



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING
PECK PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
Thursday, December 14, 2023**



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Commissioners Present:

Chair Sean Kennedy
Robert Bonner
Luis S. Garcia
Patricia Giggans
James Harris
Hans Johnson

Commissioners Excused:

Vice Chair Jamon Hicks
Irma Hagans Cooper

Staff Present:

Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director
Amara Kirby, County Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Sean Kennedy called the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission) meeting to order at 9:26 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

Staff member Erick Montalbán-Lara and conducted the roll call. The quorum requirement was met.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR:

There were no objections to the consent calendar and the [November 9, 2023, meeting minutes](#) were adopted. No members of the community signed up to comment on this item.

IV. FAMILY IMPACT REMARKS:

No members of the community signed up to make family impact remarks.

V. COMMISSION/AGENCY REPORTS

1. Chair's Report

Chair Kennedy introduced the new Executive Director, Sharmaine Moseley.

2. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Sharmaine Moseley introduced herself and shared her background in civilian oversight of law enforcement. Ms. Moseley provided an overview of her goals and objectives for the Commission over the next 6 months that includes supporting the needs of the Commission. She further mentioned studying the internal operations and staffing so both are operating efficiently. She plans to create a work plan outlining Commission goals and

priorities.” Ms. Moseley acknowledged and thanked Commissioner Garcia for his presentation to the Commission on Children and Families at their monthly meeting on December 4, 2023, and for moderating the Commission’s virtual conference on law enforcement mental health and wellness that was held on December 7, 2023.

Commissioners Bonner, Giggans and Johnson welcomed Ms. Moseley and stated that they are looking forward to working with her.

3. Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Report

Office of the Inspector General’s (OIG) Chief Deputy Dara Williams reported that OIG is developing a report card that will include the previous administrations’ performance. Ms. Williams stated that OIG has contacted the Los Angeles Sheriff Department (LASD) to confirm if they are tracking OIG recommendations and if any of the recommendations made by OIG have been implemented. Ms. Williams also reported that OIG is developing a report on LASD investigations involving deputy gangs and that the report will include other LASD matters that may need to be researched. Ms. Williams reported that OIG anticipates the report card being completed by the beginning of 2024 along with the School Resource Deputy (SRD) report. Ms. Williams noted that there is a motion on the Board of Supervisors’ calendar for Tuesday regarding the LASD complaint process and that OIG has been asked to provide input.

Commissioner Robert Bonner inquired if the Commission’s recommendations related to eliminating deputy gangs is being tracked by OIG and if not, the Executive Director should develop a tracking mechanism to determine when recommendations have been implemented. Ms. Williams advised that the OIG report card does not include Commission recommendations but that she will confer with Inspector General Max Huntsman to confirm if they are being tracked or have been implemented.

Commissioner Bonner advised that the deputy gangs ad hoc committee will be making a formal request to OIG regarding harassment complaints made by family members whose loved ones died at the hands of LASD and whether any investigations have been conducted and their outcome. Ms. Williams requested that the ad hoc committee include specific dates and information when submitting their request, taking into consideration that a family harassment report was completed by OIG in the past.

Ms. Williams reported on the LASD complaint form and advised that complaints are taken by the watch commander and in some instances the correct box is not checked when complaints are being made. She reported that there is no consistency in the complaint process. Commissioner Bonner requested OIG work with staff to confirm if harassment complaints were filed by individuals who have come before the Commission and what the results were and to report back within 60 days.

Commissioner Harris expressed concern with LASD watch commanders lack of knowledge when taking complaints and recommended additional training on completing complaint forms. He also requested reviewing the complaint form and procedures for the complaint process to ensure the procedures are being followed.

Chief Deputy Williams advised that OIG prepared a [report in 2020 on family harassment](#) for the previous administration, and that it does not include the current administration, therefore, she cannot confirm if any improvements have been made.

Chair Kennedy inquired about LASD terms of conditions and employment for new hires and whether the new hires are informed that they cannot join gangs or cliques. Assistant Sheriff Francisco responded that new hires do sign the terms of conditions and employment form. She agreed to provide the form and requested information within 60 days. Commissioner Harris requested a copy of the terms of conditions form and the date that it was instituted.

4. Ad Hoc Committee Update/Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Bonner advised that County Counsel is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for ad hoc committees to access confidential information and that he and Executive Director Moseley will meet with County Counsel to discuss concerns and come to an agreement with LASD. He also noted that there will be an additional special hearing on deputy gangs at Loyola Law School on January 12, 2024, at 9:00am. Commissioner Bonner reported that the Commission, special counsel, and County Counsel have made multiple attempts to request Alex Villanueva to testify about deputy gangs. Commissioner Bonner advised that he was informed by counsel for Villanueva that Villanueva will appear and testify under oath on deputy gangs.

5. Sybil Brand Commission

Chair Kennedy advised that there is no Sybil Brand Commissioner to provide an update.

6. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Assistant Sheriff Holly Francisco provided an overview of Sheriff Luna's top five priorities and goals for 2023, that included prioritizing, reducing crime, restoring public trust, modernizing LASD to the 21st Century, impacting homelessness and employee wellness. She shared LASD's year-end report and highlighted improvements made in the Custody Division and implementation of a two-captain model at Lancaster and East Los Angeles stations. Assistant Sheriff Francisco discussed Sheriff Luna's plan to upgrade aging infrastructure, strengthen community relationships, and increase accountability and transparency measures within the department. She shared Sheriff Luna's plans for 2024 which included requesting an outside agency to perform an organizational assessment to evaluate staffing, workload, training, policies, and overtime. She also discussed the development of the Office of Constitutional Policing and noted that a draft deputy gang policy was developed and a meet and confer with LASD and labor unions will be scheduled. Assistant Sheriff Francisco cannot provide a specific date of the meet and confer.

Commissioner Harris requested a copy of the report presented by Assistant Sheriff Francisco and noted he is hopeful that both LASD and labor unions can come to an agreement regarding the deputy gangs policy. He also expressed concern with LASD overtime and the possibility of LASD lowering standards in a rush to fill the vacancies. Commissioner Harris recommended reviewing current LASD contracts to see if they can be canceled to move deputies back to where LASD needs their service. He also suggested LASD explore recruiting from out of state.

Commissioner Johnson expressed concern with LGBTQIA+ awareness and LGBT hate within LASD, the lack of Black women in leadership roles, hiring and promotions within the LASD, and the efforts regarding homelessness and the recent killings of people without homes.

Assistant Sheriff Francisco advised that LASD recently hired a Black Assistant Sheriff and that two females were promoted to captain. She stated that women are treated equal in the department and that 20% of LASD leadership are women and the Sheriff's goal is 30%. She further stated that LGBTQIA+ matters are a priority with Sheriff Luna and LASD is working to train all LASD staff and stations on this issue. Assistant Sheriff Francisco also noted that LASD's Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) team collaborated with the Los Angeles Police Department during the recent homeless killings and that the Mental Evaluation Teams (MET) should be expanded.

OIG Chief Deputy Williams suggested the current administration review past and present recommendations in the interim to avoid duplicating previous recommendations made in the past, even if a comprehensive report is in the works. Ms. Williams advised that she is willing to send the Sheriff copies of the reports in her possession if needed. Commissioner Bonner advised that he is in support with LASD's plan to hire an outside entity to conduct an organizational assessment to evaluate staffing, training, and policies. He also supports that the human resources unit review previous reports for staffing issues.

Chair Kennedy moved to public comment. Two members of the community signed up to comment on this item. Paula Yanez discussed deputy gangs' ongoing abuse in the community and suggested more resources be made available to low-income communities. Vanessa Perez discussed three deputies identified as being members of the Executioners deputy gang receiving awards.

Before the break, Commissioner Bonner advised that he would be leaving early and asked to share his 2024 goals and priorities for the Commission. His list included working to get Sheriff Luna to adopt the draft policy and recommendations on deputy gangs, specifically, recommendations 2 & 3; implementation of a MOU with LASD providing the ad hoc committees access to confidential information; initiate a full oversight inquiry of LASD's discipline process to make serious reforms and recommendations; and to locate a permanent home for the Commission to hold its meetings.

Then, Chair Kennedy called for a 15-minute recess at 10:40 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:11 a.m. Present were Chair Sean Kennedy, Luis S. Garcia, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Hans Johnson, and Executive Director Sharmaine Moseley.

VI. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Recap/Highlights of Commission Activities in 2023

Chair Kennedy introduced staff member Tracy Jordan, who shared a [presentation](#) on the Commission's activities in 2023.

Following the presentation, Chair Kennedy called for public comments. No members of the community signed up to comment on this item. Chair Kennedy moved to the next item.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Commission Goals and Priorities for 2024

Chair Kennedy acknowledged and agreed with Commissioner Bonner's 2024 goals. He recalled that two years ago, penal code 13670 was enacted requiring every law enforcement agency in California to adopt an anti-gang enforcement policy and that LASD has been out of compliance. Chair Kennedy also stated that it is imperative to have a mechanism in place to allow this Commission access to confidential documents related to matters the Commission is expected to evaluate, as well as a strategy to gain strong support from the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to help the Commission obtain information needed to fulfill its duties. Chair Kennedy advised that the Commission is still waiting on a copy of the report from Undersheriff Tardy who reported that an extensive investigation was conducted on the Executioners and that no one was found culpable. Chair Kennedy reported that several letters have been sent to the BOS by himself and previous Commission Chair Priscilla Ocen requesting attorney client privilege be waived on County Counsel's opinion on deputy gangs and that a response has never been received.

Commissioner Harris agreed with previous goals mentioned and noted that access to confidential information is essential for the Commission to fulfill its obligation. He suggested possibly changing the County code or looking for different ways to get legislative relief to give the Commission access to confidential information.

Commissioner Giggans suggested developing primary and secondary priorities and inquired if the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) can provide information on organizations that do trust and verify.

Executive Director Moseley stated that the City of San Diego has access to confidential information and investigative reports by signing a confidentiality agreement.

Chair Kennedy advised that the Commission should engage with the BOS, County Counsel, OIG, and LASD to find a solution.

OIG Chief Deputy Williams advised that OIG's reluctance to share information is because Max Huntsman is still under criminal investigation for accessing information that the OIG had permission to access and that the State Attorney General has not concluded the investigation. Commissioner Harris suggested that Chair Kennedy draft a letter to the Attorney General explaining that the prolonged investigation is impeding the Commission in providing oversight to LASD and request that the investigation involving Mr. Huntsman and others be concluded.

Chief Deputy Williams suggested a written opinion by County Counsel allowing OIG to provide the confidential documents to ad hoc committee members may work. Chair Kennedy questioned if OIG has requested that from County Counsel. Ms. Williams advised that OIG has not requested that but that the Commission had in the past. She also reported that OIG is waiting on a County Counsel opinion to eliminate background checks on OIG employees.

Commissioner Giggans requested clarification on the Commission's 2024 goals. Chair Kennedy suggested retiring dormant ad hoc committees and holding special hearings.

Executive Director Moseley read the list of Commission goals and priorities discussed for 2024:

1. Special hearings on deputy gangs
2. Get the Sheriff to adopt recommendations on deputy gangs and cliques
3. Implementation of MOU to allow the Commission access to confidential information
4. Review discipline process for LASD and make reforms
5. Confirm permanent location for Commission meetings
6. Meet in downtown Los Angeles area
7. Request support from BOS to achieve the Commission's mission
8. Modify the Commission's ordinance to allow it to hold closed session
9. Improve partnership with OIG
10. Jails and PREA

Commissioner Giggans commented on the conditions in the jails and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and suggested adding that into the goals. Executive Director Moseley confirmed adding a tenth goal of jail conditions.

Chair Kennedy confirmed that Commission staff would craft the list into a document then he made a motion for the Commission to accept the goals and called for public comment. One member of the community signed up to comment on this item. Paula Yanez discussed redirecting LASD funding to the community and that deputies need treat people with respect.

MOTION

Chair Kennedy moved for the Commission to adopt the Commission's goals and priorities for 2024 (listed above). Commissioner Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5 – 0.

Yays: Chair Kennedy, Commissioners Garcia, Giggans, Harris, and Johnson

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent/Excused: Vice Chair Hicks, Commissioners Bonner and Cooper

2. 2024 Commission Meeting Schedule

Chair Kennedy discussed the [proposed dates for 2024 Commission meetings](#) and advised that the meetings would continue to be on the third Thursday of each month. He advised that the October meeting would be held on the fourth Thursday, October 24 and called for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Johnson expressed his appreciation for the efforts made to identify a meeting location and advised that St. Anne's Conference Center is accommodating and centrally located. He proposed continuing to meet at St. Anne's until a permanent location can be confirmed.

Commissioner Giggans recalled that additional meetings are being held throughout the County and suggested the Commission continue with additional meetings.

Chair Kennedy made a motion to adopt the meeting dates and called for public comment. One member of the public commented on this item. Paula Yanez requested more time be given during public comment.

MOTION

Chair Kennedy moved for the Commission to adopt the Commission's [2024 meeting schedule](#) and location. Commissioner Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5 – 0.

Yays: Chair Kennedy, Commissioners Garcia, Giggans, Harris, and Johnson

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent/Excused: Vice Chair Hicks, Commissioners Bonner and Cooper

3. Reimagining the L.A. County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission

Chair Kennedy introduced Executive Director Moseley, who thanked members of the public for attending today's meeting. She reported that she has been meeting with the justice deputies and stakeholders and briefly discussed her plans to restructure the Commission. Ms. Moseley advised that reimagining would include staffing the Commission to ensure the proper positions are obtained; structuring ad hoc committees based on topics; organizing the work of the Commission; building community connections; and meeting with community organizations.

Commissioner Johnson expressed the need for the Commission to connect with the community and be more supportive regarding the needs and trauma that individuals are experiencing.

Chair Kennedy announced that staff member Erick Montalbán-Lara will be leaving the Commission and wished him well. Mr. Montalbán-Lara provided remarks.

Public comment on this item was combined with item VIII public comment.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Four members of the public commented on this item. Paula Yanez spoke about connecting with more agencies to build and inform the community. Sandra Bond spoke about her son who is incarcerated at Valley State Prison. Vanessa Perez discussed ALADS awards issued to specific deputies. Stephanie Luna mentioned allowing the community a space to share their concerns. Ms. Luna shared concern with the harassment of her son by LASD and that making a complaint against a deputy at the station where the deputy works is problematic for the complainant.

View [written public comments here](#).

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy announced that a special hearing on deputy gangs will be held on Friday, January 12, 2024, at Loyola Law School and the next Commission meeting will be held on January 18, 2024, at St. Anne's Conference Center. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.