



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION HELD AT
ST. ANNE'S CONFERENCE AND EVENT CENTER
Thursday, October 19, 2023**



Attachment: [Video](#)

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

Absent: Irma Hagans Cooper

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR

Call to Order: Chair Kennedy called the Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission) meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Chair Kennedy gave an overview of the agenda and announced that the Commission will be participating in the "Great Shake Out" earthquake drill at 10:19 a.m. He then called on staff to take roll.

Following roll call, Chair Kennedy moved to the consent calendar. There were no objections to the consent calendar. Chair Kennedy then called for public comment.

Approval of Consent Calendar: Chair Kennedy called for approval of the consent calendar, there being no objections, the [September 21, 2023, minutes](#) were adopted unanimously.

Family Impact Remarks: Chair Kennedy advised there were no requests for family impact remarks. Chair Kennedy acknowledged the presence of Sheriff Robert Luna and moved to item 2f because Sheriff Luna could not stay the whole meeting.

No members of the public signed up to comment on item 1.

2. REPORTS & POSSIBLE ACTION

2f. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

Sheriff Luna informed the Commission that he will be leaving early for a press conference and advised that Acting Assistant Sheriff Myron Johnson and Captain Geoffrey Deedrick will be available to answer questions. Sheriff Luna thanked the Commission and the public for their support regarding the passing of Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer. Sheriff Luna reported that LASD along with the US Attorney, FBI, and other law enforcement agencies recently held a summit on Hate Crime and encouraged everyone to report hate crimes. Sheriff Luna reported that a domestic violence coordinator has been assigned to LASD and that policies on deputy gangs, deputy cliques, tattoos, and emblems is being reviewed and a meet and confer meeting is scheduled with the labor unions. Sheriff Luna discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and confidentiality agreement and expressed concern with confidential information remaining confidential. Sheriff Luna advised that Captain Deedrick will answer any School Resource Deputy questions.

Commissioner Bonner inquired about the status of the proposed policy on deputy gangs and deputy cliques, and he commended Sheriff Luna and the Office of Constitutional Policing for their outreach to the community by hosting a community event in South LA and inquired if LASD has plans for outreach dialogue in other LASD stations.

Sheriff Luna stated that outreach dialogue was held in the Antelope Valley and that additional community outreach events will be planned and that LASD welcomes any feedback.

Chair Kennedy expressed concern with the LASD Risk Management staff and Office of Constitutional Policing sharing the same office space. Sheriff Luna confirmed that the two units are sharing the same office and that he is currently reviewing the policies and procedures and that changes are being made. Chair Kennedy voiced concern with "Risk Management considerations possibly affecting Office of Constitutional Policing policy."

Commissioner Johnson inquired about unfiltered water in detention facilities in L.A. County and asked if Sheriff Luna has been made aware of the poor water quality. Sheriff Luna advised that he visits each facility quarterly and that access to water should be available to in custody people and staff. Commissioner Johnson requested a follow-up report on the water issue be provided to the Commission.

Interim Executive Director Vappie informed Sheriff Luna that Commission staff will request information from LASD through normal protocol. Following Sheriff Luna's comments, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2a.

2a. Chair's Report

Chair Kennedy reported that attempts to have former Sheriff Alex Villanueva and Undersheriff Timothy Murakami appear before this Commission to testify about deputy gangs and deputy cliques have been unsuccessful and inquired about the next steps to take.

Commissioner Bonner advised that the Deputy Clique ad hoc committee has reviewed the decision of the California Court of Appeal and the decision of Judge Lu of the Superior Court and advised that the next step is to proceed with the two-step process. Commissioner Bonner made a motion for County Counsel (CoCo) to modify the petition and "go back to Superior Court and request an order to show cause why Alex Villanueva should not be ordered by the Superior Court to appear and testify before this Commission at the earliest possible opportunity." Commissioner Bonner expressed the importance of the former Sheriff's testimony and reminded the Commission that the subpoena was issued to Alex Villanueva two years ago. Commissioner Bonner again requested an executive closed session with CoCo to discuss their suggestions on the issue.

Chair Kennedy agreed with Commissioner Bonner and noted that the issue has gone on far too long, and he seconded the motion.

CoCo representative Amara Kirby advised the Commission that "the writ and those results were not on the agenda and recommended properly adding the topic and the motion to the agenda." Chair Kennedy advised that the issue was not placed on the agenda because CoCo

did not inform the Commission about the order until after the agenda was posted and that he received the information from the Los Angeles Times.

Interim Executive Director Vappie advised she would communicate the Commission's request for CoCo to appear before the Superior Court to issue an order to show cause.

Ms. Kirby suggested holding an urgency vote to explain why the item needs to be on this agenda and then call for the motion on the item to avoid violating the Brown Act.

Commissioner Bonner requested a preamble to the motion, based on the emergent situation and noted it is imperative that Alex Villanueva testify before the Commission as part of the special investigation into deputy gangs. Commissioner Bonner made a motion that "CoCo be and is directed to forthwith petition Judge Lu in the Superior Court for an order to show cause that Alex Villanueva be ordered by the Superior Court to appear at our next scheduled public hearing and that 2 hours be set aside for the questioning of Alex Villanueva on the issue of the existence of deputy gangs and deputy cliques within the Sheriff's Department and whether or not his policies were effective in eradicating them."

URGENCY VOTE

Chair Kennedy called for an urgency vote to agendize directing CoCo to petition the Superior Court for an order to show cause that Alex Villanueva be ordered by the Superior Court to appear at the next scheduled public hearing. The reason the item was not on the agenda is because CoCo did not notify the Commission of judge's ruling in time. Immediate action is necessary because a deadline was previously missed by counsel without filing documents and the Commission doesn't want to allow that to occur again.

Commissioner Bonner made the motion. Commissioner Harris seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

VOTE ON MOTION

Chair Kennedy called for an urgency vote to agendize directing CoCo to petition the Superior Court for an order to show cause that Alex Villanueva be ordered by the Superior Court to appear at the next scheduled public hearing to question Alex Villanueva on the issue of the existence of deputy gangs and deputy cliques within the Sheriff's Department and whether or not his policies were effective in eradicating them.

Commissioner Bonner made the motion. Chair Kennedy seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2b. Executive Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Vappie reported that the Commission will be holding its 3rd Annual Policing conference on Friday, October 27, 2023, at CAL State LA. Interim Executive Director Vappie informed the Commission that she was asked to continue her role as Interim Executive Director until the new person is selected and that she anticipates the new Executive Director will start soon.

2c. Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report

Inspector General Max Huntsman agreed with CoCo's comments regarding the unagendized item. He then provided a brief overview of the procedure for discussing items not on the agenda and advised that the Commission is advisory and that voting on the motion for an unagendized item would not cause any harm. Mr. Huntsman went on to say that the Commission and the OIG's responsibility is to "force the government to comply with the law" and that the County in general is not in compliance with California Law on Law Enforcement Gangs. Mr. Huntsman went on to report that OIG will be issuing a report on lack of compliance within the Sheriff's Department in a few weeks. Mr. Huntsman advised that he recommended disbandment of LASD's Risk Management unit because of its ineffectiveness to prevent risks. Mr. Huntsman went on to discuss the murder of an in-custody person captured on video and advised that more information on the issue will be provided in the OIG report. Mr. Huntsman encouraged the Commission to continue aggressively pursuing the subpoena against Sheriff Alex Villanueva.

2d. Commissioner Comments/Ad Hoc Committee Update

Commissioner Johnson reported that there was action at the Board of Supervisors meeting on tasers. Following Commissioner comments, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment.

2e. Sybil Brand Commission

No one was present to provide an update. Interim Executive Director Vappie advised that Sybil Brand has been conducting inspections in the jails and is not present today but will be presenting to the Commission in the future.

There were four members of the public who commented on item 2.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

3. Ad Hoc Committee's School Resource Deputy Report

Commissioner Garcia introduced the topic, acknowledged the ad hoc committee members, and provided an overview of Quality-of-Life ad hoc committee's [report on School Resource Deputies](#) (SRD). He encouraged everyone to read the report and shared the five recommendations made by ad hoc committee. Commissioner Garcia advised that a copy of the report was forward to LASD and that a response has not been received. He reported that the Quality-of-Life ad hoc committee met its purpose and made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Harris, to adopt and forward the SRD report and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), LASD and the Chief Executive Office. Commissioner Garcia then called on Inspector General Chief Deputy Dara Williams to discuss SRDs.

Ms. Williams advised that the SRD report covered the three "T's" training, terms of contract with the Sheriff Department, and transparency. She noted that the SRD report covers all the specifics and reported that OIG's SRD report will be available by next month and will specify recommendations. Ms. Williams reported that the BOS previously passed a motion to develop the Department of Youth Development (DYD) to enhance the interaction with youth throughout the Department with Probation and LASD, and she encouraged LASD to collaborate with DYD.

Following Commissioner Garcia's report, Chair Kennedy called for Commissioner questions and public comment.

Chair Kennedy inquired about why LASD had not responded to the SRD report. LASD Captain Geoffrey Deedrick advised that LASD has not had an opportunity to review the report in its entirety because they just received it a few days ago, but that he believes LASD will agree with the recommendations except the contract portion, which is out of his area of expertise.

Commissioner Bonner questioned if LASD is utilizing their resources effectively and if they should be providing SRD services at all, considering they're currently understaffed.

Ms. Williams suggested LASD consider making Mental Evaluation Teams the first responder in place of SRDs.

Commissioner Harris agreed with Commissioner Bonner that LASD should re-exam the need for SRDs to determine if LASD resources are being used in the most effective way.

There were four members of the public who commented on item 3.

VOTE ON MOTION

Chair Kennedy called for a vote on the motion to adopt and forward the SRD report and recommendations to the BOS, LASD, and the Chief Executive Office. Commissioner Garcia made the motion. Commissioner Harris seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carries with a unanimous vote.

Following the vote, Chair Kennedy called for a 15-minute recess at 11:10 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:25 a.m. Present were Chair Sean Kennedy, Vice Chair Jamon R. Hicks, Robert Bonner, Luis S. Garcia, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Hans Johnson, and Interim Executive Director Danielle Butler Vappie.

Following the break, Chair Kennedy moved to item 4.

4. Senate Bill (SB) 1421

Chair Kennedy announced the next topic and acknowledged Tamara Burrell, CoCo Division Chief of Peace Officer Records Division (PORD). Ms. Burrell introduced herself and shared a PowerPoint presentation on CoCo's SB1421 division. Ms. Burrell gave an overview and provided examples of releasable records under SB1421. Ms. Burrell discussed PORD's procedures for processing SB1421 requests and noted that PORD will post records within 30 days on a public website. Ms. Burrell advised that PORD uses GovQA software and noted that the PORD team cannot operate per the ordinance until it is fully staffed but she anticipates launching the website fully by 1st quarter 2024.

Following Ms. Burrell's comments, Chair Kennedy moved to Commissioner questions and public comment.

Vice Chair Hicks questioned if body camera footage will also be released within 30 days. Ms. Burrell responded and provided an example of PRAs with audio video requests.

Chair Kennedy inquired about when PORD will be taking over the role of responding to PRA requests. Ms. Burrell advised that PORD must be fully staffed before the division can operate. Chair Kennedy inquired if there's anything that the Commission can do to support PORD with

funding and staffing. Ms. Burrell advised that LASD has been very cooperative in working with PORD.

There were four members of the public who commented on item 4.

5. Memorandum of Understanding

Chair Kennedy advised that the Commission is unable to access confidential records and that the Commission had requested a copy of the internal investigation of the Executioners and was informed that an MOU between LASD and the Commission is needed before release of records to the relevant ad hoc committee. Chair Kennedy stated “the Commission has been requesting the MOU for a long time and inquired if CoCo has anything to report regarding the creation of a permanent MOU on all issues regarding the sharing of confidential information between LASD and the Commission regarding relevant ad hoc issues.”

Ms. Kirby introduced herself and shared her employment background. She advised that a draft confidentiality agreement was developed and shared with Chair Kennedy, LASD, and the Office of Constitutional Policing. She advised that the ordinance allows an additional mechanism for the Commission to receive confidential information through the OIG. Ms. Kirby reported that CoCo is currently waiting to hear from the Sheriff because all parties must agree to the agreement.

Commissioner Bonner advised that based on the ordinance and MOU, OIG could obtain confidential information but that they cannot share that information with the Commissioners. Commissioner Bonner provided background information regarding the request for CoCo to draft an MOU agreement between the Commission and LASD that would permit LASD to share confidential information with Commissioners relevant to ad hoc committees, and that CoCo sought outside counsel to confirm if the action was acceptable. Commissioner Bonner advised that the Commission received a disclosure agreement from CoCo but no MOU. Commissioner Bonner volunteered to draft a proposed MOU and forward it to the Chair.

Commissioner Bonner inquired if OIG is willing to share confidential information with the Commission, and Ms. Williams advised LASD is the best entity to provide the Commission with confidential information since they are the custodian of records.

Chair Kennedy questioned why CoCo is reluctant to develop an MOU between the Commission and LASD. Ms. Kirby advised that the current draft is in the works and suggested continuing the discussion off-line due to attorney client privilege.

Ms. Williams agreed to help facilitate the Commission’s request for an MOU from CoCo.

No members of the public signed up to comment on item 5.

6. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were nine member of the public who commented on item 6.

Chair Kennedy reported that he will consider allowing Dignity & Power to present on police reports.

View written public comments by clicking [here](#).

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy reminded attendees of the Community Policing Conference on October 27, 2023 and advised the next Commission meeting will be held on November 9, 2023, at St. Anne's Conference Center. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.