



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING HELD
ONLINE AT: [https://
coc.lacounty.gov](https://coc.lacounty.gov)**



Thursday, June 15, 2023

Attachment: [Video](#)

Present: Chair Sean Kennedy, Vice Chair Jamon R. Hicks, Robert Bonner, Luis S. Garcia, James Harris, and Interim Executive Director Danielle Butler Vappie

Absent: Patricia Giggans, Hans Johnson, and Irma Hagans Cooper

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR

Call to Order: Chair Kennedy called the Commission meeting to order at 9:08 a.m., provided an overview of the agenda, and requested staff call the roll.

Approval of Consent Calendar: Chair Kennedy called for approval of the May 18, 2023 minutes. There were no objections to approval and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

Family Impact Remarks: Chair Kennedy advised there are no family impact remarks.

Chair Kennedy then moved to public comment; however, no one signed up to make a comment on this item. Chair Kennedy then moved to item 2.

2. REPORTS & POSSIBLE ACTION

2.a. Chair's Report

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

2.b. Executive Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Danielle Butler Vappie acknowledged the Mayor of Compton Emma Sharif and thank her for permitting the Commission to use the facility. Ms. Butler Vappie reported that the Commission has held three sessions related to LA County jails and thanked Commissioner Luis S. Garcia for moderating the conferences. Ms. Butler Vappie announced upcoming Commission events, including the Juneteenth event in South Los Angeles; a community meeting on deputy gangs at the Florence Library, and a virtual conference on investigation of fatal officer shootings. Ms. Butler Vappie advised that the Commission has a vacancy for a community-appointed commissioner and that anyone interested can apply at coc.lacounty.gov.

Following Ms. Butler Vappie's comments, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2c.

2.c. Office of Inspector General Report

Inspector General Max Huntsman discussed the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) report and advised that LASD is still not in compliance with PREA. Mr. Huntsman reported that his office has conducted multiple station jail audits, which are temporary holding facilities, and that the most troubling issue is lack of cooperation with providing details regarding investigations. Mr. Huntsman noted that some improvements have been made and that LASD is moving in the right direction.

Following Mr. Huntsman's comments, Chair Kennedy moved to Commissioner questions and comments. Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2d.

2.d. Commissioner Comments / Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Commissioner Garcia advised that a report on conditions of confinement was submitted by LASD at the Commission's request and included a summary on processing delays, overcrowding issues, statistics related to grievances and town halls.

Commissioner Bonner proposed that the Chair request Sheriff Luna provide in writing an update on implementing policies regarding deputy gangs, including the adoption of recommendations A2 and A3 from the Commission's report on deputy gangs.

Following Commissioner updates and questions, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2.e.

2.e. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

Chair Kennedy introduced Sheriff Luna. Sheriff Luna advised that Eileen Decker Head of Constitutional Policing has met with the Commission to discuss the deputy gang policy recommendations. Sheriff Luna noted that three specific policies were discussed and that the draft has been forwarded to OIG for comments. Also, LASD is working with ALADS and labor organizations regarding the policy recommendations. Sheriff Luna also advised that he has been meeting with management staff "captains and above" as well as newly promoted and soon to promoted sergeants to "talk to them about my expectations" regarding deputy gangs. Sheriff Luna discussed personnel promotions and the challenges he faces asking candidates questions about their tattoos. Sheriff Luna further reported that "Assistant Sheriff Jill Torres is implementing a prohibition against joining gangs and cliques as a condition of employment" and that Undersheriff Tardy has developed an internal task force of management and supervisory personnel to eliminate deputy gangs and cliques within the LASD. Following Sheriff Luna's comments, Chair Kennedy asked for Commissioner questions and comments.

Commissioner Bonner inquired about the labor unions and their role with LASD implementing policies on deputy gangs. Sheriff Luna advised that labor unions will have an opportunity to review the policies and provide recommendations prior to implementation.

Chair Kennedy inquired whether deputies being interviewed for promotions who have been involved in a shooting or use of force are asked if they have a gang-related tattoo and whether the information is relayed to the District Attorney's Office (DA). Sheriff Luna confirmed that

during an interview process, questions related to tattoos are asked and that the DA is notified. Sheriff Luna then withdrew his response and stated that he would confirm that response with his team and report back. Chair Kennedy told Sheriff Luna that he would forward his questions in writing. Sheriff Luna also reported that LASD is having discussions with outside agencies to conduct an independent review on the Andres Guardado case. Sheriff Luna reported that street takeovers have been a challenge across the country and that LASD is working with other law enforcement agencies such as LAPD and CHP to resolve the issue.

Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment.

There were 5 members of the public who commented on this item.

Chair Kennedy then moved to item 3.

3. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

3.a. Nominations for the election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Kennedy open the floor for nominations to the position of Chair and Vice Chair and advised that the election will take place at the July meeting. Commissioner Bonner nominated Sean Kennedy for the Chair's position and Jamon R. Hicks for the Vice Chair's position. Commissioner Harris seconded both nominations. There were no other nominations made. Ms. Butler Vappie acknowledged that Commissioners Patti Giggans, Hans Johnson, and Irma Hagans Cooper were not present and that she will confer with County Counsel regarding possibly taking their nominations at the July meeting.

Following nominations, Chair Kennedy called for a 15-minute recess at 10:32 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:47 a.m., present were Chair Sean Kennedy, Vice Chair Jamon R. Hicks, Robert Bonner, Luis S. Garcia, James P. Harris, and Interim Executive Director Danielle Butler Vappie.

Following the break, Chair Kennedy moved to item 3b.

3.b. Street Takeovers

Chair Kennedy introduced the topic and acknowledged speakers Lili Trujillo Puckett, Executive Director of Street Racing Kills, Captain Terrance Bell from LASD. Ms. Butler Vappie introduced the Mayor of Compton Emma Sharif who thanked the Commission for addressing this important issue, the community for their attendance, and LASD, CHP, and other County partners for their support and working with the community on this issue. She also advised that she looks forward to continuing the dialog.

Commander Rick Rector from LASD briefly discussed the procedures in place for addressing street takeovers and introduced Captain Terrance Bell from the Compton station. Captain Bell shared a power point presentation and provided a detailed overview of the work that's being done to eliminate street takeovers. Captain Bell discussed the Compton station's task force, consisting of a division enforcement team with eight deputies and two sergeants primarily

focused in central patrol division that address street takeover events. In addition, Captain Bell reported a summer team with six deputies and one sergeant is assigned to each station and begins operation at the end of May each year. Captain Bell informed the Commission that the task force team with six deputies and one sergeant has conducted special operations every weekend to eradicate street takeover and that LASD has collaborated with the California Highway Patrol on multiple occasions to disrupt the problem. Captain Bell provided the Vehicle Codes LASD uses to enforce elimination of street takeovers and shared data/statistics covering eight weekends (4/21/23-6/11/23). Captain Bell also discussed preventive measures that can assist with this problem, like installing surveillance cameras, placing bot dots on the road, and signage. Captain Bell went on to discuss short-term and long-term goals and noted the importance of community engagement. Captain Bell reported that community concerns were discussed at a Compton town hall meeting and that LASD is working with Compton community leaders and school officials to educate the public on the dangers of street takeovers.

Lili Trujillo Puckett, Executive Director of Street Racing Kills, thanked the Commission for the invitation. Ms. Trujillo Puckett stated that her organization's focus is on mentoring youth and educating communities about the dangers of street takeovers to prevent further loss of life. Ms. Trujillo Puckett advised that the problem has grown since 2014 and reported that from January to June, her organization has mentored 570 individuals. Ms. Trujillo Puckett discussed several legislative bills related to the issue that have passed and some that her organization is working on.

Following the presentations, Chair Kennedy moved to Commissioner questions and comments.

Commissioner Bonner inquired about LASD enforcement efforts and if there has been a reduction in number or size of street takeovers since the task force has been in effect. Captain Bell stated the number of participants as well as the number of street takeovers occurring in Compton and in unincorporated areas has been reduced since the task force has been in effect.

Commissioner Hicks asked if social media platforms are monitored to anticipate the next street takeover event. Captain Bell confirmed they monitor social media accounts and advised that LASD partners with other law enforcement agencies and share this type of information.

Commissioner Harris inquired about forfeiture of vehicles participating in a street takeover. Ms. Lili Trujillo Puckett advised that her organization is pushing Assembly Bill 72, which will allow law enforcement agencies to permanently confiscate vehicles participating in street takeovers. She encouraged everyone to support the bill by contacting their state representatives.

Chair Kennedy thanked the presenters and moved to item 3.c.

3.c. Fatal Officer Shooting of Andres Guardado

Chair Kennedy advised that the Commission invited the DA to attend the meeting to discuss the investigation of the Andres Guardado shooting. Chair Kennedy expressed his disappointment that the detectives investigating the shooting plead the 5th Amendment at the Coroner's inquest to avoid answering questions and that the DA found no basis to prosecute the deputies involved in the shooting.

Chair Kennedy further stated that the DA's letter asked that the Commission submit written questions for their response. Chair Kennedy advised that the Commission will be sending questions to the DA's Office.

Following Commissioner comments, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment.

There were twelve members of the public who commented on this item.

Chair Kennedy then moved to item 4.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 8 people who provided public comment. View written public comment [here](#).

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy informed the attendees that the next commission meeting will be held in person on July 20, 2023 at St. Anne's. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.