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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF

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CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

7

MARCH 3, 2023

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9

SPECIAL HEARING ON DEPUTY GANGS IN THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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MEMBERS

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COMMISSION CHAIR SEAN KENNEDY

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COMMISSIONER ROBERT BONNER

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COMMISSIONER PATTI GIGGANS

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COMMISSIONER LAEL RUBIN

16

COMMISSIONER JP HARRIS

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COMMISSIONER HANS JOHNSON

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COMMISSIONER LUIS GARCIA

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COMMISSIONER DANIELLE BUTLER VAPPIE

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1	ATTENDEES		
2	Commission Chair, Sean Kennedy		
3	COMMISSIONERS:		
4	Robert Bonner		
5	Patti Giggans		
6	Lael Rubin		
7	JP Harris		
8	Hans Johnson		
9	Commissioner Luis Garcia		
10	Danielle Butler Vappie		
11	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: Okay, everybody. We are going to begin a
3 meeting of the LA County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.
4 I believe this is our eighth special hearing on deputy gangs.

5 And the first thing I want to do before we take the
6 roll is tell everyone that our original executive director from
7 the beginning, Brian Williams, is gone, and he's gone on to be
8 a deputy mayor for public safety in Mayor Bass's office. So we
9 have an interim executive director who is going to help us
10 while the County finds a -- it conducts a national search for
11 our long-term replacement for Brian.

12 Danielle? Danielle, do you want to introduce
13 yourself to the community? We -- we are really happy to have
14 you here, and I want to welcome you. And I think there are
15 some members of the community who are interested, like, in they
16 can contact you. And so -- so why don't -- I'm going to turn
17 it over to you.

18 COMMISSIONER BUTLER-VAPPIE: Thank you, Chair Kennedy.

19 Good morning, everyone. Thank you for coming out
20 today. My name is Danielle Butler Vappie, and I am the interim
21 executive director of the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight
22 Commission. Very happy to be here with you guys.

23 I've just started. I will definitely provide my
24 contact information, my e-mail, telephone number
25 (indiscernible) want to hear from the community. So please

1 feel free to contact me. I will have staff help to give that
2 information to you.

3 I just want to thank Chair Kennedy, the ad hoc
4 committee, and our special pro bono counsel, Bert Deixler, for
5 their work on deputy gangs.

6 It's been a long road for this commission studying
7 how they could eradicate deputy gangs, and I think the report
8 is very important; so I won't take any more time. I'll turn it
9 back over to Chair Kennedy so we could hear from our special
10 counsel, Bert Deixler.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Danielle.

13 So, Ingrid, I think we have to take the roll; right?

14 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

15 Commissioner Bonner?

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Present.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Cooper?

18 COMMISSIONER COOPER: (No audible response.)

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Garcia?

20 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: (No audible response.)

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Giggans?

22 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: (No audible response.)

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: She is going to be a little late, but
24 she'll be here.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Got it.

1 Commissioner Harris?

2 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Here.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Vice Chair Hicks?

4 VICE CHAIR HICKS: (No audible response.)

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Johnson?

6 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Here.

7 MS. WILLIAMS: Chair Kennedy?

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Here.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Rubin?

10 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Here.

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Commissioner Chair, I just -- I know
12 we want to get to the matter of the business at hand, which is
13 the special counsel's report, but I just want to go back for a
14 moment on the executive director position.

15 First of all, I want to say -- and I think I speak
16 for the entire commission here -- that our very -- our --
17 our -- our former executive director, now, Brian Williams, in
18 my judgment, did an outstanding job as the -- not only the
19 executive director, the first executive director of the
20 Oversight Commission, present at the time of its creation back
21 in late 2016, early 2017. So I just want to take a moment and
22 commend Brian and wish him well in his commission as deputy
23 mayor for public safety.

24 The second though is, you know, just what -- what --
25 do we know what the process is to replace the executive

1 director? What -- what do we have on how -- how does the --
2 the Oversight Commission, and particularly the Chair, have
3 influence on how we select the next executive director?

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I have told Danielle that we would
5 love to offer input regarding that selection. My understanding
6 is there's going to be a national search, and (indiscernible)
7 why I don't I find out more? Why don't I -- Danielle and I
8 talk, and we will find out the specifics, and I will report on
9 that because I know that many commissioners, if not all, would
10 like to at least weigh in and -- and have input, and I think
11 that that's appropriate; and -- and I told Danielle that as
12 well, and I think we're in agreement that that's appropriate.

13 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I just think it's essential that the
14 Oversight Commission, particularly through its Chair and Vice
15 Chair, but the -- the whole commission have input in -- in the
16 selection process for the next executive director. So I'm --
17 I'm gratified to hear that we're going to move in that
18 direction.

19 All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: All right.

21 We -- we're going to start up because I think
22 everyone wants to talk about Bert's groundbreaking report.

23 And before we begin the discussion with the special
24 counsel, I want to offer our -- our Chair of the Ad Hoc
25 Committee on Deputy Gangs and Cliques, Lael Rubin, to start off

1 this session, since this is really the culmination of many
2 years of work by the ad hoc committee that you chair, Lael, so
3 thank you for putting up with us.

4 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Well, I want to thank the -- the
5 entire ad hoc committee for the incredible dedication and work
6 and collegiality, even among disagreements as we have moved
7 forward. This has been a long time coming.

8 Those of you who have been with us know that we --
9 this -- this ad hoc committee was appointed soon after all of
10 the -- the information came to light about the Banditos. The
11 County hired the RAND Corporation to do a study; all of that
12 took way too long. And we also, unfortunately, had a previous
13 sheriff who would not work with us, who would not participate
14 in any meaningful discussions on this subject, and who insisted
15 from the beginning that there was not an issue with gangs in
16 the Sheriff's Department.

17 As you will hear from this outstanding report from
18 our special counsel, that is far from the truth. And the
19 Loyola report, which we have heard a great deal about in -- has
20 summarized 50 years of gang activity by deputies in the
21 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

22 We are finally at the point that after seven in-depth
23 hearings, after an investigative effort by special counsel and
24 his team, and all of this public information which continues to
25 flow in -- so this is -- the subject is not over -- but we have

1 a willing partner in the new sheriff, Robert Luna. And that,
2 as we move forward, while we certainly expect professional
3 disagreements on a number of issues, he is a willing partner,
4 has acknowledged from the beginning the existence of deputy
5 gangs in the Department, and wanting to rid the Department of
6 that.

7 So it is a confluence of many things that have
8 finally gotten us to this day, and it's hard to believe that
9 it's taken this long, but at least it's much less than the --
10 than what started 50 years ago.

11 So thank you, Chair, for your leadership, and thanks
12 to the other ad hoc members, James Harris and Robert Bonner,
13 for -- for all of their dedication and hard work.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: Quite a crew.

16 I think it's time to start talking about the report.

17 Bert, you have been tireless in your efforts to
18 investigate this in a fair, neutral, open-minded manner. I
19 think you have done so.

20 So what we were hoping is that you would, you know,
21 kind of frame the issue for everyone, maybe give us the
22 highlights, and then if it's okay with you, I thought we'd open
23 up for questions from the commission, you know, different
24 commissioners. Some Commissioners just saw this report. Ad
25 Hoc has been living with it and fighting about it for a long

1 time, but our -- the other commissioners, it's -- it's new to
2 them. And -- and then we'll invite, really, anyways, most
3 importantly, comments from the public because they have just
4 seen this report as well.

5 Why don't you take over?

6 MR. DEIXLER: So good morning, commissioners.

7 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Morning.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Morning.

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Morning.

10 MR. DEIXLER: It's so lovely to see that we've gotten the
11 band together again.

12 We -- on Wednesday, the commission posted on its
13 website the report and recommendation of special counsel; it
14 runs in excess of 60 pages. And as they say -- as judges say
15 in court, "We're familiar with your submissions. If -- if you
16 could briefly summarize your points, that would allow us to
17 move it along." So I would hope that the commission would
18 indulge me for 15 or 20 minutes or so as I hit the -- the
19 greatest hits, to use my metaphor, further, and let everybody
20 know what we have done, what we have found, and what we
21 recommend.

22 The report reflects the results of approximately 75
23 witness interviews, review of hundreds of documents, deposition
24 transcripts, and a wide array of previous reports addressing
25 the core subject matter. Our investigation was assisted

1 materially by the wide array of people who were willing to be
2 interviewed. It was also hampered by others who refused to
3 speak or feigned unfamiliarity with the issues we sought to
4 address. Many of the people who spoke with us, including
5 retired sheriff's employees, expressed fears. Those fears
6 included concerns for their physical safety and their career
7 goals. Indeed, one of the things we learned is the extent to
8 which service in the Department is and has been a kind of
9 family affair. Many of the people with whom we spoke expressed
10 fears of personal or professional harm, not just for
11 themselves, but often for spouses and children who serve in the
12 Department.

13 And let me remind everybody, lest we forget, we were
14 quite interested in interviewing or having the former sheriff
15 or undersheriff testify before you. Those polite invitations
16 were declined, and those subpoenas were ignored, but let me not
17 bury the lead.

18 Contrary to the statements of the prior sheriff,
19 deputy gangs exist and operate in the Department, as they have
20 for the last 50 years. They are a cancer. They harm the
21 department generally; they harm the people who work for the
22 department; and they harm the public.

23 At minimum, the investigation revealed that deputy
24 gangs are present in Compton Station, East LA Station, South LA
25 Station, Century Station, and the Antelope Valley Stations. In

1 addition, we've received disturbing reports about Aero Bureau,
2 the part of the department that operates helicopters. The
3 investigation revealed that Aero Bureau, that at minimum, there
4 is a deputy clique, and under the Penal Code Section 13670,
5 perhaps a deputy gang in the Aero Bureau.

6 The investigation has revealed that these gangs, by
7 their operation, make daily life for the deputies more
8 dangerous. Nongang members fear the power and sanctions of the
9 gangs. Imagine working in a law enforcement organization in
10 which members who do not belong to a gang are ostracized,
11 assaulted, left without requested backup, and exist in fear
12 that if they speak truth, they'll have dead rats placed on
13 their doorstep.

14 The Department appears as an organization in which
15 disfavored deputies have the lug nuts of their cars loosened.
16 They are followed home for purposes of intimidation, including
17 after they've testified before this very commission. Deputies
18 have had their careers halted or disrupted by being forced to
19 leave a desirable position for personal safety concerns when
20 told by gang members "We don't like you." Department members
21 suffer career setbacks due to badmouthing, passed from gang
22 member to gang member, and then to outsiders to the Department.

23 What workplace would tolerate colleagues who deface
24 and post business cards of the disfavored, who routinely turn
25 their back as colleagues walk down the hall, a workplace in

1 which colleagues who won't use their weapon without cause being
2 mocked for missing a, quote, "freebie" to shoot a suspect.

3 Imagine a law enforcement agency required to follow the
4 Constitution that has training officers who tell their trainees
5 that their reports need to have "good imagination" and instruct
6 on how to work backwards to develop after-the-fact-
7 justification for police officers; training officers who train
8 the new trainees to claim that all searches in high-crime areas
9 were to be reported as consensual, and when the trainee
10 protests, to describe -- the trainee is denominated a rat.

11 Investigations reveal that all of those imaginings
12 have been experienced by current and former members of the
13 Department, and that information is set forth in some detail in
14 our report.

15 The investigation revealed that the gangs are
16 empowered to decide who works on what shifts and where they're
17 assigned to patrol. Disfavored deputies are overwhelmed by the
18 dispatcher with calls all over the service area, shot callers
19 who decide who gets to be a training officer and who they will
20 train and even get to decide who can take a day off.

21 Junior deputies are required to pay taxes to senior
22 deputies; that is, to buy the seniors what they desire, pay for
23 meals, or make unwanted contributions to causes identified by
24 senior deputies. They have to do the bidding of self-appointed
25 shot callers just like a street gang.

1 This is an organization in which a shot caller is
2 told by a superior in the chain of command that the captain,
3 not the shot caller, will decide who will be assigned a
4 position in the station. And in response, the shot caller
5 announces a work slowdown, enforced not only as to fellow gang
6 members, but forced upon nongang members also. Statistics
7 reveal that when policing slowed down, crimes went up, and the
8 public needing service was harmed.

9 The investigation revealed an organization in which,
10 under the authority of the Sheriff, investigators of a crime
11 were instructed not to -- to explore the motive for the crime,
12 instructed not to ask about whether a serious deputy-on-deputy
13 beating was a gang power flex or, just as the former sheriff
14 preferred to conceal it, drunken brawl.

15 Imagine how the community, entitled to constitutional
16 policing, perceives a department in which deputies treat each
17 other as I have described. If the deputies treat each other
18 this way, what can those outside the department expect about
19 how they will be treated? Unfortunately, as to the community's
20 reaction, we needn't imagine. The commission has heard
21 regularly from community members who have poignantly shared
22 their truth of the pain suffered because of the actions of
23 deputies.

24 The investigation has revealed that deputies "chasing
25 ink" have engaged in excessive force; they've diverted

1 arrestees heading to the hospital and administered beatings.
2 Shootings are celebrated in parties and openly documented in
3 emails and texts.

4 Recently, in a widely circulated body camera video,
5 the community has seen a man in a parked car threatened at
6 gunpoint by a deputy. The video reveals the deputy unable to
7 explain what the man did to deserve being held at gunpoint and
8 told that "If you put the car in drive, I'll put one in your
9 chest." We now know the man didn't have a front license plate.
10 It's not a cause to be threatened with death. The
11 investigation has revealed that at least two current captains
12 report that the deputy in this example is a deputy gang member,
13 and a public report has confirmed that.

14 The community appreciates that if this is how
15 deputies act when their body cameras are on, what might they do
16 when those cameras are off?

17 The investigation revealed that a tattooed
18 Executioner gang member was involved in the shooting and tasing
19 of separate victims and cost the County nearly \$10 million in
20 settlements paid to the victims.

21 The community, which is served -- to be served in
22 large part, has no confidence in the Department and lives in
23 fear that the Department, through unconstitutional policing,
24 will not help but will harm them. This perception that the
25 deputies will harm increases the risk for all deputies as they

1 provide service. It reinforces the community members to not be
2 inclined to assist law enforcement.

3 In our report, we're asking the commission to call
4 upon Sheriff Luna to exercise leadership, to change the culture
5 for the benefit of the Department, its employees, and most
6 importantly, the community which the Department is to serve.
7 The change will require an all-hands-on-deck response from
8 every member of the Department, the unions, the district
9 attorney, and the county counsel. The Sheriff cannot succeed
10 on his own, and the community cannot afford to have him fail.

11 The unions, while obligated to fairly represent all
12 their members, should not tolerate rogue members whose actions
13 harm their fellow union members by triggering investigations,
14 legal expense, and reputational harm to the vast majority of
15 members who privately deplore the gangs and their misconduct.

16 We stress that we are speaking of only a minority of
17 department members who are bad actors. In fairness, we
18 recognize that the overwhelming majority of department members
19 are committed to doing the right thing and have had their
20 reputations damaged and their work made more difficult by the
21 cliques and gangs.

22 The commission should urge the Sheriff to meet with
23 the unions to encourage them to accept the need to eliminate
24 deputy cliques and gangs, and to partner with the Sheriff to
25 accomplish that important goal. The commission should also

1 urge the Sheriff to meet with the unions to discuss the
2 elimination of the offensive indicators of membership in such
3 gangs and cliques such as tattoos suggesting violence and
4 insulting professional logos. Recently, a union representative
5 chastised the captain for a memo discouraging deputies from
6 obtaining such tattoos. That kind of counterproductive
7 activity by the union has to cease.

8 County counsel should work proactively with the
9 Sheriff to announce its opinions legally justifying the
10 elimination of deputy cliques and gangs and the related
11 offensive tattoos depicting violence and offensive logos.

12 Our recommendations, 27 in all, call for the Sheriff
13 to explicitly prohibit gangs as well as the exclusionary
14 precursors to deputy gangs, so-called deputy cliques. We call
15 upon the Sheriff to express this policy clearly to ensure that
16 the leadership will convey it with vigor and to ensure that it
17 is enacted so that all are held accountable. We recommend that
18 those in the Department who are unsupportive or hesitant or, in
19 any way, unwilling to carry out the policy be removed from
20 positions of influence, demoted or, where appropriate, fired
21 from the Department. We're calling upon the Sheriff to make
22 nonparticipation in cliques or gangs a condition of employment.
23 Further, we're calling upon the Sheriff to outlaw tattoos,
24 unprofessional logos, or other signifiers depicting violence.
25 No new tattoos, no smoking gun tattoos, no Fort Apache logos,

1 no ghetto birds logos. Those days should end. For those
2 already tattooed who will remain with the Department, we
3 recommend the tattoos be ordered concealed while working or
4 when representing the Department.

5 One of the recurring problems the investigation has
6 identified is the long period of time many deputies spend in
7 their first or home station. This is a natural but potentially
8 harmful consequence in remaining in place for lengthy periods.
9 The investigation has revealed that loyalty to a station,
10 rather than the Department as a whole, frequently occurs. This
11 can serve as a breeding ground for an us-versus-them mentality
12 that encourages membership in cliques and gangs. A new deputy,
13 imagining a long period in a single location, may naturally be
14 inclined to seek acceptance among the ruling cliques and gangs
15 and to, quote, "Make their bones," as a witness put it, by
16 adopting the values of the clique.

17 Longevity in place, while beneficial in some ways and
18 often personally convenient, also operates to shift power and
19 control of the station outside the chain of command. Our
20 devolves to senior, self-selected, exclusionary cliques and
21 gangs, thereby undermining the paramilitary chain of command of
22 the Department and stripping authority from station leadership.
23 In many instances, the longevity in place is rather like being
24 a senior in high school forever. We recommend that this
25 change.

1 Drawing upon the recommendations of the Citizens'
2 Commission on Jail Violence, the CCJV, we recommend a mandatory
3 rotation of deputies within a division, if possible, every five
4 years or sooner. In addition, we urge the Department to
5 reassess two aspects of initial assignments for deputies coming
6 from the academy.

7 First, we suggest the Department consider
8 implementing a dual track of assignment for a career in Custody
9 or a career in Patrol. The skills and inclinations of the new
10 deputies and the desired career paths may make for better
11 outcomes if new deputies can choose between the two options.

12 Further, we recommend that the Sheriff consider first
13 assignment of all deputies, even those who wish a career in
14 Custody to Patrol. Under the mentorship of experienced patrol
15 leaders, new deputies can learn from the beginning of their
16 careers courteous, professional treatment of the public. In
17 the words of one witness, they can learn how to "talk somebody
18 into jail and not beat them into jail."

19 We would recommend that the commission ask the
20 Sheriff to provide a written report explaining whether these
21 alternatives can be implemented; and, if not, why not?

22 We are recommending a robust training program coupled
23 with strict accountability. Supervisors must mentor the
24 deputies on the dangers, including potential career-ending
25 consequences, if one belongs to a deputy clique or a deputy

1 gang. Before mentoring deputies, however, it's imperative that
2 supervisors be taught how to mentor. Handing out written
3 guidelines without more won't meet the moment. And so we call
4 for revival of the sergeants' mentoring initiative to ensure
5 sergeants' mentoring of deputies is maximally effective. As
6 mentioned, part of the mentoring should include reiteration of
7 a Sheriff's instruction that serious consequences for deputy
8 gang membership will occur. The deputies need to be told that
9 they will risk demotion, transfer to less important positions,
10 or, where appropriate, termination if they deviate from the
11 clear, stated policy of this Sheriff.

12 One significant way to impose accountability is a
13 requirement that any promotion include consideration of whether
14 the candidate has been or is currently a member of a deputy
15 clique or gang. The consideration should include whether
16 promotion of that candidate will send a message to the
17 Department that the Sheriff is not serious about accountability
18 for such clique and gang membership. The investigation has
19 revealed that in the past, known tattooed gang members have
20 been promoted to high positions. Such promotions send the
21 exact wrong message.

22 We're recommending that the Department implement a
23 procedure to notify the district attorney if a deputy is a
24 member of a deputy gang. The district attorney must have that
25 information to determine whether disclosure of the gang

1 involvement is required by Brady versus Maryland. Absent such
2 a protocol, it is difficult, if not impossible, to ensure the
3 district attorney complies with its important Brady
4 obligations.

5 The announced mission of the Department is to partner
6 with the community to proactively prevent crime, enforce the
7 law fairly, and enhance the public's trust through transparency
8 and accountability. In accordance with that mission, we urge
9 the commission to recommend that the Department hold a regular
10 and continuing series of community meetings involving captains,
11 commanders, and chiefs to hear from the community about the
12 impact of deputy gangs and cliques in their neighborhoods. The
13 dialogue with the community would be enhanced by a formal
14 community advisory committee at every station. The members
15 must include those critical of the department so that leaders
16 can hear for themselves how the community is perceiving the
17 Department. A committee of only Department cheerleaders would
18 be unhelpful, indeed counterproductive.

19 We recognize in the words of the RAND report that
20 "culture eats policy." We understand that we are recommending
21 a very difficult cultural transformation of a large
22 organization long set in its ways; however, the status quo is
23 not an option. We cannot have this department riddled with
24 these cancerous gang behaviors that lead to internal and
25 external harm, multimillion-dollar lawsuits and legal fees, and

1 a public disgusted and fearful of the agency designed to serve
2 them. Change must happen now. After 50 years of gangs, we
3 ask, "If not now, when?"

4 I welcome the opportunity to address any questions
5 the commissioners may have, and I appreciate your time.

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Bert.

7 We're going to start with commissioners, if anyone
8 has any questions or comments about the report. Our hope is to
9 have a robust discussion of the issues, and then, you know,
10 I -- at our next regularly scheduled meeting, vote on this
11 special counsel report.

12 Rob.

13 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Couple of questions for Mr. Deixler.

14 First of all, as referenced in page 18 of the report
15 and you just spoke about the -- the degree of fear that exists
16 within the Sheriff's Department by the vast majority of
17 deputies who do not belong to deputy cliques or deputy gangs.
18 And I'm just -- just wondering, how do you -- how do we get
19 cultural change without essentially addressing that fear? And
20 part of addressing that fear is the Sheriff and a management
21 team of the Sheriff that makes it absolutely clear that any
22 kind of retaliation against any deputy who calls out members of
23 the Department that are members of deputy gangs, any kind of
24 retaliation is just not going to be tolerated. I don't care
25 whether it's dead rats at the doorstep or -- or it's unparked

1 (sic) surveillance vehicles in front of their houses.

2 But I'm just wondering, do you -- do you feel that
3 the -- the message is adequate in your report to the Sheriff
4 that he's got to make that absolutely clear if he's going to be
5 able to not only implement but enforce policies banning deputy
6 gangs and deputy cliques within the Sheriff's Department?

7 MR. DEIXLER: Well, Judge Bonner, I think you identify a
8 core issue that we faced as we interviewed people. We had the
9 extraordinary circumstance of people describing loosening lug
10 nuts and dead rats on their -- on their doorstep, and I always
11 have in mind the vision of a former Marine who is physically
12 robust, let me put it that way, who was recounting some of the
13 abuse that he had received day-to-day. As he choked up
14 recounting how ostracized and humiliated he felt every day, and
15 when I said to him, as we often did as a -- in meetings, "Now
16 is the time to come forward and let everybody know what you've
17 heard."

18 He said, "I cannot take that risk. It would be the
19 end of me," or to that effect.

20 From the input I've received thus far from the
21 Sheriff and, in particular, the Sheriff's constitutional
22 adviser, I think the message is clear that this Sheriff is
23 going to change things, and that I hope the message is clear
24 that people will understand that they will be at risk if they
25 engage in retaliation.

1 If the report, which I hope I'll have the opportunity
2 to correct and extend, since I've had the awful experience of
3 finding a thing or two I was sure I had gotten right and now I
4 wonder --

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Happens to all of us, Bert.

6 MR. DEIXLER: -- I would be delighted to stress the need
7 to emphasize no retaliation, and that too should be a grounds
8 of transfer, demotion, or termination --

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Another question, if I could?

10 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I'll have a comment I'll make later
12 about the (indiscernible).

13 But -- and I -- I think it's very important that this
14 commission and Sheriff Luna look forward with respect to these
15 recommendations and the implementation of them.

16 But I'm going back to -- this is found, I think,
17 principally at page 5 and 17 of your report, and it is the
18 evidence that was adduced by its special counsel during public
19 hearings that the former sheriff and his chief of staff, Del
20 Mese, there's evidence that they obstructed a criminal
21 investigation into deputy gang involvement with respect to the
22 Kennedy Hall (indiscernible). And I -- I'm wondering, as the
23 potential -- I'll just call it a potential obstruction of
24 justice that occurred there -- has that been referred to the
25 District Attorney's Office, or do you know?

1 MR. DEIXLER: Well, we know that -- that there was a
2 report from Max Huntsman of the -- the Inspector General of the
3 county to that effect. Whether it has been followed up, we
4 don't presently know. But perhaps the district attorney --

5 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I -- I believe it should be. Let me
6 ask Mr. Huntsman.

7 Do you know whether the district attorney has
8 entered -- undertaking its own review and investigation because
9 it was badly misled by the -- the -- the criminal report that
10 was provided to it during the Kennedy Hall incident, which did
11 not -- as we know, did not make any inquiries into deputy gangs
12 or subcultures within the Department. And -- and that could
13 have paid -- they could place a whole different coloration, if
14 you will, on how that would be evaluated by the District
15 Attorney's Office as to whether it should have been prosecuted
16 or not. They obviously declined prosecution, but there wasn't
17 a word in that report that was done by the Sheriff's Department
18 that went into the fact that this was the Banditos who beat
19 down, severely -- caused severe injuries to other deputies who
20 were not part of the Banditos. And yet -- so there -- there
21 are -- there is an apparent obstruction of justice here; that's
22 all I'm saying; and I'm not making a judgment on it. But I do
23 believe the District Attorney's Office should be investigating
24 whether there was an obstruction of justice by Del Mese and the
25 former Sheriff, Alex Villanueva. Is there an investigation or

1 do you know?

2 MR. HUNTSMAN: I do not know for certain, but I agree 100
3 percent with everything you've said. It is one example of a
4 number of acts by the Sheriff's Department over the past four
5 years, which I believe amounted to obstruction of justice or
6 other crimes or, at least potentially did so, in the case of
7 the threat to myself, which I reported to the District
8 Attorney's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and the US
9 Attorney's Office -- US Attorney's Office. The number of
10 criminal investigators who've interviewed me about that
11 incident is zero.

12 As to the specific incident you ask about, I
13 specifically brought it to the attention of the District
14 Attorney. To my knowledge, no meaningful action was taken.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: All right.

16 I'm just going to ask special counsel to consider --
17 obviously, I don't want to put you on the spot here,
18 Mr. Deixler, but consider at least referring those sections of
19 your report to the District Attorney's Office that indicate at
20 least a potential obstruction of justice that occurred by
21 former chief of staff, Del Mese, and Alex Villanueva with
22 respect to the Kennedy Hall investigation.

23 MR. DEIXLER: Will do.

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Thank you.

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: Bert, can I -- can I just ask you, the --

1 the ad hoc committee and yourself, we struggled throughout this
2 process to develop the evidence of harm to communities because
3 so many people who have lost a loved one to sheriff shootings
4 believe that the shooter was a deputy gang member. But then
5 when they try to ask that question, they encounter a wall of
6 opposition from important County agencies. We even had it here
7 when we tried to ask the -- Sheriff Villanueva's chief of
8 staff, Mr. Del Mese, if he was a tattooed Reaper.

9 And so, like, when we -- when we review depositions,
10 either the county counsel or the contract lawyers hired by the
11 County to defend the deputies who use violence or shot people,
12 there are objections that it is protected information; it's --
13 it's private; it's, I guess, constitutional privacy that you
14 can't ask that. Then, when you ask the sheriff leadership to
15 ask their own deputy if he's in a deputy gang or if he has a
16 deputy gang tattoo, the sheriff leadership says they can't ask
17 that; they're not permitted to ask that; it -- it violates the
18 First Amendment. And then when this commission finally
19 convinces the county counsel to write a legal opinion about
20 that, and the county counsel does, that same county counsel
21 tells us that we can't release their opinion in 2021 saying
22 there is absolutely no problem at all for the Sheriff to ask
23 his own deputies if they have a deputy gang tattoo or if
24 they're in a deputy gang. But we -- we can't release it
25 because the Board of Supervisors, on the advice of the county

1 counsel, won't waive attorney-client privilege; so that has to
2 be kept secret.

3 And so my question is, you know, I'm really worried
4 about the members of the public who suffer unconstitutional
5 policing at the hands of deputy gangs. And, of course, it's in
6 areas that are already struggling: East LA, South LA, Compton,
7 and Lancaster. And how do these people get the information
8 they need when nobody will answer the question or ask the
9 question, "Deputy" -- you know, "Deputy so and so, are you
10 in -- a deputy gang member?" "Are you" -- "Are you in a deputy
11 gang? What gang? Do you have a tattoo?" and then compile that
12 information because we've seen a lot of them are repeat users
13 of violence or repeat shooters, and it's all hidden from us.
14 And -- and it's just -- it -- it just is so unfair to the
15 public that they can't get an answer to that question; because
16 it's terrible what you're talking about, about the deputies who
17 have suffered, but I think the community has suffered way more.
18 They have lost their family members and been given no real
19 explanation.

20 MR. DEIXLER: Well, I think that's exactly correct. I
21 think part of the problem with the county counsel taking its
22 position that it won't reveal a genuinely thorough and correct
23 legal opinion that this nonsense about "You can't ask about
24 tattoos or punish somebody for being a gang member" has led to
25 a circumstance in which, at least in the case of ALADS, they

1 commissioned a legal opinion which has more holes in it than a
2 Swiss cheese, and was relied upon by the former sheriff as his
3 explanation for why he couldn't possibly ask or have anybody on
4 his behalf ask whether people are members of gangs, whether
5 they have tattoos, and the like.

6 That has carried over into the civil litigation, and
7 I have read more depositions, I promise you, in civil
8 litigations than -- than any person now walking the Earth. And
9 it is ordinary and customary for a lawyer to ask "Are you a
10 member of a gang? Are you tattooed?" And from time to time
11 you have somebody like Deputy Aldama who says, "Yes," and names
12 his friends and shows his tattoo and says some other hideous
13 and despicable things.

14 But, in general, it is the case that lawyers hired by
15 the County -- because typically it is outside counsel who are
16 being paid by the taxpayers -- instruct the witness not to
17 disclose on the vague notion of privacy that they -- whether
18 they have tattoos or whether they are members of gangs. It is
19 my -- and there have been some efforts made to compel that. I
20 know Judge Mauri Leiter, former Assistant United States
21 Attorney, has regarded such an instruction as nonsensical and
22 instructed that the question be answered.

23 It's something that I believe is in the purview of
24 county counsel and reflects what I have spoken of before, which
25 is the conflict that the county counsel has in, on the one

1 hand, hiring lawyers to defend the misconduct of deputy gangs,
2 while at the same time, representing the constituents of the
3 County who would like to put an end to deputy gangs. And I
4 understand that their position is we have different portions of
5 the county counsel who are in charge of these things.

6 I can remember when I was an Assistant United States
7 Attorney, having a federal judge, when I tried to distinguish
8 different branches of the federal government say to me "There's
9 only one government." And so I think it is fair to say that
10 there's only one county counsel, and the idea that we're
11 protecting the public while permitting these mindless
12 assertions of privacy claims about core issues that are causing
13 harm to our community is something that needs to change
14 quickly.

15 And I believe that the Sheriff and the constitutional
16 adviser to the Sheriff might well weigh in and explain why it
17 is important that these issues be ventilated so that the
18 community will have the benefit of knowing exactly who it is,
19 who did what to them, and perhaps the reason why.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: Lael?

21 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Thank you.

22 Want to piggyback on a couple of questions, both from
23 Commissioner Bonner and -- and the Chair.

24 I -- during the entire course of my six years on this
25 commission, I've been very concerned, as has Chair Kennedy,

1 about members of the public and how (indiscernible) so badly
2 served by this Department. And, you know, we were fed that
3 information on a number of occasions, not only by the former
4 sheriff, but the former undersheriff, as well.

5 In addition to the recommendation by Commissioner
6 Bonner of seeking to refer possible criminal conduct to the
7 district attorney, I would add that I would hope you would make
8 a similar referral to the Attorney General's Office because
9 they ostensibly are reviewing a number of issues, and this --
10 this might be added to their -- to their portfolio.

11 In talking about ALADS and the kind of pushback that
12 has been received and publicly urged by -- by ALADS, did you
13 attempt to interview any of the leadership of ALADS during the
14 course of your investigation?

15 MR. DEIXLER: We didn't attempt that because ALADS had
16 given an instruction to its members to, one, not accept
17 subpoenas from the commission; two, directed them to specific
18 groups of lawyers who they were told would assist them in not
19 having to testify. And while I truly would have been happy to
20 speak to ALADS, you don't have to be a weatherman to know which
21 way the wind is blowing.

22 So -- but if they would like to speak further with
23 us, or at all, I would be delighted to conduct an interview and
24 speak with anybody who will want to tell us the ALADS side of
25 the story and why -- why a law enforcement union would counsel

1 law enforcement to not accept subpoenas to -- and to not
2 testify. And as long as they're speaking about it, why they
3 would send communications to a captain who's encouraging law
4 enforcement members not to get tattoos depicting violence. So
5 there are a lot of subjects I would love to discuss with any
6 ALADS representative. I'll put out a call right here. They
7 can --

8 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Well, I would -- I would assume
9 somebody in the ALADS leadership is -- is listening to this
10 discussion and (indiscernible) they would (indiscernible) come
11 forward and recognize that things have changed. They want to
12 be part of a solution and continue to protect their members
13 that they ought to go with the new program (indiscernible)
14 participating in a -- in a conversation and a discussion. I
15 know that Sheriff Luna has publicly stated he's certainly
16 willing to sit down and listen to them, but they -- they need
17 to come to (indiscernible) table and recognize that things have
18 changed.

19 I'll -- I'll pass --

20 COMMISSIONER BONNER: In talking about -- just -- just to
21 follow up with what Commissioner Rubin is saying, which is
22 (indiscernible).

23 I -- I -- I would just say right now that the
24 commission would welcome James Wheeler, who's the president of
25 ALADS, to come before us, tell us what he thinks of the

1 deputy -- continued existence of deputy cliques and gangs and
2 whether that's good for the -- the vast majority of the
3 membership of the -- of -- of ALADS. So we -- we -- we would
4 invite -- we would also welcome them here. We would welcome
5 the -- that he would sit down with you and be -- be
6 interviewed.

7 Sorry, Chair.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Any questions or comments?

9 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I would just like to say that the
10 report is an incredible service to the people of Los Angeles,
11 and the pro bono aspect of your research and your findings is
12 incredibly, gratefully received.

13 And (indiscernible) as service of that is overdue as
14 you document 50 years of denial, obfuscation, foot-dragging,
15 and stonewalling about the reality that is documented here in
16 this report and a compilation of seven previous hearings to
17 gather testimony from Angelinos. It is stunning, the level of
18 -- of denial and active efforts to suppress and refuse to
19 recognize the evidence that this report has put forward. And I
20 just want to say that not only are you scrubbing away years of
21 grime and deliberate efforts to cover up this problem, but I am
22 very grateful for the 27 recommendations that you provide,
23 especially the 10 around accountability, that prescribe nothing
24 less than a cleaning protocol -- a cleansing protocol for a
25 problem that has gone unaddressed and actively covered up for a

1 long time.

2 And I just want to note for the public and for
3 commissioners here, this is not a problem in the past; this is
4 an ongoing issue.

5 At our last hearing we heard about a deputy coming to
6 the home of someone who had confronted the Sheriff about
7 violence against her son and trying to intimidate her on her
8 own doorstep after having dared to come to speak out against
9 that beating and what trauma it caused to her family.

10 And I just want to note that, yes, we have an
11 incredible moment of opportunity here because we have a sheriff
12 who is from outside the ranks of this department. But this
13 problem, as much as it might be tempting to think about it as
14 in the past or somehow in amber because of how compelling and
15 clear this well-prepared report is, is an active and ongoing
16 problem that continues to corrode public trust and continues to
17 eat away at people's sense of safety.

18 And, finally, I would just note that, as it notes on
19 page number 42 of the report, this is about the fundamental
20 safety and the practice of law enforcement and the helpfulness
21 of deputies themselves. As it says "The treatment and gang
22 activities of deputy clique members toward their brothers and
23 sisters in uniform is a chilling statement of the paramount
24 interest of the Department and the County in protecting its own
25 employees and not tolerating persistent violations of law and

1 fundamental principles of professional policing."

2 And as you note, if this can be done to deputies,
3 just imagine how much worse it is to the public as that witness
4 at last -- at last month's hearing showcased.

5 So I just want to thank you and I also want to commit
6 from myself, and I think from my fellow commissioners, to
7 pursuing these recommendations and ensuring that they get acted
8 on and that government stops being complicit in that
9 obfuscation, foot-dragging, and stonewalling, as Commissioners
10 Bonner and Rubin have already pointed out.

11 Thank you so much.

12 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Thank you, Commissioner Johnson.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Anyone else?

14 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Could I add -- I want to make sure
15 everybody else -- yeah.

16 I just wanted to make a comment too. I mean, apropos
17 what Hans just said, that is, first of all, I want to applaud
18 and congratulate our special counsel, Mr. Deixler and his team,
19 for pulling together a no-punches report that clearly lays out
20 the horrific impact on -- of the deputy clique culture, the
21 deputy gang culture within the Sheriff's Department and on its
22 own personnel, all of those deputies who have, you know -- all
23 of those deputies who have not joined cliques or have been
24 excluded from joining cliques, and on the, you know -- and also
25 the impacts -- the horrific impacts on the public that the

1 department is there to serve.

2 Not only does the Deixler report set out the facts in
3 detail -- by the way, in greater detail than any other report
4 that's ever been made on this subject -- and there have been
5 reports going back 50 years -- or 30 years anyway, since the
6 Colts Commission, you've laid out the details and you've made,
7 as Hans indicated, 27 spot-on recommendations. It's not to say
8 there couldn't be some additional recommendations that could be
9 considered down the line, but these are important
10 recommendations, and they're important that they be implemented
11 as soon as possible, in my opinion.

12 So I'm going to urge my fellow commissioners to
13 approve the special counsel's recommendations and -- and get
14 them to Sheriff Luna without delay. I'll make a motion in that
15 regard in just a moment.

16 While I believe this to be, by the way, a historic
17 motion -- moment for our commission, the Oversight Commission
18 of the Sheriff's Department, I also fear that the Deixler
19 report, when it comes to actually ridding the Department of
20 deputy gangs, may have the same fate as the Colts Commission,
21 the report of the US Commission on Civil Rights, the CCJV
22 Commission in terms of its recommendations with the risks of
23 the deputy cliques, the RAND study -- I could name more --
24 nothing happens.

25 So I say, by the way, to Sheriff Luna, who I think

1 is -- is -- is -- certainly his heart is on the right -- in the
2 right place here, but I -- I say to Sheriff Luna, with all due
3 respect, that these recommendations need to be adopted, they
4 need to be implemented, and then they need to be enforced. For
5 these reforms to be reflect -- effective, because we are
6 talking about cultural change here, it is essential that the
7 Sheriff give the goal of ridding the Department of deputy
8 gangs, deputy cliques, which are their precursors, and let's
9 not quibble over terms here, but it is essential, that -- that
10 to be effective, the Sheriff needs to make this a priority
11 goal. His top priority for the Department until -- until at
12 long last, we can say "They are no more."

13 So with that, I'm going to make a motion, and I want
14 to do this before public comment so the public can comment on
15 the motion. And I'm -- I -- I would move that the commission
16 approve the report of the commission's special counsel and that
17 the commission adopt all the special counsel's recommendations
18 as recommendations of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight
19 Commission, or commission. Further, that the Chair of the
20 Civilian Oversight Commission forward the report and
21 recommendations of this commission forthwith to Sheriff Robert
22 Luna with the commission's strong recommendation that he adopt,
23 implement, and enforce the recommendations with all deliberate
24 speed. That's my motion.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: Of course --

2 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Can I men -- can we add that we --
3 once we approve it, that we not only send it to the Sheriff but
4 to -- directly to the Board of Supervisors?

5 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, a copy will go to the Board.
6 No, I -- I think a copy should go to the Board, of course.
7 (Indiscernible) should send this to Sheriff Luna; he's the one
8 that needs to make the change.

9 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Thank you for that motion.

10 One of the concerns expressed by a number of
11 community groups, a number of us have -- have continued to hear
12 from them as they were certainly aware that there was going to
13 be a report and recommendation forthcoming, that they wanted an
14 opportunity to weigh in and submit their comments and their
15 recommendations as well, and I know that the Chair has advised
16 these groups that they will -- that they will have this
17 opportunity. So I -- I don't know how, if we were to
18 ultimately approve the motion that Commissioner Bonner has just
19 made, how that would affect the ability of a number of
20 important groups who wanted input, the opportunity to do so.

21 And perhaps the Chair can respond to that.

22 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I would go -- if I could respond.

23 I don't see these as mutually exclusive. The ACLU
24 and all interested parties here of the public that has comments
25 are going to be able to do that, maybe suggest additional

1 recommendations, and maybe -- maybe suggest reasons why we
2 shouldn't adopt the 27 recommendations. I don't know. We're
3 going to have public comment in just a moment, but I wonder,
4 before we have public comment at least, I would ask one -- at
5 least the second for my motion so we can have discussion of it.

6 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: I'll second.

7 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Thank you, sir. Thank you, JP.

8 Okay. So there's a motion seconded, now let's
9 discuss it amongst ourselves, and then let's get public
10 comment.

11 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Understood. But I had posed a
12 question to the Chair, and so I'd like --

13 COMMISSIONER BONNER: What was the question?

14 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Question was and is how the -- the
15 important community groups who wanted an opportunity to respond
16 before the commission adopted the -- the report and
17 recommendation, how that discussion would weigh in. And I know
18 that the Chair has probably had more conversations with these
19 groups than I have, but I'd ask for Chair Kennedy to respond to
20 my inquiry.

21 CHAIR KENNEDY: Why don't we defer that until we hear from
22 the public. I'd like to hear from the public.

23 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Thank you.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: So I think the time has come for public
25 comment, Ingrid, and how do we -- how are we going to make that

1 work because the public -- right? -- they -- they have
2 something to say about this, and I think everyone on this
3 commission really wants to hear from them.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: If you have a comment regarding the current
5 motion, please submit your name -- submit a comment card to me,
6 and I will call you in order.

7 Our first speaker is Michele Infante.

8 MICHELE INFANTE: Morning, commissioners. My name is
9 Michele Infante. I'm with Dignity and Power Now.

10 It's very frustrating listening to what's happening
11 up here because families have been coming up (indiscernible),
12 and I've been doing this for nine years. And I'm somebody
13 that's not real smart, but what I see happening here, what I've
14 noticed over the last nine years, is that there's a huge
15 conflict of interest with County Board of Supervisors. They
16 seem to have a control over a triangle here. It's the County
17 Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff's Department, and the County
18 Coroner. Coroner perpetuates a lie from the Sheriff's
19 Department, and the coroner doesn't have any responsibility.
20 The only responsibility that they have is back to the County
21 Board of Supervisors.

22 Who are the people that make the decisions about the
23 price of what a case is worth? It's the County Board of
24 Supervisors. These families have been bringing information to
25 this committee, this commission, for six years, and it's been

1 the same thing over and over again. There's a huge conflict of
2 interest here. It's like you're the buffer between the make --
3 that tries to make things better for the community, but yet you
4 take this stuff back; and we just heard Mr. Drexler (sic), how
5 the County stops and brings in attorneys to stop the Sheriff's
6 Department from being in trouble. It's like you come up here
7 and you say this stuff and the community hears it. And they're
8 wondering how are they supposed to get any further when the
9 brakes are being put on by the very people that are supposed to
10 be in this position to be helping them? And then they create
11 this committee, or this commission, and all you've been doing
12 for the last six years is taking information back to the people
13 that are putting the brakes on everything.

14 It's not that I don't appreciate having this
15 commission; I was a part of it being built from the very
16 beginning; so I have an extra appreciation for everyone that's
17 here and the work that's being done as far as you -- as you
18 come with what you can do. But you need to go back, and you
19 need to talk to the people that are directly involved with
20 stopping what's going on in everything that you're talking
21 about; because you come up here month after month talking about
22 the same stuff, but we have comments and statements by an
23 attorney that's very honest and forthcoming with information,
24 and he's saying that the brakes are being put on by the very
25 people that are supposed to be helping these people in the

1 community. And it's not that they've lost their loved ones;
2 they haven't gotten lost. They didn't get lost behind a
3 tree --

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you for your comments.

5 MS. INFANTE: -- these people are getting killed. And so
6 when you use the language, you need to say it, and you need to
7 say it the way that it is. These people have been killed by
8 the very people that the County Board of Supervisors keep
9 putting the brakes on with their cases.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Times is up.

11 MS. INFANTE: Go back and say something --

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you for your comment.

13 MS. INFANTE: -- do something --

14 MS. WILLIAMS: We have to follow up with the next speaker.

15 Our next speaker is Frankie Carrillo.

16 If you wish to make a public comment regarding the
17 motion, please move here, and we have comment cards for you to
18 sign. Thank you.

19 MR. CARILLO: Thank you so much, commissioners. Good
20 morning --

21 CHAIR KENNEDY: Good morning.

22 MR. CARILLO: -- to the public.

23 I am very grateful that the wheels of justice are
24 turning, and in my opinion, they're turning in the right
25 direction.

1 As many of you know, over 30 years ago, my life was
2 turned upside down when sheriff gang members out of the Lynwood
3 Station here in Los Angeles County framed me for a murder I
4 didn't commit. They abused their authority, forced witnesses
5 to lie against me, went to court, and they themselves began to
6 lie as well.

7 After 20 years of suffering inside of California's
8 prisons, I was exonerated. But not until another battle within
9 the Sheriff's Department because, guess what? They didn't want
10 to face the fact that they had been exposed.

11 So, for me, this is a -- a great sign that we're
12 going in the right direction. Obviously, for many of us,
13 including myself, it dates back decades. For the good or bad
14 of it, any movement in the right direction, I welcome, and I'm
15 really excited about.

16 So I thank you, commissioners, for all the work that
17 you're doing. I know this is hard work. There's many
18 different forces at play here. But for you to stand here firm
19 on the fact that justice needs to prevail no matter what, gives
20 me the strength and power to share my story and support this
21 commission.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Franky.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Our next speaker, Valerie Vargas, followed
25 by Andres Quan.

1 Our next speaker, Valerie Vargas.

2 Okay. Moving on to our next speaker Andres Quan.

3 MR. QUAN: Andres Quan, ACLU.

4 September 2021, in light of the RAND report, Check
5 the Sheriff demanded the Board of Supervisors take some action
6 instead of simply filing the report. The Board then directed
7 this body to investigate and report back with recommendations
8 for a holistic approach for eradicating deputy gangs and
9 addressing related problems. We applaud your assiduous work
10 with little to no resources. Because of your investigation, we
11 have a better understanding today of the current goings on of
12 deputy gangs.

13 The civilian oversight has been fundamental to keep
14 the paramilitary Sheriff's Department in check. It reminds me
15 of Argentina in 1985 when lawyers with few resources did the
16 democracy-building work of investigating the human rights
17 abuses, atrocities carried out by the military junta doing
18 what's known as the Guerra sucia, the Dirty War. I grew up in
19 Argentina. I went to secondary school blocks from the
20 presidential house, and every Thursday, witnessed Las Madres of
21 the Plaza de Mayo march. Las Madres were the mothers of people
22 killed or disappeared by the military and police. With their
23 white handkerchiefs on their heads, they marched every Thursday
24 without fail, ultimately bringing about truth and
25 accountability. They've inspired generations of folks fighting

1 for human rights. Just like Las Madres, the mothers and
2 families of community members killed by Los Angeles Sheriff's
3 deputies and deputy gang members, they should also inspire us
4 deeply.

5 In the midst of our own human rights crisis, these
6 families have been standing up courageously in the face of
7 immense adversity, even harassment and retaliation for seeking
8 truth and accountability. And so we must listen to the
9 families and take the time to do so. Before you adopt these
10 recommendations, you need to consult with their families and
11 pay close attention. And we have specific recommendations that
12 we will submit to you that you should also make the Board of
13 Supervisors.

14 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Andres.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Our next speaker, Eric J. Miller, followed
16 by Stephanie Luna, followed by Richie Serjanko.

17 MR. MILLER: I just wanted to say I'm speaking in my
18 individual capacity here, and not the many representative
19 capacities I may occupy.

20 I just want to agree with Mr. Quan's comments. The
21 Board of Supervisors is considering the funding to be given to
22 the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, but the County -- the
23 Board of Supervisors has failed, as this report suggests, for
24 50 years to take seriously the issue of sheriff deputy gangs
25 and, in particular, the terroristic activities all these

1 institutions and the community members that the Board of
2 Supervisors are supposed to represent.

3 And so I wonder why we haven't heard from members of
4 the Board of Supervisors. Why is the institution that is
5 supposed to protect the public offering, encouraging its
6 employees, including county counsel, to do what is, in effect,
7 offering material support to a criminal terroristic
8 organization? I'd want to hear what the Board of Supervisors
9 is doing to eradicate deputy gangs. What is the Board of
10 Supervisors doing to remediate the harms of these gangs that it
11 is tolerated under its authority for 50 years? What are the
12 mayors of the impacted communities doing to deal with the
13 sheriff deputy gangs that operate in their jurisdictions?
14 What -- what are the -- what is the Board of Supervisors doing
15 to eradicate its own comprehensive failure, one that extends
16 beyond the Board of Supervisors through 50 years of district
17 attorney inaction, county counsel inaction, union inaction, and
18 court inaction, to prohibit these institutions from terrorizing
19 the public? In fact, worse than inaction, one could argue
20 providing material support to these deputy gangs by covering up
21 their activity by refusing to prosecute the gang members and by
22 paying them out of public funds whenever they are sued by
23 members of the public.

24 So the impact on the -- the communities is horrific.
25 We have not really heard --

1 MS. WILLIAMS: Sir, your time is up.

2 MR. MILLER: -- about that impact, and it's time that the
3 Board of Supervisor did something --

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you for your comments.

5 MR. MILLER: -- about it.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MS. WILLIAMS: Valerie Vargas?

8 MS. VARGAS: Good morning. There's just a lot to say
9 here.

10 My name is Valerie Vargas. I'm the aunt of Anthony
11 Vargas. And to be honest, like, I don't even know if I should
12 introduce myself as somebody who was -- the aunt of somebody
13 who was murdered by an LASD gang or as a survivor of the gang
14 violence by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

15 You know, Robert's calling for more budget money to
16 create a super gang to get rid of another gang, and that's,
17 like, what -- that's how we got here in the first place, and
18 it's just not going to work.

19 You know, these deputies that -- that were being
20 talked about, like, I hear the energy from the panel about how
21 they're being harassed and how they're being mistreated, and,
22 like, I never see that energy when it comes to the public
23 standing here and testifying for families like ours. There's
24 multiple families that are here; we have the proof; and we're
25 always being told that they -- that you guys need more proof.

1 One problem that I did have with this -- with this
2 motion or with this paper that had came out was the word
3 "cancer. " And I could tell you that we have an aunt who had
4 cancer, and when I was driving down Third Street in front of
5 the Los Angeles Sheriff -- East Los Angeles Sheriff's
6 Department, we had deputies tailgating while I was taking my
7 aunt to a chemotherapy. Do not use the word "cancer" when it
8 comes to this, because this problem can be solved. This is
9 not cancer; this could be eradicated.

10 There's just a lot to say. One thing that I also did
11 want to say that Robert is not our savior. This problem is so
12 much bigger than him, and it has to be abolished.

13 I mean, we have court next month, and we can't even
14 go to court because the deputies that are going to be
15 testifying on the ALADS sides, they're in deputy gangs
16 themselves. The coroner report that we got from Anthony, we
17 had a sheriff that was there that has a fucking history that
18 that involves deputy gangs. It's just completely all around
19 it.

20 So I don't know, man. Like, this -- this problem,
21 it's just getting fucking old. We know what we have to do.
22 Robert's not our savior. (Indiscernible).

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Our next speaker, Stephanie Luna, followed

1 by Richie Serjanko, followed by Vanessa Perez.

2 MS. LUNA: Yeah. I don't even know where to start.

3 Aunt of Anthony Vargas.

4 You know, this report documented the history of
5 deputy gangs that is our county Sheriff's Department.
6 There's hours of testimony from both former and current
7 deputies, some who testified in person, others online with
8 masked identities because of the fear of retaliation. What
9 there isn't is testimony from families and community members
10 that are faced with the retaliation by these deputy gang
11 members on a daily basis and are left to deal with the multi
12 levels of PTSD that this department has inflicted on us, the
13 ones that don't have a badge; the ones that don't have an
14 association to run behind; the ones that have to document our
15 harassment publicly. So if and when something happens to us,
16 it's on public record that this has been going on.

17 This report outlines a problem that has been around
18 for decades and a problem that so many choose to ignore,
19 including department officials. There are so many ignorant
20 people asking for names of these deputy members like that Brady
21 list doesn't exist, like the Quiet Cannon and Kennedy Hall
22 beatings didn't happen, like deputy inking parties aren't real.
23 This report is that blueprint. The family harassment report is
24 that blueprint. Asking for more reform isn't effective
25 anymore. These deputies not only speak their own language,

1 they have their own culture and code that they follow.

2 They're held accountable to no one.

3 There's a new deputy gang that formed in the East LA
4 Station since the Banditos maxed out its 100 members, all at
5 the expense of human life in the form of beatings, shootings,
6 and murders. What's being missed is that these guys are moving
7 up the ranks. They're not just deputies that are in deputy
8 gangs, they're homicide detectives, undersheriffs, assistant
9 sheriffs, chiefs, commanders, captains, lieutenants, sergeants,
10 training officers, coroners. They're working in Internal
11 Affairs; they are the literal chain of command. They
12 investigate themselves; they write their own reports; they set
13 policies for themselves. They're in our jails, streets,
14 schools, trains, hospitals. They have units flying in the damn
15 sky plagued with deputy gangs. The anti-law enforcement gang
16 stature that was set up by Alex in 2020 was dependent on LASD
17 to investigate themselves.

18 Civil trials such as ours can't even get deputy gangs
19 admitted in proceedings because these guys are so protected.
20 This is organized crime. How can you eradicate deputy gangs
21 without overhauling the Department? How can you eradicate
22 deputy gangs when they are the Department?

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you for your comment.

24 MS. LUNA: You have one more very quick comment --

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

1 MS. LUNA: -- speaking on eradicating the logos. The East
2 LA Sheriff's Department has deputies that proudly display the
3 Fort Apache logo on their batons, on their nightsticks. They
4 walk around with their hands on these nightsticks in the
5 community, showing them to the public, proudly displaying them.
6 You know, I know we can't check them for tattoos for whatever
7 reason, maybe we can start checking their batons for this Fort
8 Apache logo. There's photographs of it. I mean --

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

10 MS. LUNA: -- something needs to be done.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you --

12 MS. LUNA: Thank you.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Our next speaker, Richie Serjanko, followed
14 by Vanessa Perez.

15 MR. SERJANKO: All right. Hello, commissioners. I'm
16 Richie Serjanko.

17 Yeah. I -- I don't want to act like we don't
18 appreciate the efforts by the commission here, but I just did a
19 quick search on the -- on the report, and I looked for the
20 names of Anthony Vargas and John Horton. I certainly know that
21 those family members have been here testifying at, pretty much,
22 every single commission, meeting, or -- or special hearing --
23 excuse me.

24 And -- and so, again, this report is just focused on
25 the -- the relationship between the deputies and -- and -- and

1 the Department and the sheriffs and individuals. And it
2 doesn't really focus on the community members, the community
3 members that are impacted, that have said not only -- not
4 only -- again, there's so many different issues here because
5 you talk about -- we've had people come up here and talk about
6 the Coroner's Office, how the Coroner's Office is in -- in
7 with -- with the County and the Board of Supervisors and the
8 Sheriff's Department. And then after, you know -- after these
9 deaths, and the families that speak up about -- about these
10 things, they're then harassed by these same deputies.

11 And, again, these have happened for 50 years across
12 decades under various sheriffs, and depending on Robert Luna to
13 implement changes, I'm not -- I'm not confident in that
14 happening. I'm not confident in one sheriff being able to
15 carry out any of these changes.

16 And since this public comment is featured
17 specifically on -- on the motion proposed by Commissioner
18 Bonner, I thought it was very strange that you shut down
19 Commissioner Giggans' request for it to be sent to the Board of
20 Supervisors so quickly when we're up here talking about, "Hmm,
21 maybe the Board of Supervisors is complicit in it. And what's
22 their role in all of this?" And so maybe they should be the
23 ones that implement changes, and not -- we shouldn't -- we
24 shouldn't depend on Sheriff Robert Luna.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

2 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

3 Our next speaker, Vanessa Perez, followed by Peter
4 Maloney.

5 MR. PEREZ: I'm Vanessa Perez. I'm the mother of
6 Joseph Andrew Perez. And (indiscernible) sheriffs
7 (indiscernible) punched 121 times by your sheriffs and he
8 survived.

9 What I want to say is that there needs to be an
10 investigation on Villanueva. I mean, he was the ringleader of
11 the circus after all, and then there needs to be account -- he
12 needs to be accountable like Baca including the undersheriff.
13 There needs to be accountable -- they need to be accountable as
14 well as the district attorney, the prosecutors in -- in the
15 courts. There needs to be an investigation. They played
16 their part as well. I mean, my son, after he was being beat,
17 he was sitting in jail for two years, and endured the jail
18 violence after that. So there has to be some type of
19 accountability in the court system, the District Attorney's
20 Office, Gascon.

21 And then moving these violent deputies that already
22 have history of prior excessive force or killings or murdering,
23 you can't just send them to another department like Samuel
24 Aldama. Samuel Aldama was at my front door asking for my
25 15-year-old daughter. That's unheard of. That's -- that's

1 part of gang violence. That's -- that's gang stuff. That's
2 what you do to get someone to shut up.

3 And this was three days after I confronted Villanueva
4 at the Walnut Meeting, and I understand this man talked about
5 the safety of the deputies being scared and being in fear.
6 But what about us? What about the families? I mean, this is
7 retaliation. This is our real life. This is what -- at least
8 you guys have the protection. Who's protecting us? We're the
9 ones walking the streets (indiscernible) what's right, and
10 where -- we're the -- we're vulnerable on this.

11 My name's Vanessa.

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Our last speaker, Peter Maloney.

14 MR. MALONEY: Hello, commissioners. My name is Peter
15 Maloney.

16 I just have two questions for you. One of them I may
17 have missed, I was a little bit late. But is there any sort of
18 a recommendation that the damages from lawsuits that the
19 sheriff causes are paid out of the sheriff's budget instead of
20 constantly being paid out of the entire county fund? That just
21 seems very problematic to me.

22 The other thing I heard from the commissioners was
23 the fear that this report would fall on deaf ears. My question
24 to the commission is what is your commitment and your plan to
25 make certain that doesn't happen?

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

3 We -- it looks like we're done with a very powerful
4 public comment, but I'd like to take -- I -- I see there are
5 some commissioners who --

6 MS. WILLIAMS: This public comment was regarding the
7 motion by Commissioner Robert Bonner. If you wish to speak
8 right now on the motion, you can come and sign up for it.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Absolutely. We -- go -- go ahead. The
10 motion and the report are deeply related.

11 MR. DELL: Ron Dell. The National Association of Blacks
12 in Criminal Justice, Southwest Region.

13 I'd like to add that there is -- are comments to the
14 motion and to Commissioner Bonner's motion. Our comments and
15 what we consider not recommendations because we are far beyond
16 that. We are looking for deliverables and within --
17 particularly within the city of Compton.

18 After having reviewed the special counsel report, we
19 see that there are a lot of obstacles to eliminating deputy
20 cliques in the Sheriff Department. He mentioned ALADS, county
21 counsel, and the LA County District Attorney's Office. To that
22 list, we would like to add the Board of Supervisors, and
23 particularly the City of Compton as a sheriff contractor that
24 has failed its constituents by not monitoring and reporting
25 sheriff activity outcomes in that city. Their lack of

1 oversight has cost millions in settlements and many deaths of
2 unarmed people. Moreover, practically no murder suspects have
3 ever -- are ever arrested in Compton.

4 Despite the worldwide focus on sheriff gangs, some of
5 which -- some -- some, such as the Executioners, originated in
6 that city and posed an existential threat to public safety.
7 The bump-on-a-log, silent-leadership style of Compton-elected
8 officials, the city manager, and its department heads have
9 violated their fiduciary responsibility to protect its
10 taxpaying residents and stakeholders. And the Compton
11 residents do not know if the Executioners deputy -- deputy
12 gangs work in Compton Station, if any Proud Boys, Three
13 Percenters, or Oath Keepers work out of Compton Station.

14 So, again, we're beyond recommendations. We have a
15 list of deliverables that I would like to submit as part of the
16 public record here that includes this requiring disclosure of
17 all sheriff contract personnel names, assignments, and employee
18 number. Require all incoming sheriff contract personnel to
19 appear, introduce themselves to the public during city council
20 meetings, and tell their reasons for choosing to work in
21 Compton and what benefits the city will receive from their
22 presence. To remove as -- the Sheriff as chief clause from the
23 contract agreement with Compton to allow oversight from the
24 city manager.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

1 MR. DELL: It would include contract language that
2 prohibits deputies from participating in deputy gangs --

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir, for your comment.

4 MR. DELL: -- you find in Penal Code Section 137 --

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Three --

6 MR. DELL: -- 3670.

7 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you --

8 MR. DELL: Who should I submit our recommendations to?

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Right up in the back. We -- we want your
10 recommendations.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: Our next speaker is Helen Jones.

12 MS. JONES: Hello, commissioners. Thank you for the work
13 that y'all doing and thank you for letting us know that y'all
14 really understand the problem with the deputy gangs' abuse,
15 especially in the community. And we do understand that y'all
16 have to do work for -- also for the police officer that's being
17 harassed.

18 But over the last six years, we've been coming to the
19 COC, all the families, been expressing how we feel. I know
20 y'all know of my son is like a broken record. I done spoke to
21 the commission so many times on how the 3000 Boys murdered my
22 son, beat him to death, covered his death up to look like a
23 suicide, bust all his organs in his body, beat him with a
24 flashlight therapy like they have done so many -- so many
25 family loved ones.

1 We really urge this commission to do a full
2 investigation y'all self on the deputy gangs. There's only so
3 much y'all know that the -- Luna is going to be able to do.
4 He can't take down his own department; he can't make his own
5 department look bad. Y'all know that from every other sheriff
6 had came in here ran this sheriff department. He can't really
7 do too much more than what they have done.

8 We also asking this commission to urge the Board of
9 Supervisors to do a overhaul of the Sheriff Department.
10 Giving them more training and all that, that's not going to
11 work. They done done that. And if -- that's why they keep
12 asking for more money, for more training, more training. But
13 over the last six years, y'all have watched family after family
14 come up here, cry, pour their hearts out, pour their guts out,
15 and we know that it's only so much y'all can do.

16 But we asking y'all to do a full investigation on the
17 County on -- on -- on the Sheriff Department. Also, bring in
18 the county corner, who's covering up these deaths,
19 rubberstamping the Sheriff Department with these deaths. We
20 asking y'all to do this, because if y'all don't, people are
21 going to continue to die after report, after report just
22 like -- one more -- I just want to say one more thing -- and
23 just like the DPN and UCLA report had came out.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

25 MS. JONES: Nobody paying attention to it. Nobody's doing

1 nothing about it. So we're just asking y'all please do your
2 own investigation, and we have the proofs in our autopsy
3 reports.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

6 Our final speaker, Isaac Asbury.

7 MR. ASBURY: Good morning.

8 COMMISSIONERS: Morning.

9 MR. ASBURY: My name is Isaac Asbury, and I'm the
10 president of National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice
11 from California.

12 My journey started 15 years ago when Avery Cody,
13 Junior, a 16-year-old -- years old was shot in city of Compton,
14 broad daylight by what was later alleged to be a Jump Out Boy.

15 Fifteen years ago, we didn't have a commission, so
16 you pretty much were on your own. So I'm kind of coming to a
17 conclusion. We have a commission, you guys are doing a good
18 job, got the best attorney right here, then you got the best
19 prosecutor, and our investigator sitting right over there.
20 He been with us from when Baca went to jail, and Tanaka. So
21 don't think we're just in here speaking and doing commissions.

22 I have a list of -- so back -- back up. He told me
23 if I wanted to know who were in the gangs, I would have to
24 do -- and gather the information myself. Okay? I gathered the
25 information. Okay? I have over 1,665 names I want to submit.

1 I know which gang (indiscernible). That's why I know how
2 many shootings. You give me they list. I know if you've been
3 five shootings, seven shootings. We have that information
4 also. We have a alphabetical database that we can pick any
5 name in the past 20 years and tell you how many shootings,
6 fatal and nonfatal, these officers have been in.

7 My goal is to take them to the next step. Charge
8 them and prosecute.

9 That's all I have.

10 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Thank you.

12 MR. DELL: Where can I submit my --

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Up here because I'd like to see those.

14 Are we concluded with the public comment? I don't
15 know if it's ordinary, but I see there is some interest from
16 commissioners to speak, and this is such an important issue
17 that I would like to take those comments.

18 JP?

19 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Thank you, Chair.

20 First, I just -- I would also like to thank all the
21 members of the ad hoc committee. This has been a very long
22 road we've been on, not without its bumps, and just glad we
23 have arrived where we have today.

24 I want to publicly thank Counsel Deixler for the hard
25 work he has done, and all the pro bono -- the other attorneys

1 who are not here today that assisted him in bringing us, I
2 think, some actionable information that is going to be very
3 hard for any public official to ignore.

4 Just a couple of things I want to comment on based
5 upon the comments of the public. We do hear what you say to
6 us; we acknowledge the pain many of you continue to suffer day
7 in and day out because of things that have happened at the
8 hands of the deputy sheriffs; and we -- we definitely hear you.

9 I'm particularly moved by Mr. Carrillo, The journey
10 that he was forced on. Glad to see that there seems to be some
11 semblance of recovery, and very good recovery from what I can
12 see, but I still know that never should have happened, and the
13 pain you have suffered is inexcusable. I'm always -- I want
14 you to know you are always in my heart and in my mind in all
15 discussions of this commission. So thank you very much for
16 your comments today. And I agree with you, I think we are
17 making progress, but we are far from done.

18 Someone else made the comment that cancers can't be
19 cured. I don't think I agree with that statement. Some
20 cancers can be cured, and we're going to continue to work on
21 curing this cancer but recognize it's -- the journey is not
22 over yet.

23 And that's where I look back into the report, and I'm
24 reminded that Judge Colts made a recommendation about 30 years
25 ago that the Sheriff's Department needed to have civilian

1 oversight. Had that civilian oversight been provided at that
2 time, I'd like to think we wouldn't be having this discussion
3 today. Guarantee that, but I think it would have been a step
4 in the right direction. But we're here now, and we still have
5 our challenges, without question, and we are committed to
6 continuing the battle to do what's right for the community.

7 So I -- I just wanted to let the community know that
8 we are committed, and I hope this commission -- and I know this
9 commission will continue to keep the pressure on in appropriate
10 places to see that this report is addressed appropriately.

11 There's one last comment that someone made the
12 comment that, you know, "Sheriff Luna's but one man, and he
13 can't fix all this." And I couldn't agree with you more. No
14 one person can fix this. It takes all of us. And I just want
15 everyone to know that we are committed; I want the Sheriff to
16 know we are committed to working with him, come to a good
17 resolution, and recognizing this is going to take a lot of
18 work, and continued work ongoing into the future.

19 So I wholeheartedly endorse this report. Along with
20 my second, I will -- I will definitely vote to -- to adopt it.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR KENNEDY: Patti?

23 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yeah. I appreciate the comments
24 today from the community, which we have been hearing for six
25 years.

1 If it wasn't the creativity and the advocacy of the
2 wider community and, particularly, the families who have
3 suffered from the abuse of power of law enforcement, this
4 commission would not exist, and we knew that from the very
5 beginning. The Board of Supervisors knew that from the very
6 beginning. That's why we exist. And every program that
7 we've analyzed or had hearings about or made recommendations
8 about, including the Family Assistance Program, the
9 recommendations that we made from MET to increase MET, all of
10 that came from the community. You know, our work really has --
11 it has made -- it's made a difference because of the
12 testimonies and the advocacy.

13 And so when the -- I just want to say when the --
14 when the history of our commission is written and when the
15 preamble to this report is written, I believe the -- the -- the
16 community involvement and courage to keep coming and keep
17 talking about it in the face of retaliation on the one hand,
18 and then just benign neglect on the other will -- that will be
19 written and that story will be told. And when the movie's
20 made, I'm hoping that the story would be told from the
21 perspective of the community.

22 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

23 Lael.

24 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: I want to thank all of the members of
25 the community, particularly Ms. Jones, who has come here, I

1 can't even recount the number of times and the conversations
2 that we've had and the pain that you have discussed and you
3 don't yet have any answers. The Vargas family, Luna,
4 Ms. Perez; the -- the list -- the list goes on.

5 And I -- while I certainly support this report, I --
6 I do think that the families and the community have not been
7 appropriately recognized in this report in their input and
8 their -- their own recommendations, and my hope was that we
9 would -- that they would have an opportunity so that that could
10 be appended in some way as part of this report. I mean, it
11 needs to be part of the report in some way so it is a much
12 fuller picture.

13 So I don't quite know how that would -- if -- if, in
14 fact, the commission voted to approve the report and send it to
15 the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors today, I want to make
16 sure that the report would have the significant written
17 responses and suggestions from members of the community. And
18 I don't quite know at this point if -- whether it should -- it
19 should be the -- the adoption of the report should be delayed a
20 week or so, or whether we should -- we should move forward now
21 and then, somehow, it gets appended later. Know from past
22 experience that if you don't do it now, it doesn't happen,
23 which is why I think I would urge my fellow commissioners to
24 give an opportunity for the community for their written
25 responses and -- and also the ACLU, as Mr. Quan has spoken so

1 much about, that -- that that is memorialized in writing as
2 part of this report.

3 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Could I comment on that, Mr. Chair?

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yeah. And there may be additional
6 recommendations by the ACLU, and I know we got some potentially
7 very interesting recommendations from other members of the
8 community who spoke here, and -- and that's something that I
9 think -- and there may be some additional facts that should
10 be -- should be made, but that can be made part of a
11 supplemental report by the special counsel. It's his report
12 after all, and we have to respect that.

13 But I would just submit to the commission that while
14 there may be some additional information or recommendations
15 that could be made, we ought not to hold up the thoughtful
16 recommendations that special counsel has made. In fact,
17 special counsel ended his comments by saying "Change must
18 happen now." I would submit to you that change must start now,
19 and it starts with adopting the 27 recommendations of -- of
20 special counsel. There may be others that we'll consider and
21 adopt at a -- at a future meeting.

22 In any event, I would just say, it's been oft said,
23 "Let's not make the perfect the enemy of the good." We have
24 27 good recommendations, let's adopt them. I urge you to
25 support the motion I made.

1 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Patti?

2 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yeah, I agree. The Sheriff has the
3 report; the report is out there. We should not be timid now.
4 We want to recognize that there are some, as all of you have
5 said, there's going to be other recommendations in a
6 supplemental including telling -- telling the story of the
7 importance of how this whole thing came about would be a worthy
8 story to tell in a supplemental. But I -- I don't think we
9 can -- I don't think we should wait, and I really do want the
10 Board of Supervisors not to be CC'ed, but to be actually handed
11 this document and saying, "You need to do something about
12 this."

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Bert?

14 MR. DEIXLER: Perhaps I can -- perhaps I could assist.
15 I'll commit to preparing supplemental report to cover
16 specifically the issues that would be addressed by the public
17 to supplement information that has come to us recently so that
18 the fullest possible picture can be displayed to the Sheriff,
19 to the Board of Supervisors, to the public, the issue is often
20 enough. We've come this far that I'm willing (indiscernible)
21 almost happy to continue -- continue in this task if that would
22 be helpful to the commission.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you --

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Thank you.

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: -- Bert.

1 Well, I -- I want to say to the community here, 66his
2 commission really struggles because your comments are
3 well-taken. But as someone who has been investigating deputy
4 gangs even before the commission took it up with my students at
5 Loyola, it is very hard to uncover the evidence of the harm to
6 the community because the county agencies have normalized the
7 gangs and work together to hide the results to the community.
8 The county counsel has already been -- remarked, you know,
9 asserts legal privileges to keep the information out, and they
10 file motions in court to prevent people who do know from saying
11 so before a jury. The district attorney, who certainly is
12 well-positioned to ask the gang members the questions that
13 community members suspect the answers but don't actually know
14 the answers, the DA could do that; in fact, I think has a
15 constitutional obligation to do that for 60 years plus, and
16 they don't do it. And then the justice system integrity
17 division that investigates the shootings, they don't ask if the
18 shooter is involved in a gang.

19 And -- and so part of the struggle the Civilian
20 Oversight Commission has -- and -- and frankly, the coroner, as
21 has been brought up today -- and that's a very good point
22 because I have read the UCLA report -- and the withholding of
23 autopsy reports from the families whose loved ones have died --
24 and I'll say it, Michele -- you know, they -- they deserve
25 those reports in a timely manner, and they don't get it, and it

1 all goes on under the stead of the Board of Supervisors who
2 overwatches it all.

3 And so, Bert, I appreciate your offer. Maybe our
4 work is not done here. Maybe we have to have a supplemental
5 report and even supplemental hearings. And, you know, my dean
6 will faint, but if we have to have a supplemental hearing or
7 two hear that focuses specifically on the harm to the
8 community, so be it, because I do think I speak for this
9 commission. Everyone is truly committed to unearthing the
10 truth, to stopping the -- the various counter -- the -- the
11 County agencies who have hidden the truth for years from the
12 people that they are supposed to protect and to serve, and it's
13 not right. It just is not right that we cannot release things
14 like the county counsel's opinion saying the Sheriff can
15 investigate the gangs. It's not right that there's a list of
16 suspected gang members that apparently the inspector general
17 can't release because of the -- the state laws or whatever.
18 There has to be a way to solve or to work around these issues
19 so that the truth comes out.

20 And so I apologize for -- if there isn't enough
21 information there, but it isn't from a lack of trying, I assure
22 you, and we're going to try even harder to get to the bottom of
23 this.

24 So there has been a motion and it has been seconded.
25 I would be remiss as the Chair if I didn't say to you, Rob and

1 JP, and all -- and really all my colleagues, it is the ordinary
2 course of this commission to have a report presented to the
3 commissioners and to give them full time to consider the report
4 and to give the community full time to weigh in and speak about
5 that report. So in all of our other reports, we give the
6 report to the commission, we have a report, we have the kind of
7 robust conversation that we've had, and then we wait until the
8 next scheduly -- regularly scheduled meeting to vote on it.
9 I'm not saying that we should do that here. I'm saying that it
10 should be recognized that that is the way we ordinarily do it,
11 and if we just adopt this report, we're changing our
12 procedures.

13 So that said, Rob, do you still want to make your
14 motion?

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Yeah, I do want to make my motion.

16 I disagree with the history here. I -- I -- we -- we
17 have had reports presented to us, and we have -- with
18 recommendations and we voted to adopt those recommendations on
19 the very same hearing in which they were presented. And I --
20 I -- I cite the recommendations on body-worn cameras that we
21 made, and thank God we made it, because we did push that issue
22 along. I believe we did this on the MET team's issue. I can't
23 recall exactly, but it was so clear we should adopt the
24 recommendations that Patti's ad hoc had come up with, that we
25 voted on them, and we approved them the same day. We did not

1 say "Oh, let's have another hearing because we need to think
2 about these further." We do not need to think about these
3 recommendations further. I would submit to this commission,
4 and we need to get them to the Sheriff; we need to get these to
5 Sheriff Luna as soon as possible, and that means today, if at
6 all possible.

7 So I urge that -- that the motion be voted for and
8 approved as I've stated it --

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I -- I hear you, Rob. I just want
10 to say I thought we changed that practice precisely so that we
11 would have full debate.

12 JP, do you stand by your second?

13 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Well, it just seems to be sitting on
14 me right now.

15 I -- I hear what you're saying, Sean, very clearly,
16 but I also agree with Mr. Bonner. I think these
17 recommendations are solid. Could we do more? I also agree
18 with that. Would it be best to have some additional
19 information be provided not just to the Sheriff but to the
20 Board of Supervisors incorporating the comments that've been
21 made, not just today, but in all of our meetings concerning the
22 public and the -- the harm that has been done so the Board of
23 Supervisors are well-aware of that?

24 So I -- I have to say I'm torn because I agree with
25 you, and I also agree with Mr. Bonner. I think these

1 recommendations are solid. I don't see these recommendations
2 being modified based upon any -- providing the Board of
3 Supervisors and the public with additional information that
4 the -- that the public has provided to us. So I think I'm
5 going to stick with my second.

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Call for the question --

7 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Now, I have a question --

8 COMMISSIONER BONNER: -- call -- call for the question,
9 Mr. Chair --

10 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Excuse me.

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: -- I call for the question. Let's
12 vote on this and move on.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Let's all chill out. No, no, no,
14 no. Let's all chill out.

15 Rob, I have let you speak every time you want to
16 speak, and I'm going to let every other member of this
17 commission do the same. So it, you know --

18 Lael, you have something to say.

19 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: I do. And that is that the other
20 commissioner members, separate and apart from the ad hoc
21 committee, the first opportunity they have had to review the 61
22 pages of the report and recommendation was Wednesday when it
23 was first posted on the website.

24 As you all know, the Brown Act prohibits discussions
25 except in agenized meetings. And I do believe that the other

1 five members of the commission, two of whom are unfortunately
2 not here today, may have believed that two days to review this
3 incredibly dense and thoughtful report and recommendation might
4 not have been enough. I obviously can't speak for the other
5 five commissioners because I have lived with this for a long
6 time, but I would be remiss if I expressed some concern that
7 the -- the other five commissioners really did not have a full
8 and fair opportunity to review this, and certainly for the two
9 commissioners who are not here today, whose thoughtful input we
10 should have as well.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: Anyone else?

12 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: (Indiscernible) I think
13 (indiscernible) had been living (indiscernible) points are
14 well-made. (Indiscernible) haven't had this for long
15 (indiscernible) going through this for 50 years
16 (indiscernible).

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I think it'd be more than a week.
18 Our next meeting is March 16th.

19 Patti, you might want to --

20 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, could I ask if there's any
21 other commissioner that would --

22 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: I would like to --

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: Was this going to --

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: No.

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: I was going to that --

1 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Wait. He's the --

2 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, I think you ask -- would you
3 ask the question then, Chair?

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: That's just -- just what I was doing.

5 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay. I'm sorry I'm so passionate
6 about this issue of ending deputy cliques within the Sheriff's
7 Department, but I am.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: I --

9 COMMISSIONER BONNER: So I apologize if I raised --

10 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: (Indiscernible).

11 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Yeah, right.

12 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Anyway.

13 I think the train has left the station. The train
14 has left the station. Unfortunately, whatever our community --
15 our internal communication about what we're going to be doing
16 here today, whatever -- however that got miscommunicated or
17 et cetera, the Board of Supervisors is waiting for it, the
18 Sheriff has it, the community has talked about it. I think the
19 idea of a supplemental -- and plus there's going to be other --
20 this is -- hopefully this is a living document. People are not
21 going to like it. We're going to be -- it's going to be
22 refuted. It's already been refuted by the former sheriff.
23 We're going to get other refutations and arguments. So, you
24 know, it might have -- you know, maybe we should have done it
25 in a little bit more of a timely manner, but we didn't, and now

1 it will be really -- I -- I'm sorry -- we would -- we would be
2 silly to not proceed. So I give a very firm second to move on
3 and adopt this and then do a supplemental and then let's make
4 it happen.

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I assume that's the second.

6 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yes, a second.

7 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: A long second.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Anything else or can we take a vote?

10 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Yeah. I just --

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: Luis -- oh, Luis. Go ahead.

12 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: So I -- I -- I do see the urgency of
13 this. You know for 50 years is the -- is the context. I
14 would argue, probably, maybe even longer, and, you know, we're
15 in this moment in time where the -- the perception is -- is
16 that we have a sheriff that is open, you know, into -- in --
17 into reforms and implementing, not sure about measuring, but I
18 think we'll get there. And I think right now, this opportune
19 time to get this report out will be a first -- great first
20 step, you know, after six years of, you know, this being --
21 going on in this commission, and I think it will begin,
22 conversations that will go into other levels that we can, as a
23 commission, look at. So I'm (indiscernible) that we
24 (indiscernible).

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

1 Can we take a vote, Ingrid?

2 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Bonner?

3 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Aye.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Garcia?

5 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: Aye.

6 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Giggans?

7 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: (No audible response.)

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Harris?

9 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: No.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Johnson?

11 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Aye.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Chair Kennedy?

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

14 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Rubin?

15 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: No, for the reasons I've stated. I
16 think we need the community input.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. With a vote of five ayes and two
18 noes, motion carries.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: I think that concludes our business for
20 this commission.

21 Bert, I just want to say, personally, how
22 appreciative I am of all the work that you have done for us
23 under impossible circumstances. You are truly the real deal.
24 And I just want to say I don't think this ad hoc could have
25 gotten through this process without you, and I just respect and

1 admire you and everything you have done on this issue for
2 everyone in this room, and -- and most importantly, all the
3 people out there in the community.

4 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Thank you.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Chair Kennedy?

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Hear, hear.

7 MS. WILLIAMS: I just wanted to note that we still have
8 the speakers who signed up to speak for general public comment.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: I thought we took it all at once.

10 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: No.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: That was for the motion --

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, we're going to take a break.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

14 We'll be back at 11:15.

15 (Fifteen-minute break from 11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.)

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. We're going to resume our hearing
17 on deputy gangs. This is the eighth special hearing. I think
18 we -- I think I made a procedural error, and we have to have
19 another round -- well, not have to -- we invite another round
20 of public comments on general matters.

21 I also want to say, obviously, it got a little
22 heated. People are passionate about these issues. So, you
23 know, let's just hear each other out because that we are this
24 far -- that we have gotten this far is -- is a testament to the
25 commitment and collegiality of this commission.

1 So public comment.

2 Yes. Yes. No, no, because that -- well, I assume
3 county counsel would say we would need another round so why
4 don't you make your motion right now?

5 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: I would like to move that the Board
6 of Supervisors, specifically and intentionally on our part,
7 receive a copy of our adopted recommendations.

8 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: I'll second.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

10 Ingrid, do we -- can we take the vote, or do we need
11 to do anything else?

12 MS. WILLIAMS: We can take public comment on the --

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: On everything?

14 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Right.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: We can do it all at once.

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. So we're going to do the public
17 comment, and then we're going to take that vote, Patti and JP.

18 MS. WILLIAMS: So our first speaker is Vanessa Perez,
19 followed by Andres Quan, followed by Ron Dell.

20 MS. PEREZ: -- and I'm Joseph Andrew Perez's mother,
21 Vanessa.

22 (Indiscernible) wanted to touch on Deputy Paul
23 Saldana. He was the last officer that beat my son after the
24 107 punches. Deputy Saldana came in with the last 14 punches,
25 and now he's at my daughter's high school. So the man that

1 attempted to murder her brother is at my daughter's high
2 school, Nogales High School in West Covina. I can't get this
3 man off the campus. They threatened me with a restraining
4 order; they've asked me not to be on the campus, and that's
5 ridiculous because my daughter goes there. I'm going to be on
6 the campus.

7 This man has took pictures of me and used them in our
8 court case for the restraining order, which they denied --
9 well, denied the court order, but they accepted the pictures.

10 I need him off the campus. I need my daughter away
11 from this man. I guess there's a one-year training that he
12 went through for a school resource officer, and I think this
13 should -- this incident alone should make that contract end.
14 It should not be -- should not be there. My daughter should
15 not have to go there with him, much less any other student at
16 school, because if he's having a bad day and a kid tells him to
17 "F" off, what's going to happen? Is he going to beat him the
18 way (indiscernible) my son?

19 Again, the MCJ records, I've been asking for them for
20 a while. I cannot get them -- the medical records from MCJ. I
21 don't know who's in charge of that or how to -- how do
22 (indiscernible) I got to talk to to get them.

23 Also, I wanted to say thank you for (indiscernible)
24 you guys. I do believe that there's change (indiscernible).

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

1 MS. WILLIAMS: Our second speaker, Andres Quan, followed
2 by Ron Dell, followed by Isaac Asbury.

3 MR. QUAN: Andres Quan, ACLU.

4 As we embark on listening to the families, they'll
5 tell us, as many have today, that we should not engage in some
6 pie-in-the-sky thinking that a new sheriff in town will be our
7 savior suddenly solving all our problems, especially a crisis
8 so pervasive that it's -- persists in sheriff after sheriff for
9 almost six decades. We are naïve to think Luna and his
10 management will eradicate deputy gangs out of the goodness of
11 their hearts, even if Luna is supposedly on board. In this
12 context, we need to remember that McDonnell initially said the
13 right things, and nothing happened. No, it's going to take
14 everything we got, which means every relevant stakeholder doing
15 their part. But county counsel has been a huge obstacle, as
16 the report indicates, using our taxpayer dollars, has been
17 complacent in hiding and enabling deputy gangs. The coroner
18 over the years has effectively colluded with the Sheriff's
19 Department. MCJ is still open like an open wound, continuing
20 to be a breeding ground for deputy gangs.

21 So we must also address these related problems,
22 holistically. Deputy gang members, while egregious, aren't the
23 only deputies in violating the law and our civil rights. The
24 real problem is the culture of the department that gives rise
25 to deputy gangs in the first place.

1 And so this report's recommendations for policies and
2 training and reforms, while necessary and worthy of adoption,
3 will just not be sufficient. What we truly need is structural
4 change. A holistic approach.

5 That's where the families and Check the Sheriff
6 brought Measure A last year with the support of the Board of
7 Supervisors. And we must ask this board to continue to
8 intervene in every possible way. And, yes, this will take
9 significant political capital. The real villain was never
10 Villanueva, really. It's been ALADS all along and all their
11 institutional enablers and the deep-seeded inertia in a county.
12 But here's a note of encouragement. We won Measure A with a
13 resounding "yes" from 72 percent of Angelinos, and Measures J
14 and R just before that.

15 This approach is a mandate, a clarion call for
16 sheriff accountability. So let's use it. Let's go all out
17 because that is what it's going to take.

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Andres.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Our next speaker, Ron Dell, followed by
20 Isaac Asbury, followed by Richie Serjanko.

21 MR. DELL: As I mentioned earlier, the other guilty
22 parties here are -- involved parties include the City of
23 Compton and the Board of Supervisors. I would only add that
24 the Compton, as a city, is not helpless and that we do have
25 agency here, but this is a test of those who are leading the

1 city of their ability to govern and to govern effectively; that
2 is really the point here. So instead of the -- the -- the
3 parties they'd like to have, the -- the little food giveaways,
4 and all of that thing, they are being tested right now on their
5 ability to govern and to govern effectively and properly.

6 That's all I have. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Thank you.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Isaac Asbury, followed by Richie Serjanko,
10 followed by Helen Jones.

11 MR. ASBURY: I will be quick.

12 The Sheriff's Department -- the incident report
13 officer-involved shooting website, when you go to it and you
14 check on the transparency, the owner took over its information
15 going back 20 years. Now Luna is in office, it's only going
16 back five years; so it needs to be looked into. And probably
17 would like to look at the LAPD's critical officer-involved
18 shooting website. Way more informative and up-to-date and
19 accurate compared to the Sheriff's outdated information.

20 Thank you.

21 I want to also thank the Vargas family for sticking
22 in here.

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Our next speaker refrained from speaking,
24 and so that leaves us with our last speaker, Helen Jones.

25 MS. JONES: Again, thank you commissioners for, you know,

1 really recognizing the deputy gangs. Thanks for all the work
2 you doing. (Indiscernible) exposing these deputy gangs, but we
3 really heard y'all today here, also when you said, Sean
4 Kennedy, that y'all hands are tied on a lot of things, and we
5 here to help y'all untie these things so we can get some type
6 of accountability for our family members.

7 Like we say again, this -- this problem goes on for
8 years. Next -- the month -- this month, on the 30th, will be
9 14 years that my son was murdered by the 3000 Boys deputy gang.
10 Viciously beat to death, and it's so many other families shot
11 down in the street, beat in jail cells.

12 And we really, really, really was urging this
13 commission to do y'all own investigation. Because if the
14 Sheriff Department know that y'all doing the investigation,
15 then they know what they -- y'all know what they seeing. We
16 have the evidence, we have the autopsy reports, we have the
17 crime scene photos, we have the truth, we have the name of
18 these gang members right in our autopsy -- right in our
19 reports, in our depositions. So start with us if y'all want to
20 do this investigation. We have the proof. You don't have to
21 go seek it out for somebody that won't give it to you. We'll
22 hand it over to you if -- we'll bring it here, you know.

23 So it's a way to do this. It's a way to do this to
24 where this can be done. We know that this is a cancer that can
25 be dug out. We can do this. But y'all got to really listen to

1 us, what we're saying. We've been telling y'all for years. We
2 have the names; we have the evidence. You don't have to ask
3 the Sheriff Department for the evidence, we have it already.
4 Start with the names that you do have, and y'all can see this
5 would really change because we do have to get rid of the deputy
6 gangs. We've got to get rid of them once and for all because
7 the Sheriff Department is not going to do that. Luna don't
8 have that power. He's not going to do that. So we got to make
9 sure that he can --

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

11 MS. JONES: -- get rid of the gangs.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: We have one last speaker, Michele Infante.

14 MS. INFANTE: I would definitely incur the -- encourage
15 this commission to read the report from UCLA. Helen and I have
16 been working together for five years, and it was her case that
17 brought forward that made us start looking at everyone else's
18 autopsy reports. And you can see how the Sheriff's Department
19 has permeated themselves into the room where they have murdered
20 someone. So now we have the murderer investigating the murder.
21 And I know I've said this before, and some of you may not like
22 it, but that's too bad. It's the murderer investigating the
23 murder. That's just straight up what it is.

24 And when you find out the people that are inside
25 there that are watching the autopsy report after they are the

1 ones who just killed somebody, offering through Helen's
2 deposition, offering information regarding the possibilities of
3 what could have happened to that person, you'll really start to
4 understand the depth of where these Sheriff's Department have
5 gone, not only in the air, on the ground, in custody, but
6 they're also wrapped up in the county coroners, and the coroner
7 doesn't have any responsibility to anything except for to the
8 County Board of Supervisors.

9 And that's why, once again, while all you new folks
10 are up here, I'm going to remind you that the County Board of
11 Supervisors has a conflict of interest involved in the work
12 that they're doing. They shouldn't be picking prices of
13 people's body parts to tell these families whose loved ones
14 have been killed by LASD how much they're going to be giving
15 someone. They're the ones, in advance, that knows what's
16 happened to that body, the amount of injuries because of the
17 conflict of interest between them and the county coroner.

18 So I would urge you to please read the UCLA report,
19 understand what these families are going through, and what it's
20 like for someone like Helen Jones to look at a piece of paper
21 and know that the very people that have killed her son, John
22 Horton, are the ones that are standing there in the room
23 offering advice as to what could have happened to that person.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Michele.

1 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

2 That concludes public comment.

3 MR. DEIXLER: Two things for the record.

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes, of course.

5 MR. DEIXLER: First, I've asked Ms. Infante, who
6 (indiscernible) given her my card and asked her to coordinate
7 among family members to contribute to the supplemental report,
8 which I gather (indiscernible).

9 And also, I did think it important. I just received
10 from the acting executive director, an email, which is a
11 statement attributed to the county counsel, which --

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: Can you read that?

13 MR. DEIXLER: -- I would like to read just the first two
14 paragraphs.

15 County counsel says, "We support the special
16 counsel's general conclusion that LASD deputy gangs have been
17 responsible for undermining the discipline, morale, and safety
18 of the department and the public. However, the special
19 counsel's accusation county counsel's office somehow provided
20 cover for LASD deputy gangs is not accurate. In fact" --
21 statement goes on -- "our office has been at the forefront the
22 Board's efforts to identify and eradicate these illegal deputy
23 gangs to prevent problem deputies from being rehired to the
24 force, and to take concrete actions in pursuit of full law
25 enforcement transparency."

1 And it provides a list of steps that county counsel
2 claims it has taken.

3 I thought it'd be important (indiscernible).

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: What a point to end on. Obviously, our
5 work is not done.

6 We're going to take a vote.

7 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Garcia?

8 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: (No audible response.)

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Giggans?

10 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: (No audible response.)

11 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Harris?

12 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Yes.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Johnson?

14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Chair Kennedy?

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Rubin?

18 COMMISSIONER RUBIN: Yes.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Motion carries.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: That concludes the eighth special hearing
21 on deputy gangs.

22 We have a regularly scheduled meeting on March 16th.
23 I don't know -- I don't know if we know where that is. So --
24 pardon? Oh.

25 (The hearing was concluded.)

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2) ss.
3 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)
4

5 I, LAURA GRIFFIN, AAERT CET 1709, do hereby certify:

6 That said digitally recorded audio of the Civilian
7 Oversight Commission Hearing, March 3, 2023, was transcribed
8 into computer-generated text under my direction and
9 supervision, and I hereby certify the foregoing transcript to
10 the best of my ability.

11 I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor
12 related to any party to said action nor in any way interested
13 in the outcome thereof.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name
15 this 14th day of April, 2023.

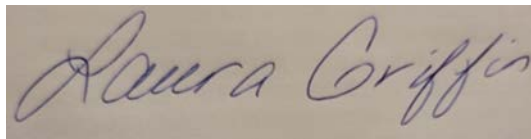
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A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Griffin".

21

LAURA GRIFFIN

22

AAERT CET 1709

23

24

25

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