available on the Commission's website for public input and will be available until March 30, 2023.

Chair Kennedy reported that the 8th Special Hearing on deputy gangs was held on March 3, 2023, and that Bert Deixler presented his [investigative report on deputy gangs that listed 27 recommendations](#). Chair Kennedy advised that at the March 7, 2023, BOS meeting, he presented some of the report findings and the BOS unanimously adopted the report's 27 recommendations and urged the Sheriff to adopt as well. Chair Kennedy advised that Sheriff Luna responded [with a letter committing](#) to implement the recommendations.

Chair Kennedy called for Commissioner Cooper and Vice Chair Hicks to share their comments on the Deputy Gangs report. Vice Chair Hicks inquired if the report included LASD's budget on BWC and dash cameras, and if it is on LASD's priority list.

OIG Chief Deputy Williams reported that all traditional patrol stations and most specialized units have been issued BWCs, or they are on the list to receive them, and LASD is looking to expand BWCs to the custodial setting. She advised that LASD's Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau (ICIB), Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB), and Homicide Bureau will not be issued BWCs. She also reported that OIG now has access to BWC videos.

LASD's Office of Constitutional Policing Director Eileen Decker reported that 4,115 cameras have been issued to all patrol stations, Community Partnership Bureau, Court Services, Metrolink, Operation Safe Streets, Parks Bureau, and Transit Services. She reported that BWCs will also be issued to Major Crimes Bureau, Narcotics Bureau Detectives, and Special Enforcement Bureau, and they anticipate BWCs being issued to Community Colleges and County Services by the summer of 2023.

Chair Kennedy expressed concern with BWCs not being issued to homicide detectives, based on two LASD homicide detectives who pled the 5th amendment when questioned during a Coroner's inquest related to the fatal shooting of a community member.

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

2e. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

Chair Kennedy acknowledged Sheriff Luna's presence and called for his comments.

3. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

3a. Deputy Gangs

Sheriff Luna expressed appreciation for developing the report on deputy gangs, and he acknowledged that deputy gangs exist and his commitment to eliminate them. Sheriff Luna advised that he had productive meetings with Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS) and Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA) and that he recently met with LASD captains and above to express his expectations. Sheriff Luna shared his plans to implement several of the recommendations. The Sheriff advised that several contract city partners informed him that they believe better policing is conducted by the same deputies patrolling their neighborhood.

Sheriff Luna stated that he was elected to make a change and that he will need the Commission's help to succeed. The Sheriff advised that Undersheriff April Tardy does not have a gang tattoo and that several deputies have station tattoos and that "there is a difference between a station tattoo and a gang tattoo." He noted that Eileen Decker is currently working on hiring attorneys, auditors, and investigators to assist with the deputy gangs issue.

Chair Kennedy stated that some deputies who have gang tattoos also claim their tattoos are station tattoos; they use the terms "station tattoos" to blur the distinction to hide their affiliation. Following Sheriff Luna's comments, Chair Kennedy moved to Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Cooper inquired about recommendation B.7. stating "The Department should implement a series of community meetings involving patrol station captains, commanders, and chiefs to ascertain the impact of Deputy Gangs and Deputy Cliques on community relations." The Sheriff confirmed his support for this recommendation.

Commissioner Hicks inquired about how and when deputies are supposed to activate and deactivate their BWCs. He also asked about the wait time before BWC footage is released. The Sheriff stated that BWCs do not run continuously because that creates a storage issue, and he reported that by law, LASD has 45 days to release BWC footage and that he is trying to reduce the time to 30 days. The Sheriff advised that more than 19 videos had not been released from the previous administration and noted he has released those videos.

Commissioner Hicks inquired if there is a policy for deputies who fail to follow the BWC policy. The Sheriff confirmed there is a policy and that deputies are trained to activate their BWC prior to contacting the public. He explained that the first violation of the policy is used as a training opportunity, and any subsequent violations by the deputy are subject to discipline.

Chair Kennedy stated that the Commission wants to be a partner in ridding LASD of deputy gangs. He advised that there is too much secrecy around internal investigations and expressed his concern that the Commission cannot help solve a problem when they cannot access information about it. He recounted his meetings with captains from three stations with known deputy gang activity who claimed their stations did not have deputy gangs. He inquired about how the Commission can partner with LASD if there is no transparency.

The Sheriff advised that strict personnel laws in California limit the sharing of specific information if it involves a criminal or administrative investigation, and he noted there have been recent changes from SB1421 and SB2. The Sheriff also advised that the Office of Constitutional Policing will be helpful because they are reviewing settlement agreements, consent decrees, and the recommendations. He also encouraged feedback from County partners if they feel he is not doing his job.

Commissioner Cooper inquired about artificial intelligence and reported that it is biased towards people of color. The Sheriff advised that LASD is collaborating with OIG when new policies are updated, and that artificial intelligence is included.

Following Sheriff Luna's comments, Chair Kennedy then called for a 15 minute recess at 10:39 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 10:54 a.m. Commissioners present included Chair Sean Kennedy, Vice Chair Jamon R. Hicks, Irma Hagans Cooper, Patti Giggans, Luis S. Garcia, James P. Harris, and Executive Director Danielle Butler Vappie. Following the break, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ten people provided in person and virtual public comment. View [written public comment](#).

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy announced that the next Commission meeting will be held in person on April 20, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.