



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING
ST. ANNE'S CONFERENCE CENTER
Thursday, January 18, 2024**



Commissioners Present:

Chair Sean Kennedy
Robert Bonner (attended virtually)
Irma Hagans Cooper
Luis S. Garcia
Patricia Giggans
James Harris
Vice Chair Jamon Hicks
Hans Johnson

Staff Present:

Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director
Starlet Atkins
Daniel Delgadillo
Tracy Jordan
Nune Petrosyan
Jennifer Wicks
Amara Kirby, County Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Sean Kennedy called the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission) meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. He provided a brief overview of the Commission's duties/responsibility and items on the meeting agenda.

II. ROLL CALL: Staff member Daniel Delgadillo read the Commission's code of conduct, announced how the community can comment on an item during the meeting, and conducted the roll call. The quorum requirement was met.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR:

The Commissioners reviewed the items on consent. There were no questions. Commissioner James Harris moved for the approval of the December 14, 2023, meeting minutes on the consent calendar. Vice Chair Jamon Hicks seconded the motion. There being no objection to the consent calendar the December 14, 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 provided an overview of the January 12, 2024, Special Hearing on Deputy Gangs and advised that a transcript is being prepared and will be posted on the COC website. Chair Kennedy briefly discussed the outstanding issue with former Undersheriff Timothy Murakami regarding the subpoena for his appearance before the Commission. He further reported that the contempt hearing remains in effect.

Chair Kennedy reported that the Commission is seeking a new appointee to fill the seat vacated by Lael Rubin and that an update will be provided within the next two months.

2. Executive Director's Report

A. Update on Executive Director & Staff Activities:

Executive Director Sharmaine Moseley briefly discussed past and future community events attended by staff and advised that the commission is looking for additional community events to participate in. She provided an overview of internal operations and reported that the Senior Paralegal assigned to the Commission transferred out and that the team is working to incorporate two positions that will focus on Community Services. She further reported that the new Deputy Executive Director will be joining the Commission in February.

B. 2024 Tactical Plan of Goals & Priorities: Ms. Moseley briefly discussed the 2024 tactical plan of goals and priorities that was voted on and approved by Commission at the December 14, 2023, meeting, and the January 9, 2024 Board of Supervisor (BOS) adopted motion that requires LASD to report to the BOS with an implementation plan on AB2773. She further reported that staff will continue to monitor this motion and request LASD to provide the Commission with a presentation on the new laws for 2024 and any impacts of the new laws on public safety.

C. Potential Legislative Update for Future Commission Agenda: Ms. Moseley called on County Counsel (CoCo) Amara Kirby to update the Commission. Ms. Kirby reported on that unfair practice charges were filed related to an OIG investigation and a request to interview deputies. She also reported that the next trial court date filed in Superior Court is on March 12, 2024.

D. Update on the Meet and Confer Regarding Measure R: Ms. Kirby updated the Commission on the Measure R meet and confer status and reported that a meet and confer was held in January 2024, that the next meet and confer is scheduled for February 27, 2024.

E. Other Items: Ms. Moseley lastly reported that the draft 2023 Annual Report will be sent to Commissioners for feedback and that she anticipates it being placed on the February 2024 agenda.

3. Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Report

A. Report on Reforms and Oversight Efforts: Sheriff's Department:

Inspector General Max Huntsman reported that he has participated in the Measure R meet and confer process by meeting with ERCOM and answering their questions. Inspector General Huntsman stated that he is in a meet and confer with the unions relating to the Deputy gang investigation and that a meet and confer with the Union is required. Inspector General Huntsman reported that OIG issued a report on SB1421 which is a new law that encourages transparency with police records and that CoCo has been tasked with taking over that function. Mr. Huntsman also discussed OIG's third quarter report from 2023 and the issue with firearms and alcohol mixing with off-duty police officers. He further reported that the BOS will vote on a motion regarding the issue next Tuesday.

Chair Kennedy reported LASD Sheriff Luna was present and has limited time. His update under item 6 was moved up on the agenda.

4. Ad Hoc Committee Update/Commissioner Comments

A. The Budget Ad Hoc Committee Update:

Commissioner Irma Cooper reported on the Budget Ad hoc Committee's activities. She provided an overview of the Budget ad hoc committee's purpose and reported that the budget ad hoc committee is in the process of evaluating LASD's budget for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Patti Giggans reported on Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and reported that a compliance audit required by Federal PREA law was conducted by OIG at the Lakewood, Marina Del Rey, Lomita, and East Los Angeles (ELA) sheriff stations and noted that PREA compliance managers increased from 3 to 6 and will enable LASD to investigate allegations of sexual abuse and harassment more thoroughly and efficiently.

Commissioner Robert Bonner reported that the deputy gangs ad hoc committee meeting will be held next week.

Following Commissioner Bonner's comments, Chair Kennedy then moved to item 5.

5. Sybil Brand Commission

Commissioner Ingrid Archie of the Sybil Brand Commission provided a brief update on Sybil Brand inspections, living conditions, the low number of African American women enrolled in educational based programs. Following Ms. Archie's comments, Chair Kennedy moved to public Comment.

Following item 5, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment on items 1 - 5.

Vanessa Perez shared information about her son who was beaten by LASD deputies and the deputies receiving exemplary performance awards from ALADS. She suggested deputy names be red flagged when they use excessive force.

MJ King requested that impacted family members be provided more time to speak and expressed frustration with Sheriff Luna leaving early and suggested the Commission include a question-and-answer period following Sheriff Luna's report.

Yvette Corea spoke about deputy gangs and shared with the Commission that her brother died while in LASD custody and that many times the coroner's reports are inaccurate.

Vision Supporter Mary spoke on jail conditions and the transportation process for incarcerated people who are missing their court dates and suggested a full meeting be held on the issue. She also expressed concern with her husband's nutritional needs not being met.

Following public comment, Chair Kennedy called for a vote on the motion.

6. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Robert Luna shared the recent event attended by LASD, and introduced Assistant Sheriff Myron Johnson who is over all patrol operations. Assistant Sheriff Johnson will be responsible for developing crime reduction practices that will be data driven and Commander Hugo Macias who is available to answer any questions related to custody. Sheriff Luna reported on LASDs leadership conference held on January 17, 2024, and highlighted the agenda items that included LASDs vision, priorities, staff roles and how the Department improvement plans for serving the community and that Eileen Decker, Director of Office of Constitutional Policing (OCP), discussed the five settlement agreements, their details, where LASD has been out of compliance and the priority to get into compliance to maintain public trust. Sheriff Luna reported that discussions on deputy gangs, cliques, and sub-groups were held, and that an internal group that has been working on the issue and that training videos will be developed that will impact the deputy from the time they are hired through the academy and ongoing about the issue. Sheriff Luna mentioned but did not discuss the City of Industry incident and noted that other administrative and criminal gang type cases like the Industry Indians exist within LASD and are being investigated. Sheriff Luna discussed LASD protocols, improvement of employee wellness, personnel recruitment, and retention and the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system that LASD will be purchasing. Sheriff commented on the firearms and drinking policy and reported that OCP is researching to identify best practices.

Following LASD updates, Chair Kennedy called for Commissioner questions and then returned to item 4.

VI. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Chair Kennedy introduced staff member Tracy Jordan, who shared a presentation on the Commission's February 16, 2023, report on LASD Jail Conditions of Confinement. She provided a brief overview of LASDs responsibility regarding jail conditions and confinement and the Commission's concerns with overcrowding, early release programs and in-custody deaths. Ms. Jordan reported LASDs new grievance system called the "Custody Inmate Grievance Application" and provided statistics on in-custody deaths from January through October 2023. She stated that the BOS adopted a motion on December 19, 2023, to address in-custody overdose deaths. LASD was tasked with collecting and tracking data related to narcotics recovery in the jails and to report the information to OIG. Ms. Jordan acknowledged Commander Hugo Macias, Assistant Inspector General Katherine Wright,

Megan Brownly, and Dr. Shawn Henderson, Correctional Health Services, who were available to answer questions. Chair Kennedy then called for commissioner questions.

Following the Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy called for a 15-minute recess at 11:12 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:41 a.m. Present were Chair Sean Kennedy, Vice Chair Jamon Hicks, Commissioners Robert Bonner, Luis S. Garcia, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Hans Johnson, and Executive Director Sharmaine Moseley.

Following the break, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment.

Community member Michelle Ynfante commented on the data presented by Commander Macias and the issues taking place at the women's facility.

Community member MJ King expressed concern with the number of in-custody deaths that occurred at Men's Central jails, and oversight of the autopsy and coroner's reports.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Issuance and ratification of subpoena for former Sheriff Alex Villanueva to appear at commission's special hearing on deputy gangs in March.

Motion: Commissioner Robert Bonner made a motion seconded by Commissioner Irma Cooper authorizing Chair Sean Kennedy to issue a new subpoena commanding the testimony of former Sheriff Alex Villanueva for a hearing to be set in March 2024. The motion passed with a vote of 7 – 0.

Yays: Chair Kennedy, Commissioners Cooper, Garcia, Giggans, Harris, Hicks, Johnson

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent/Excused: Commissioner Bonner

VIII. UPDATE ITEMS

1. Commissioner James Harris discussed the need to know about terms of conditions and new hire forms. Commissioner Harris inquired if LASD has a form in place for new hires to sign as a term and condition of employment, prior to them going into the academy informing them that they shall not join or participate in any gang, clique, or sub-group.
2. The Commission requested that LASD provide information and documentation on the report writing training manual for staff. Chair Kennedy inquired if LASD can provide a copy of the training manual on report writing. Mr. Huntsman advised that he does not believe there is a training manual for report writing.
3. Chair Kennedy reported that the Commission requested LASD to provide information on the water quality and access to water issues in the jails and that some information was provided today, and then called on Commissioner Johnson for comments related to the issue.

Commissioner Johnson advised that he has not received any updated information on water quality and access to water in the jails. He shared concerns from visiting the Pitchess facility in July where he witnessed incarcerated people drinking water from five-gallon pails. Commissioner Johnson requested LASD to provide him with an update at the next meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Raquel Derfler of Cancel the Contract shared information about Deputy Tye Shelton, the use of force incidents on his record and his ties to deputy gangs. Ms. Derfler is requesting that Tye Shelton be terminated and that LASD comply with the 2015 Lancaster settlement agreement.

Isaac Asbury shared information about Operation Safe Streets Unit and thanked Ms. Decker for helping him get the names of specific deputies and his request to the BOS increase the number of Sheriff Vehicles in the unincorporated area of Compton.

Ron Dowell commented about LASD transparency and PRA requests.

Bishop LJ Guillory commented on issues taking place in Compton that include Street Takeovers and the reduced number of LASD personnel.

Vanessa Perez expressed concern Sheriff Luna leaving prior to hearing from the public.

Michelle Infante shared information on conditions of confinement.

Yvette Corea shared concerns about LASD Deputy Gangs.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy announced the next Commission meeting will be held on February 15, 2024, at St. Anne's Conference Center. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.