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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF
CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
MARCH 7, 2024
SPECIAL HEARING ON DEPUTY GANGS IN THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

MEMBERS

- COMMISSION CHAIR SEAN KENNEDY
- COMMISSIONER JAMON HICKS
- COMMISSIONER ROBERT BONNER
- COMMISSIONER IRMA HAGANS COOPER
- COMMISSIONER LUIS GARCIA
- COMMISSIONER PATTI GIGGANS
- COMMISSIONER JP HARRIS
- COMMISSIONER HANS JOHNSON

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ATTENDEES

Commission Chair, Sean Kennedy

COMMISSIONERS:

Jamon Hicks

Robert Bonner

Irma Hagans Cooper

Patti Giggans

JP Harris

Hans Johnson

Luis Garcia

Special Counsel: Anthony Pacheco; Spertus, Landes &

Josephs, LLP

Witnesses

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1 Timothy Murakami, LASD Undersheriff, retired

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Unidentified Speaker

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Michele Infante

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Mark Brown

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Cindy Navarro

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Salina Cole

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Jody Martinez

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: -- so you are sworn under penalty of
3 perjury, and we can begin.

4 MR. PACHECO: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, commissioners.
5 I'm Anthony Pacheco with Spertus, Landes, and Josephs. I'm
6 accompanied by my colleagues Maura Riley and Julia Corbin. And
7 with your permission, we will proceed.

8 Mr. Murakami, thank you for being here today. We
9 appreciate your time.

10 You're here pursuant to a subpoena; is that correct?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

12 MR. PACHECO: And that subpoena was issued in June of
13 2022; is that correct?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I can't recall.

15 MR. PACHECO: But you're here pursuant to a court order
16 following the service of that subpoena?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

18 MR. PACHECO: How long were you employed with the
19 Sheriff's Department?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe a little over 43 years.

21 MR. PACHECO: Forty-three years; is that what --

22 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

23 MR. PACHECO: And you were the former undersheriff of the
24 Department?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: And that was the highest rank that you
2 achieved in the Department?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

4 MR. PACHECO: And as the undersheriff, you were the second
5 in command of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: And at times, you were the acting sheriff?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: And that meant when you were acting sheriff,
10 you were the highest-ranking member in the Sheriff's
11 Department; is that correct?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: Sir, have you been in communication with
14 Matthew Burson about his testimony before the commission?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

16 MR. PACHECO: Are you aware that Matthew Burson testified
17 that he has known you for decades?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: And, in fact, you have known Matthew Burson
20 for decades?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: And are you aware that he testified before
23 this commission that you have a Caveman tattoo?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: And he testified that you were a member of a

1 subgroup or clique in the East LA station; is that correct?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know if he said that or not, but he
3 did say I had a tattoo.

4 MR. PACHECO: Let me ask you this: During your tenure in
5 the Sheriff's Department, were you ever a member of a subgroup
6 called the Cavemen?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: What do you mean by "member"?

8 MR. PACHECO: Well, did you ever affiliate in any way
9 whatsoever with a group called the Cavemen in East LA?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: Well, what was your relationship with the
12 Cavemen?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Can you (inaudible) the question
14 (inaudible) the Cavemen?

15 MR. PACHECO: What did you do with the Cavemen?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: Nothing.

17 MR. PACHECO: Do you have a Caveman tattoo?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: No, I don't.

19 MR. PACHECO: At any time during your tenure in the
20 Department, did you ever have a Caveman tattoo?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, I did.

22 MR. PACHECO: Let's talk a little bit about how you got
23 that tattoo. How is it that you got that tattoo?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: It would be the same way that --

25 (inaudible) a party explaining (inaudible) tattoo at Civil

1 Service. It had to deal with, basically, taking pride and
2 being recognized as a hardworking deputy.

3 MR. PACHECO: How was the tattoo applied to your body?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: It was on the right calf area.

5 MR. PACHECO: And to this day, do you have that tattoo?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: Did you remove the tattoo?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: It's no longer there, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: Did you alter the tattoo?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: It's no longer there, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: When did you remove the tattoo?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: It's been probably five years.

13 MR. PACHECO: Why did you remove the tattoo?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: Because of the negative media and pressure
15 just being applied of having a tattoo.

16 MR. PACHECO: Other than removing the tattoo because of
17 the negative media, is there any other reason why you removed
18 the tattoo?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: What do you mean "another reason"?

20 MR. PACHECO: Was there any other reason other than
21 negative media that you removed the tattoo?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, (inaudible) to do with the fact like
23 a hearing like this where it becomes a negative (inaudible).
24 So better not to have it.

25 MR. PACHECO: So did you think that there was anything

1 wrong with having a Caveman tattoo on your ankle?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: No.

3 MR. PACHECO: And, to this day, as you sit here now, do
4 you think there was anything wrong about having a Caveman
5 tattoo on your ankle?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: No.

7 MR. PACHECO: When the tattoo was applied to your ankle,
8 who was present?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I couldn't recall. It's been
10 probably 40-plus years.

11 MR. PACHECO: Was it more than one person?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: Was it less than ten people?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: And where was the location? And by that, I
16 mean physical location. Not on your body, but the physical
17 location where you had the tattoo applied.

18 MR. MURAKAMI: It was a tattoo shop on Whittier Boulevard.

19 MR. PACHECO: And the one to ten other people that were
20 with you when the tattoo was applied, were they deputy
21 sheriffs?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

23 MR. PACHECO: And in that group of one to ten people, were
24 there any women?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: In that group of one to ten people, were
2 there any black people?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

4 MR. PACHECO: In that group of one to ten people, were
5 there any gay people?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: Not that I recall.

7 MR. PACHECO: In that group of ten people, were there any
8 people in the command staff from the Sheriff's Department
9 present when you got this ink -- this tattoo?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: Who knows that you have a Caveman tattoo or
12 had a Caveman tattoo on your ankle when you were a member of
13 the Department?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not sure.

15 MR. PACHECO: But we know that there was the testimony of
16 Mr. Burson that you had a tattoo; correct?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

18 MR. PACHECO: Did the former sheriff, Alex Villanueva,
19 know that you had a tattoo on your ankle?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe he did.

21 MR. PACHECO: Did you have any other tattoos on your body
22 associated with any subgroup or clique in the Department?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: Did you keep the tattoo a secret from
25 members of the Department?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

2 MR. PACHECO: Can you describe your tattoo?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: It was essentially a Caveman carrying a
4 club, I believe "East LA" either across the stomach or their
5 chest.

6 MR. PACHECO: I'm sorry. I didn't hear you.

7 MR. MURAKAMI: It had "ELA" -- East LA either across the
8 stomach or the chest.

9 MR. PACHECO: I see.

10 What color was the tattoo?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: It was just standard -- it wasn't colored,
12 sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: Was it blue?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: Blue or black. I'm not sure of the color.

15 MR. PACHECO: Okay.

16 Did the tattoo -- anywhere near the tattoo have a
17 number?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: And what was that number?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Ten.

21 MR. PACHECO: Ten.

22 And what did that number signify?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: The tenth person to have a Caveman tattoo.

24 MR. PACHECO: Does that ten signify that you were the
25 tenth member of the Cavemen?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: The tenth person to get a tattoo.

2 MR. PACHECO: Does that mean that you were a member of a
3 group called the Cavemen?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: It's difficult when you use the word
5 "member" like you're in some kind of club. (Inaudible) club.

6 MR. PACHECO: Was it a subgroup of people?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: That could be probably more accurate,
8 because there was no club, per se.

9 MR. PACHECO: How many members of the Caveman were there?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: Can you estimate?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: No, I can't.

13 MR. PACHECO: Was it more than ten?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: I think so.

15 MR. PACHECO: You know so because you were the tenth
16 number to get inked?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Was it more than 50?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: I think it was, but I couldn't tell you for
20 sure.

21 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, did you see other people in
22 the East LA station that had the Caveman tattoo from time to
23 time?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

25 COMMISSIONER BONNER: You never saw another person,

1 another deputy at the East LA station in the locker room or
2 otherwise that had the tattoo of a Caveman; is that your
3 testimony?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, when you say "the locker room or
5 otherwise" --

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, any place at the East LA
7 station, sir. I mean, I'm asking you a question. Did you ever
8 see any other deputy with a Caveman tattoo other than yourself?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: Can you do me a favor and not yell at me?

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: No, I can't.

11 Can you do me a favor and just -- you know, look, if
12 you give an answer, you said -- Mr. Murakami, (inaudible), you
13 basically said, under oath, that you've never seen another
14 person, deputy with a Caveman tattoo at the East LA station.
15 Is that your testimony, or do you want to correct it right now,
16 sir?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: Yeah, that, I don't recall, because as far
18 as the locker room, I've never seen any of it in the locker
19 room. I haven't seen it in there. (Inaudible). I couldn't
20 tell you where or when.

21 COMMISSIONER BONNER: So you've seen some deputy
22 (inaudible) Caveman tattoo?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

24 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible)?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER BONNER: You wouldn't know?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: I wouldn't guess.

3 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible) seen more than one
4 deputy other than yourself that had a Caveman tattoo?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Probably, sir.

6 It's been over 40 years, so I don't -- you know, it's
7 kind of hard to recall all of these things.

8 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible)?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: That, (inaudible).

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible)?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: It's been over 40 years, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER BONNER: What other deputies do you believe
13 are Cavemen that have a Caveman tattoo and stuff like that?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't recall, sir.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Don't recall a single one?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

17 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Don't recall (inaudible) in the
18 Cavemen?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

20 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Why did you have a tattoo?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: It's what I've testified before, sir.
22 Because it signified station pride and being a good worker.

23 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Would you recognize that at least
24 some deputy cliques that had tattoos (inaudible)?

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah.

1 I think our plan was to have our very able special
2 counsel finish the questioning, and then we can fully open it
3 up for all the commissioners to ask any supplemental questions.

4 MR. PACHECO: On the Caveman tattoo that you had, were
5 there any (inaudible) or other markings on that tattoo?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: And just to follow-up on one of the
8 commissioner's questions, you don't remember a single name of
9 any deputy who had a Caveman tattoo as you sit here today?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Not that I recall, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: What was the selection criteria to become a
12 Caveman, if you know?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Essentially, as to what I said before, it
14 had to do with being identified as a good worker.

15 MR. PACHECO: And who made this identification of
16 potential members as good workers?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know.

18 MR. PACHECO: Did a potential member have to have a
19 certain number of arrests in order to become a member of the
20 Cavemen?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible.)

22 MR. PACHECO: Did a prospect, a potential member of the
23 Cavemen, have to have a number of shootings before they could
24 be selected to the Cavemen?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: I've never heard that, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: In order for a prospect to become a member
2 of the Cavemen, did he have to engage in a certain number of
3 fights with people on the street?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

5 MR. PACHECO: "No, sir," you don't know, or "No, sir,"
6 that wasn't --

7 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

8 MR. PACHECO: Was there a fee or a tax in order to become
9 a Caveman member?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: Did the Cavemen in East LA gather at any
12 time together as a group?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Excuse me?

14 MR. PACHECO: Did the Cavemen ever gather as a group in
15 East LA?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

17 MR. PACHECO: Did they engage in sports together?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: That's possible. We did have a softball
19 team and a flag football team.

20 MR. PACHECO: Are there any events that the Cavemen
21 engaged in that you know about?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

23 MR. PACHECO: Who came up with the name of the Cavemen?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: Was it expected that the Cavemen would have

1 each other's backs in the Department, support each other?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

3 MR. PACHECO: Were the Cavemen loyal to each other?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe that's called (inaudible) deputy
5 sheriffs.

6 MR. PACHECO: But did the Cavemen have a special law where
7 they were especially loyal to one another?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: Was it expected that the Cavemen would keep
10 secrets from the community?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

12 MR. PACHECO: Did the Cavemen publish a roster about their
13 membership anywhere?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: No. Not that I know of, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: On the sheriff's website, did it list the
16 Cavemen as a recognized group in the Department?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

18 MR. PACHECO: Did the Cavemen sometimes subscribe to the
19 practices sometimes referred to as a Code of Silence?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

21 MR. PACHECO: Did the Cavemen oppose civilian oversight?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe they existed back then.

23 MR. PACHECO: When did you first get the tattoo again?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Probably 40 years ago.

25 MR. PACHECO: And you removed it ten years ago?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe five.

2 MR. PACHECO: Five years.

3 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible) I just want to know.

4 Did any deputy at the East LA station back then (inaudible)?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible), sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: In terms of the Cavemen, do you know whether
7 they ever appeared in any public events?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: What do you mean by "appeared at public
9 events," sir?

10 MR. PACHECO: Were they ever known to the public, as far
11 as you know?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: What was the highest rank that you've had in
14 East LA?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: I was deputy sheriff, sir.

16 MR. PACHECO: Did you have a rank beyond that in -- when
17 you were in East Los Angeles?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: At the time that you got the tattoo in East
20 Los Angeles, who was your supervisor?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I couldn't recall, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: For what period of time -- during what years
23 were you in East Los Angeles?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe it was 1983 to 1987.

25 MR. PACHECO: And in that timeframe, 1983 to 1987, what

1 was your role? And by that, I mean did you serve on patrol?
2 What were your job functions in East Los Angeles from 1983 to
3 1987?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe the most (inaudible) Gang
5 Suppression.

6 MR. PACHECO: So from 1983 to 1987, at the time when you
7 had a Cavemen gang tattoo on your ankle, you worked in Gang
8 Suppression?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, I want to refer to that. I kind of
10 object to the comment referring to my tattoo as a gang tattoo
11 as what I have, because it is not.

12 MR. PACHECO: I don't think I referred that way.

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Yeah, you did.

14 MR. PACHECO: I just asked you the question whether or
15 not, from 1983 to 1987, whether you worked on the Gang
16 Suppression, and if, at that time, you had a tattoo on your
17 ankle of a Caveman.

18 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) referred to it as a gang
19 tattoo, is what you called it; and it was not.

20 MR. PACHECO: The answer is --

21 MR. MURAKAMI: I did have a tattoo when I was on the Gang
22 Unit.

23 MR. PACHECO: So I heard that in East Los Angeles there
24 was a logo in the station of Fort Apache or something like
25 that. Do you remember that logo?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

2 MR. PACHECO: And I understand that that logo that you
3 removed from the station when former Sheriff McDonnell was
4 appointed -- or elected the Sheriff; is that correct?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: And then when Sheriff Villanueva took
7 office, the logo of Fort Apache was returned to the East LA
8 station; is that correct?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: And it was -- where was it displayed?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not quite sure, sir.

12 MR. PACHECO: Well, if you walk into the station, you can
13 see it. So was it in the back with the deputies?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: It would be somewhere in the back.

15 MR. PACHECO: And what did it signify, if you know?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, this is what I've been told:

17 (Inaudible) that the saying Fort Apache was found at East LA
18 (inaudible), and it's because the station was kind of up on a
19 small hill. So somewhere, somehow some deputies called the
20 station Fort Apache.

21 And then the logo of the helmet and the boot had to
22 do with something negative, calling the deputies people of low
23 profile. So somebody put a helmet on a boot, you know,
24 signifying that is a low profile.

25 I mean, that's what I've been told, but I don't know

1 if it's true.

2 MR. PACHECO: So did this Fort Apache logo, near it or on
3 it, have a helmet on a boot?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

5 MR. PACHECO: And help me. What does that mean?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: What it means is it signifies having a low
7 profile.

8 MR. PACHECO: A helmet is something that one wears in the
9 military?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: No. It would be a sheriff's helmet, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: Sheriff's helmet.

12 And does the -- let me ask you this: Is having such
13 a logo in a police station, is it consistent with the
14 fundamental principles of professional policing in your
15 opinion?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, I don't see a problem with it.

17 MR. PACHECO: If you're a member of the community, you see
18 a Fort Apache logo on your police station, are you concerned
19 that maybe the members of the station view themselves as
20 different than the community?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) station members.

22 MR. PACHECO: How else can one take it?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: I mean, I can understand (inaudible) logo.

24 MR. PACHECO: Who is responsible for putting the logo back
25 up in Sheriff Villanueva's tenure?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I'm not sure, sir.

2 MR. PACHECO: Let me go back to the Cavemen.

3 Were the Cavemen senior deputies or younger deputies?

4 Do you know?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: As far as I know, it would've been a
6 mixture, but I couldn't tell you for sure.

7 MR. PACHECO: Were any of the Cavemen at the rank of
8 lieutenant or above?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: Were any of the Cavemen at the rank of
11 captain or above?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: At the station?

13 MR. PACHECO: Correct.

14 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: Did Cavemen get better work shifts than sort
16 of non-subgroup member?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

18 MR. PACHECO: During 1983 to 1987, do you remember who the
19 scheduling deputy was in East Los Angeles?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

21 MR. PACHECO: Did the Cavemen have a shot caller or a
22 leader?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

24 MR. PACHECO: Did the Cavemen get better promotions than
25 non-Cavemen subgroup members?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

2 MR. PACHECO: (Inaudible.)

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, none of (inaudible) being called a
4 leader. (Inaudible).

5 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible) called the leader?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: Did the Cavemen get better assignments or
8 favoritism than non-Cavemen subgroup members?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

10 MR. PACHECO: How do you know?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I was assuming that they had (inaudible).

12 MR. PACHECO: Did you talk to the other Cavemen?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: So you got this tattoo, but you didn't speak
15 to them frequently?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: What's the point in getting the tattoo?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: Again, it's involved with, basically,
19 station pride and hard work. There was no, I guess -- I don't
20 know if you call it a fellowship for how often we were getting
21 together.

22 MR. PACHECO: And there were no women in this group of
23 Cavemen; correct?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: I heard there was, but I couldn't confirm
25 it.

1 MR. PACHECO: And there were no black members in the
2 Cavemen; correct?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Not that I know of, no.

4 MR. PACHECO: And there were no gay members of the
5 Cavemen; is that correct?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I wouldn't know. Some people prefer
7 not to reference their sexual orientation.

8 MR. PACHECO: So this is a group based on hard work and
9 (inaudible)?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: Correct me then.

12 MR. MURAKAMI: Hard work and, basically, it's station
13 pride. But when I said I think there were no (inaudible).

14 MR. PACHECO: Okay.

15 Were there black deputies in East Los Angeles?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: Why weren't they included as Cavemen?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: Wouldn't black deputies potentially have
20 station pride in East Los Angeles?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: Wouldn't black deputies be hardworking in
23 East Los Angeles?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible). I don't know if there were
25 any members that were black. That's what I said. There

1 could've been. I don't know.

2 MR. PACHECO: But you would agree that there were
3 hardworking, faithful members of the Department who worked in
4 Los Angeles who were black?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: And you would agree that there were women
7 who worked in East Los Angeles who had pride in the station and
8 were hardworking; is that true?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: And yet, those groups don't seem to be
11 represented in a group of Cavemen; is that correct?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe they are, but I couldn't tell you
13 for sure.

14 MR. PACHECO: So as you sit here now, telling me under
15 oath, that you think that there were women and black people who
16 were members of the Cavemen?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

18 MR. PACHECO: As you sit here now, could you give me a
19 name of any woman or any black person who is a member of the
20 Cavemen?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: Did the Cavemen retaliate against any
23 non-gang members?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

25 MR. PACHECO: Did the Cavemen commit violence against any

1 non-gang members of the group?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: As undersheriff, you were responsible for
4 reviewing promotions and suspensions; is that correct?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: Did you use your position to promote
7 subgroup members over non-subgroup members?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: Did you use your position as undersheriff to
10 deny promotions to deputies who did not do what subgroup
11 members wanted them to do?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: Why would a young deputy want to become a
14 Caveman, as far as you know?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: Again, it would be, basically, being young,
16 being honored with being able to recognize the Department
17 (inaudible).

18 MR. PACHECO: Do you envision or know about circumstances
19 where senior deputies pressured younger deputies to join the
20 Cavemen?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: Did anyone pressure you to become a Caveman?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: You did it voluntarily?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: And you did it at a local tattoo shop
2 accompanied by one to ten other deputies; is that right?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

4 MR. PACHECO: Did you do it during work hours?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: Were you wearing your uniform when you went
7 into the tattoo shop to get your Caveman tattoo?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: In your job functions at East LA, as to your
10 attire, did you sometimes wear shorts?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

12 MR. PACHECO: Was the Caveman tattoo ever visible when you
13 were out on patrol in your functions at East LA?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: Would you have wanted the community to see
16 your Caveman tattoo while you were on duty as a deputy sheriff?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: That is kind of an (inaudible) statement.
18 But as far as the policies are, you can't show any tattoos.

19 MR. PACHECO: I'm not sure why it's an (inaudible)
20 statement, so I'll try to rephrase the question.

21 As you were a deputy sheriff and you were in the
22 community, would you have wanted community members to have seen
23 you revealing your ankle tattoo of a Caveman?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: I would never do that, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: Why?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: It's not for that purpose, to flaunt it.
2 My tattoos are private.

3 MR. PACHECO: Interesting choice of words. You said you
4 wouldn't want to flaunt the tattoo. Was the caveman tattoo a
5 badge of honor (inaudible)?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: You can call it a badge of honor, but,
7 again, it's something -- again, indicative of station pride and
8 being recognized as a hardworking deputy.

9 MR. PACHECO: But you don't know who recognized you as a
10 hardworking guy, who opened up membership to you in this
11 subgroup?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: When you say (inaudible), it's been over 40
13 years; I don't recall anyone, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: Is this Caveman tattoo the only tattoo that
15 you had on your body? Do you have other tattoos?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, I do.

17 MR. PACHECO: Any other -- what kind of tattoos?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would object. This is
19 (inaudible) deputy gangs.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: There is an objection to this (inaudible)
21 that deal with the deputy gangs. The question is: "Do you
22 have other tattoos?" We don't know what the tattoos signify,
23 and so I would ask you to answer that question.

24 MR. MURAKAMI: It has nothing to do with the station;
25 that's (inaudible) in terms of any type of department

1 affiliation.

2 MR. PACHECO: What are the other tattoos?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'd object. I think it's a privacy
4 issue.

5 MR. PACHECO: I'm not asking for the location of the
6 tattoos; I'm asking whether you have other tattoos.

7 MR. MURAKAMI: I'll follow the advice of my counsel
8 (inaudible). I'll admit that I do have a tattoo. It's a
9 private matter and doesn't have anything to do with the
10 Sheriff's Department.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, your counsel objected. He didn't
12 tell you not to answer the question; so maybe he can clarify.

13 Are you telling him not to answer?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I am.

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

16 We'll be back here again.

17 MR. PACHECO: So the question that I have for you on this
18 other tattoo, can you tell me the location on your body where
19 that tattoo is located?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My same objection -- ongoing
21 objection (inaudible).

22 MR. MURAKAMI: I'll follow advice of my counsel, sir.

23 MR. PACHECO: Under the advice of your counsel, he's
24 instructing you not to answer, just so the record is clear; is
25 that correct?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: And then the instruction is: "Don't
3 answer based on privacy"?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: (Inaudible) I just wanted to make sure we
6 have a record. The basis is privacy.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. The basis is privacy.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: (Inaudible).

9 MR. PACHECO: So the record's clear, you acknowledge you
10 have another tattoo other than the Caveman tattoo; you won't
11 tell us what it is; and you won't tell us where on your body
12 it's located; is that correct, sir?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: In your time at East Los Angeles, were you a
15 training deputy?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever provide training or guidance to
18 deputies in the Department at any time when you were in the
19 Department?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: In what capacity, sir?

21 MR. PACHECO: In any capacity.

22 MR. MURAKAMI: I have worked with younger deputies, yes.

23 MR. PACHECO: And did you provide training to them?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Not as a training officer.

25 MR. PACHECO: Were you a mentor to any of the deputies in

1 East Los Angeles or beyond?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: And did you expect younger deputies to learn
4 from you and from your experience as a deputy?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: And part of your job as a senior deputy was
7 to provide some guidance to the junior deputies; is that
8 correct?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: And did you ever train at the academy by any
11 chance?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: And did you always want deputies, younger
14 and even more senior, to adhere to the fundamental principles
15 of professional policing while they were working with the
16 Department?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

18 MR. PACHECO: And part of that adherence to those
19 principles is to deescalate certain situations when deputies
20 intervene with the policy; is that correct?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: And one of the goals is to preserve life if
23 you're a deputy; it's that correct?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so.

25 MR. PACHECO: So if there was a conflict situation, you

1 expected that they deescalate the situation so as to preserve
2 life as best could be achieved in that particular circumstance;
3 is that right?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: It wouldn't be to preserve life. It had to
5 do, basically, calling for positive -- trying to identify a
6 safe type of confrontation.

7 MR. PACHECO: And also to save lives by minimizing
8 confrontation; is that right?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: If you take it to the extreme, yes.

10 MR. PACHECO: I want to talk about some of these other
11 logos that we've learned about with this commission. Let's
12 focus your attention on one, the Grim Reapers.

13 Did you ever hear about the Grim Reaper logo and the
14 subgroup?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

16 MR. PACHECO: And you've heard that they were in the
17 Lennox Station; is that correct?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: The Lennox Station no longer exists; is that
20 right?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Correct, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: And so we were talking about the fundamental
23 principles of professional policing.

24 And you've seen the Grim Reaper logo; is that right?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: I could've, but I couldn't tell you for

1 sure.

2 MR. PACHECO: Right.

3 And it's a reaper; right? It's a menacing reaper
4 with some kind of sickle; is that right?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I couldn't tell you.

6 MR. PACHECO: And the Grim Reaper represents death; right?
7 Is that right?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: And how would that symbol support the
10 fundamental principles of professional policing?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe it wouldn't.

12 MR. PACHECO: Well, if a menacing tattoo, and if a sheriff
13 deputy approaches a member of the public and has a tattoo of a
14 Grim Reaper theme, isn't the community member going to maybe be
15 afraid of that?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: So Grim Reaper is inconsistent with
18 community policing, isn't it?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: I think the context you're putting it in as
20 far as showing it to the community (inaudible). All tattoos
21 are not shown (inaudible). But would they be considered to be
22 a positive image? The answer would be no.

23 MR. PACHECO: Let's think about the mentality of having a
24 Grim Reaper tattoo on one's body.

25 If you're a deputy and you have a Grim Reaper affixed

1 to your body, does that convey the mentality of community
2 policing?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: I think your (inaudible) into First
4 Amendment rights. Because, ultimately, now tattoos are a lot
5 more popular amongst the younger people. So, again, the policy
6 we have is that they can't be shown to any of the public. They
7 need to be covered.

8 MR. PACHECO: Let's turn to Exhibit 14.

9 Julia, if we can put that up on the screen.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

11 MR. PACHECO: And that binder that's in front of you,
12 Mr. Murakami, if you turn to Exhibit Number 14. In it, you'll
13 see a Grim Reaper logo, Lennox and South LA stations.

14 And do you see that one? Looks like it would be a
15 patch that would be attached to a uniform, and do you see that
16 the other seems to be a medallion that would hang as a
17 necklace.

18 Do you think any of -- do you remember seeing that
19 patch?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

21 MR. PACHECO: Would it surprise you if that patch had been
22 attached to a sheriff's uniform?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: That would never happen, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: That would never happen?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: And you believe that, why?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Because a patch (inaudible).

3 MR. PACHECO: And how about the -- so but you don't know
4 whether or not anyone wore that patch on their uniform while in
5 the building; is that right?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

7 MR. PACHECO: You don't know whether over time, anyone
8 would wear this medallion or key chain at all, whether they
9 were in the state -- whether they were in the community as
10 deputies serving as deputies; is that correct?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

12 MR. PACHECO: Are you not, sir, passively conveying to
13 young deputies that they are not tasked to preserve life, that
14 they are in a war zone, and that they do not have to follow the
15 fundamental principles of professional policing, if there are
16 subgroups out there like the Grim Reapers and other subgroups?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

18 MR. PACHECO: Sheriff Villanueva made some statements
19 during his testimony before this very body. I'd like to review
20 some of those statements with you.

21 We can turn to Exhibit 4.

22 Do you have that number before you? It's an article
23 from Rolling Stone. Do you have that in front of you?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: And they recount that the Sheriff, under

1 oath, compared deputy gangs in the Sheriff's Department to
2 softball teams, and he admits that he never seriously
3 investigated them.

4 As you sit here now, under oath, do you think that
5 sheriff deputy gangs are the equivalent of a softball team?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not sure if I agree that that's what he
7 stated, but I think he's just trying to convey the fact that
8 they were (inaudible).

9 MR. PACHECO: Well, sheriffs have badges and guns,
10 softball teams don't. You would agree to that; right?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible.)

12 MR. PACHECO: There's fundamental differences, you would
13 agree, between sheriff deputy gangs, cliques, exclusionary
14 subgroups, and softball teams, wouldn't you?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe he was referring to the
16 Department's softball team.

17 MR. PACHECO: So the departmental softball teams are like
18 sheriff deputy gangs (inaudible) exclusionary clubs?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe he tried to make it (inaudible)
20 by the Department's softball team.

21 MR. PACHECO: Sitting here today, does that comparison
22 make any sense to you?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: Explain that to me. How does it make sense
25 to you to have that comparison?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible). And I think he's trying to
2 (inaudible) on nefarious and (inaudible) a deputy subgroup.

3 MR. PACHECO: But as you sit here, you don't see any
4 problem comparing the Grim Reapers, Executioners, Banditos, or
5 any of these subgroups to softball teams in the Department?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: I understand how the statement somehow may
7 be taken out of context.

8 MR. PACHECO: Put the statement aside. I'm just asking
9 you the question.

10 Do you see any problems with referring to sheriff
11 deputy gangs, exclusionary subgroups, or cliques being compared
12 to softball teams, sir?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe the way he's trying to convey the
14 message, I think that's what he (inaudible) not show that they
15 have a nefarious purpose.

16 MR. PACHECO: As a member of the Department, did the
17 softball teams play publicly?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: And did the sheriff deputy gangs ever
20 announce themselves publicly, as far as you know?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: You keep using the term "gangs," and so
22 I'll call it out again. If you call them subgroups
23 (inaudible).

24 MR. PACHECO: So that's a big difference; right? Between
25 softball teams in the Sheriff's Department and these cliques or

1 exclusionary subgroups is that the subgroups operate
2 (inaudible)?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know if (inaudible) would be the
4 right terminology.

5 MR. PACHECO: How about confidentially?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: People are pretty (inaudible) nonpublic, as
7 opposed to confidential.

8 MR. PACHECO: Interesting choice of words. Nonpublic,
9 meaning only people in the Department (inaudible) public
10 speech. The (inaudible) Department didn't know about the
11 subgroups; is that right?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

13 MR. PACHECO: Do you think it's important that the public
14 know about the existence of the subgroups in a robust way so
15 that they can understand what's going on within the Department?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: I think it's been (inaudible) clarify the
17 nature.

18 MR. PACHECO: I am not sure what you said, sir. Would you
19 please repeat that part?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) the public right now in terms
21 of the media and groups like this (inaudible) hard to clarify
22 (inaudible) the public.

23 MR. PACHECO: But you can do that (inaudible)?

24 Tell us more about these groups so that the public
25 can know about them. How many of these exclusionary subgroups

1 or cliques are there in the Department?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: How many members of subgroups -- these
4 exclusionary subgroups or cliques are in the Department?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: Is it 5,000?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

8 MR. PACHECO: Can you give us any estimate as to the scope
9 of the problem in terms of the number of subgroup members or
10 clique members in the Department?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, when you refer to "the problem,"
12 (inaudible) the problem (inaudible) as far as the total of
13 subgroups and everything, I couldn't tell you.

14 MR. PACHECO: When Sheriff Villanueva testified before
15 this body that if the Department was to get rid of sheriff
16 deputy gangs, it would be a public safety issue of gargantuan
17 proportions. And that's as reported in this Rolling Stones
18 article:

19 "In a revealing exchange, Villanueva declared that if
20 LASD rooted out all deputies based on their deputy gang
21 tattoo affiliations, it would spark a gargantuan public
22 safety crisis."

23 Do you agree with that statement? I'm not asking if
24 you if you agree with this report; if you agree with that
25 statement despite who made that statement or didn't make that

1 statement.

2 MR. MURAKAMI: It'd be hard to speculate (inaudible).

3 MR. PACHECO: Is there any basis for that statement that
4 you know about as the former and second highest-ranking member
5 of the Department?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: It's just his personal opinion, sir,
7 (inaudible) as far as (inaudible).

8 MR. PACHECO: But as you sit here today, you don't know
9 anyone to quantify the support of that statement, one way or
10 the other?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: There is a way to quantify, but it means a
12 violation of their (inaudible).

13 MR. PACHECO: In what way?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: You can't walk up to deputies and
15 (inaudible).

16 MR. PACHECO: Can you assume if they were gang members?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: When you use the terminology "gang member,"
18 the answer would be no.

19 MR. PACHECO: Can you go up to them and ask them if
20 they're in compliance with Penal Code 13670?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, what happens then (inaudible)
22 Oversight Commission has it, (inaudible) has it, (inaudible)
23 has it. It involves looking into (inaudible). There was
24 nothing (inaudible) about at the station. And a group of
25 (inaudible) Internal Affairs on the entire station,

1 (inaudible). And it included (inaudible) that either had no
2 personal knowledge or the (inaudible).

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: We don't have the copy of that. We have
4 been asking for almost a year, the Department, to have that to
5 us, and they haven't responded.

6 Stating that for the record.

7 Go ahead.

8 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible)?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: That's (inaudible), sir.

10 COMMISSIONER BONNER: You've heard that?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible) called the Banditos
13 (inaudible) station?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible)?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

17 COMMISSIONER BONNER: And are you saying that it would not
18 be permitted if you asked a deputy sheriff whether or not they
19 associated (inaudible)?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not sure as far as legally what we can
21 or cannot do, but what was done by April Tardy as chief, he
22 gave her direction to basically investigate people that they
23 believed were members of the Banditos subgroup. And with the
24 union's permission, we talked to each one, and then it involved
25 transferring (inaudible) from the station.

1 COMMISSIONER BONNER: So as far as (inaudible)?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: I think that he was trying to say the
3 investigation would be (inaudible) questions.

4 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, let's say that (inaudible)?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: If you're referring to the (inaudible).

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Well, let's (inaudible)?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: At the time of that investigation, I'm not
8 sure, because, again, because of the (inaudible). But now, I
9 believe under the current law (inaudible), I think you can.
10 (Inaudible).

11 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible)?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't (inaudible).

13 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible) you've never heard
14 (inaudible)?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: It would be March of 2018.

16 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible)?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: December of 2017, I believe.

18 COMMISSIONER BONNER: Okay. All right.

19 MR. PACHECO: Thank you.

20 So, Mr. Murakami, I think this is a interesting area
21 to talk about the Banditos. And you had testified just moments
22 ago that certain members of the Banditos were transferred out
23 of the East LA station; is that correct?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe they were (inaudible).

25 MR. PACHECO: When those individuals were transferred out

1 of East LA station, where did they go?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: They went to different assignments; I
3 (inaudible).

4 MR. PACHECO: So they were moved to other assignments in
5 the same department of the Sheriff's Department; is that
6 correct?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

8 MR. PACHECO: Let's talk a little bit about Kennedy Hall.

9 Do you know about an event that happened at Kennedy
10 Hall on September 28th, 2018?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I do.

12 MR. PACHECO: Did you participate in investigating the
13 events at Kennedy Hall at all?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: How did you hear about the events at Kennedy
16 Hall?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: Probably from the Sheriff.

18 MR. PACHECO: In 2018, what was your rank in the
19 Department?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Eventually, just a sheriff deputy and the
21 undersheriff.

22 MR. PACHECO: And (inaudible) in the Sheriff's Department
23 in 2018; is that correct?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: Do you think there was any legitimate reason

1 why ICIB did not investigate the motive behind the assault
2 which occurred in Kennedy Hall, September 28th, 2018?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe they did, sir.

4 MR. PACHECO: Did they investigate the motive for the
5 assault?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe they did, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: And did that investigation point you to
8 exclusionary subgroups like the Banditos at all?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know, sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: Do you think that was a full and wholesome
11 investigation into the events at Kennedy Hall?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

13 MR. PACHECO: Do you think that was a full and wholesome
14 investigation into the existence of the Banditos in East LA who
15 had a role in the Kennedy Hall assault?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: Not quite sure what you're (inaudible).

17 MR. PACHECO: The Banditos were not investigated as a
18 result of the Kennedy Hall matter; correct?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

20 MR. PACHECO: And the Banditos had a hand in what happened
21 in the Kennedy Hall matter; correct?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe there were people that had a
23 tattoo that were involved in a fight, yes, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: But despite that opportunity, the Sheriff's
25 Department did not investigate the Bandito subgroup?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know, sir.

2 MR. PACHECO: Did you instruct Chief Burson not to
3 investigate the Bandito gang connection regarding the violence
4 at Kennedy Hall?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: No, I didn't, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: I'm going to ask that we turn to Exhibit 12.

7 And, sir, I'm going to ask that you turn to the fifth
8 page of Exhibit 12, which is up on the screen.

9 And if you can make that bigger. Thank you. There
10 we go.

11 Sir, I want -- are you there?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: Okay.

14 I want you to -- do you recognize this particular
15 document?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe I've seen it a couple times
17 before.

18 MR. PACHECO: And these are the investigator's notes from
19 Investigator Chow?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so.

21 MR. PACHECO: Investigator Chow was the investigator who
22 looked at the Kennedy Hall incident; is that right?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: And there's an entry on November 27, 2018.
25 Do you see that at "1300 hours"?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes.

2 MR. PACHECO: And you see the language:

3 "Cancel interviews due to Captain/Chief Burson. He
4 wanted to make sure I did not have to ask questions about
5 subculture groups at East LA station."

6 Do you see that language? -- or "ELA" -- Do you see
7 that?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: Did you direct Chief Burson to not ask
10 questions about subculture groups at the East LA station in
11 connection with the Kennedy Hall investigation?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: Do you know whether anybody gave direction
14 to Chief Burson not to investigate the subculture groups in
15 East Los Angeles station?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: Not to my knowledge, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: Do you know who instructed Chief Burson to
18 instruct Inspector Chow not to investigate subgroups in the
19 East LA station?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

21 MR. PACHECO: Do you know any reason why a competent
22 investigator wouldn't look at the subculture groups at East LA
23 station if those groups were involved in the Kennedy Hall
24 assault?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: Number one, it involves a case that spanned

1 that question whether or not certain (inaudible).

2 MR. PACHECO: Well, if the Banditos are involved in the
3 assault that happened at Kennedy Hall, how can the Department
4 not look at the subgroup from which they were a member?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) as far as (inaudible).

6 MR. PACHECO: Do you actually remember when I asked you
7 before: "Did anyone look at the motivation for what happened
8 in the East Los --" (inaudible) --

9 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) was concluded as a drunken
10 brawl between deputies. (Inaudible) the Banditos being
11 (inaudible).

12 MR. PACHECO: There were members who participated in the
13 brawl who had the Banditos tattoo; correct?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: But no one asked questions about the
16 Banditos as a subgroup to determine whether that was the motive
17 for the assault that occurred in Kennedy Hall; correct?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

19 MR. PACHECO: Have you reviewed the reports with regard to
20 Kennedy Hall and its investigation?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: I could've, but I can't recall, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: Would it surprise you that of the
23 approximately 73 witnesses who were identified by ICIB, that
24 only one was questioned about the Banditos? Would that
25 surprise you?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

2 MR. PACHECO: Would it surprise you to learn that seven of
3 the interviewees used the term "gang" or "Bandito," and of
4 those seven, ICIB asked only two of the interviewees follow-up
5 questions about the Banditos? Would that surprise you?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

7 MR. PACHECO: Would that cause you to have concern about
8 the fullness and completeness of this investigation of Kennedy
9 Hall?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

11 MR. PACHECO: As far as you know, based on the exhibit
12 that I put up on the screen, do you think there was a Code of
13 Silence to keep this information from the public about the
14 Banditos?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so, sir.

16 MR. PACHECO: Do you think there was an effort by the
17 Department not to reveal the existence of the Banditos and
18 their potential role, if not direct role, in this fight that
19 happened in Kennedy Hall?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so, sir.

21 MR. PACHECO: Judge Bonner asked you about the
22 Executioners' investigation at the Compton station.

23 Did you participate in that investigation?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: When did that investigation occur?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: Probably, (inaudible).

2 MR. PACHECO: (Inaudible) participated in that
3 investigation?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: It would be the (inaudible). Those are
5 Internal Affairs that (inaudible) investigate (inaudible).

6 MR. PACHECO: Was this under Sheriff Villanueva's tenure
7 in the Department?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: And were any deputies fired as a result of
10 that investigation?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so, sir.

12 MR. PACHECO: Were any deputies transferred as a result of
13 that investigation?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: Not as a result of the investigation.

15 MR. PACHECO: Now, the focus was whether some of the
16 deputies were Executioners or not; is that correct?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

18 MR. PACHECO: What was the focus in the investigation?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe it was about the (inaudible), and
20 some other person that alleged that (inaudible) they called the
21 Executioners to find out if (inaudible) deputy was. And that'
22 s why they (inaudible) the entire station.

23 MR. PACHECO: So was the point in the investigation to
24 determine whether there, in fact, was a subgroup and
25 (inaudible) Executioners?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: No. (Inaudible).

2 MR. PACHECO: I see.

3 There wasn't an effort to determine if there was a
4 exclusionary subgroup or clique in the Compton station. It was
5 really to look at a more limited scope of what the actual
6 misconduct the particular deputy --

7 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, I think you're (inaudible).
8 (Inaudible). As far as Compton South, again, I gave direction
9 to April Tardy who had permission (inaudible) that had a tattoo
10 were (inaudible) station (inaudible).

11 MR. PACHECO: Where'd they go?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: New assignments.

13 MR. PACHECO: All over the Department?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: So people with an Executioner tattoo were
16 just reassigned? That was what was imposed to resolve this
17 investigation.

18 MR. MURAKAMI: That wasn't part of the investigation, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: I see.

20 But as a result of the investigation, what happened
21 is certain deputies were transferred out but no deputies were
22 terminated?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, it's -- the point of our asking is
24 the investigation doesn't deal with transfers. That was their
25 investigation. As far as the terminations, there was nothing

1 to take action because there was no misconduct. So it came to
2 a point involving East LA and Compton (inaudible) deputies now
3 because they're associated with having a tattoo (inaudible).

4 MR. PACHECO: I'm going to go back to what's up on the
5 screen as Exhibit 12.

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible) it talks to every deputy
7 at the Compton station. And no deputy knew of the existence of
8 any other deputy who was (inaudible) Executioner? I just want
9 to make sure that's the depth of it.

10 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so. I believe -- I don't know if
11 they were (inaudible) or what the line of questioning was, but
12 the way it appeared to me that it will stop some deputies
13 (inaudible) and the (inaudible). So I guess the conclusion was
14 April Tardy concluded (inaudible).

15 COMMISSIONER BONNER: So, I mean, the -- the investigation
16 (inaudible) that there was no deputies there that -- who was
17 associated with the Executioners? I'm just trying to
18 (inaudible). There were people with an Executioners tattoo
19 allowed to, essentially, transfer within the Sheriff's
20 Department. I'm trying to reconcile that investigation showed
21 nothing, but yet, apparently after the investigation, there
22 were a bunch of people that were transferred.

23 First of all, let me ask you first: How many people
24 transferred out of the Compton station (inaudible) Executioners
25 tattoo?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

2 COMMISSIONER BONNER: To the best of your knowledge.

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Yeah. (Inaudible). We never actually
4 (inaudible) a tattoo (inaudible). We just believed that they
5 did have tattoos because they were never there (inaudible).

6 COMMISSIONER BONNER: I didn't say they were.

7 But my question is (inaudible) approximately how many
8 deputies (inaudible) out of the Compton station because they
9 might have had a Executioners tattoo?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe maybe a dozen or so.
11 (Inaudible).

12 COMMISSIONER BONNER: (Inaudible) I'm not going to ask you
13 questions (inaudible).

14 Go ahead.

15 MR. PACHECO: Thank you.

16 Do you know Lieutenant Waldie?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: What do you mean? I know who he is, yes.

18 MR. PACHECO: And you know that he was assigned to
19 Compton?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

21 MR. PACHECO: You know that he testified before this
22 commission?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: And do you know that he testified that he
25 was a Gladiator in Compton?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

2 MR. PACHECO: And do you know that he testified that
3 Executioners existed in Compton?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

5 MR. PACHECO: Do you know whether this investigation
6 interviewed him to talk about the existence of Executioner
7 members in Compton?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I (indiscernible).

9 MR. PACHECO: I want to turn to Exhibit 5 in your book.
10 This I will represent to you is a photograph of a leg tattoo on
11 a sheriff deputy of the Executioners logo. Have you ever seen
12 that subgroup logo before?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, I have.

14 MR. PACHECO: And is that an Executioner logo?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: According to the newspapers. I haven't
16 seen it on an actual person.

17 MR. PACHECO: Okay.

18 So the only way you know that this is an Executioners
19 logo is because you read it in the newspaper?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

21 MR. PACHECO: Do you know what deputy's leg that is, by
22 any chance?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: Would it surprise you if it was
25 Deputy Aldama?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: It could be him. (Inaudible). Yeah. It
2 could have been him.

3 MR. PACHECO: And is that a fairly menacing tattoo?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: I guess I would say it is.

5 MR. PACHECO: Has fire and a skeletal figure; is that
6 right? Is that what that is?

7 Or what is that? Can you tell? It's fire --
8 right? -- there's flames. Is that a helmet that that
9 (inaudible) or whatever (inaudible)?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

11 MR. PACHECO: But you never seen that before in all of
12 your time in the Department?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: I've seen it through the pictures on
14 (inaudible).

15 MR. PACHECO: I see.

16 Do you know Jaime Juarez?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

18 MR. PACHECO: You don't know if whether or not he was a
19 deputy then?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: I know the name, sir.

21 MR. PACHECO: Do you know that he also testified in
22 litigation that he was an Executioner?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: Do you know that he had on his truck --
25 we've seen other evidence in front of this commission of that

1 figure on a flag, that Executioner, on his truck?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: Did anyone in the investigation at Compton
4 interview Jaime Juarez?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: Did you know whether or not Jaime Juarez was
7 a scheduling deputy in Compton during this investigation or the
8 time of the report?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: It's hard to know. There was, at some
10 point in time, he was a scheduling deputy, yes.

11 MR. PACHECO: And as a scheduler, he had the ability to
12 assign shift work for certain deputies; is that correct?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes and no.

14 MR. PACHECO: Why yes and no? I mean, he was the
15 scheduling deputy; right?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: But there's a chain of command (inaudible).

17 MR. PACHECO: So he has an important voice though in what
18 shift work certain deputies get; correct?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so, sir.

20 MR. PACHECO: And if he was, as he's testified, a member
21 of the Executioners, he could favor that subgroup over
22 non-subgroup members in connection with their shift work;
23 correct?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: In theory, yes.

25 MR. PACHECO: I want to go back to Exhibit 11. Actually,

1 not back. Let's go to Exhibit 11.

2 This is testimony in a case by -- it says, "case of
3 Waldie versus County of Los Angeles," but it is testimony that
4 I want to read to you by one of the Department's deputies.

5 Question: "Is there a voting process for determining
6 who gets to put that tattoo on their body?"

7 Jaime Juarez' response: "I wouldn't consider it a
8 voting process, no."

9 "What is the deliberative process for who gets that
10 tattoo?"

11 "So the deputies that work patrol, these are the
12 deputies that are assigned to patrol, they would
13 roundtable. Let's say, if they see a deputy that's
14 working the field that, you know, is out there doing --
15 creating arrests, out there serving the public with honor
16 and respect, conducting ethical, proactive police work,
17 that's a leader at the station who mentors younger
18 deputies and treats them both, you know, the public and
19 other department members with respect. Those are the
20 deputies that they would consider to be -- to offer them
21 that tattoo."

22 So is that how you came about your Caveman tattoo?
23 Was that the same deliberative roundtable process that you --
24 do you know?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: Does it surprise you that Jaime Juarez, when
2 he testified that way about the Executioner tattoo that he
3 received?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: I have no knowledge (inaudible).

5 MR. PACHECO: But some of this testimony overlaps with
6 some of your own; it's hardworking, good deputies that that's
7 how they're selected or come to a conclusion on (inaudible) how
8 they get a tattoo.

9 MR. MURAKAMI: You keep using the term "deputy gang,"
10 (inaudible) term, I won't respond to it.

11 MR. PACHECO: So are you just refusing to answer the
12 question?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: If you keep referring to deputy gangs.

14 MR. PACHECO: (Inaudible). Let's make it even.

15 How about consistent with Penal Code 13670, were
16 there any -- what was the deliberative process, as far as you
17 know, for selecting for people who get a tattoo? Did it
18 involve this roundtable process that is referenced here in this
19 testimony?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Not to my knowledge, sir.

21 MR. PACHECO: To get a tattoo, was there a voting process
22 before somebody could get a tattoo?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I wouldn't know, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: What would happen if someone got a tattoo
25 and it hadn't been voted upon?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

2 MR. PACHECO: Did you know of any deputies who had
3 unauthorized tattoos?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

5 MR. PACHECO: The testimony continues:

6 "Who is 'they'? Who are the 'they' that consider
7 whether or not that deputy will get the tattoo?

8 Answer: "The deputies that have the tattoo that
9 still work Compton patrol.

10 "Is that voting done in person or via phone?

11 "(Inaudible) that I'm aware of were in person."

12 So that talks about a fairly deliberative process.

13 You don't remember any of that when you got your tattoo;
14 correct?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible), sir.

16 MR. PACHECO: Was getting a tattoo a big deal to you at
17 the time?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

19 MR. PACHECO: It's a memorable event; correct?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

21 MR. PACHECO: I want to focus back on the exhibit that we
22 had up before, Exhibit 12, please. If we can go back to the
23 entry on 11/27/2018 at 1300 hours.

24 I believe in connection with that entry you said that
25 you did not speak with Captain -- or Chief Burson; is that

1 correct?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Correct.

3 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever speak with Chief Burson about
4 his elevation to chief from captain?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: On his promotion, yes.

6 MR. PACHECO: And did you recommend to the former sheriff
7 that Chief Burson be elevated?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: And did you talk to former
10 Sheriff Villanueva about that promotion in person?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so.

12 MR. PACHECO: Other than the two of you, was anyone else
13 present?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't recall.

15 MR. PACHECO: Do you remember what was said?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: And Chief Burson testified before this body
18 that he was promoted one day before he received the order to
19 not investigate gangs in the Kennedy Hall investigation. Do
20 you know that that (inaudible) testimony?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: I am aware of that, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: Would it surprise you that that was his
23 testimony that he was promoted one day before he received the
24 order to not investigate gangs, law enforcement (inaudible)?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, it would, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: Do you understand how the community might be
2 suspicious of the planning of Chief Burson's elevation and
3 direction to not investigate sheriff deputy gang groups?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Possibly, yes.

5 MR. PACHECO: I want to take us back to East Los Angeles.
6 Are you familiar with the gang by the name of the Little Red
7 Devils?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

9 MR. PACHECO: Were they a exclusionary "subclique"?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Hard to know, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: And did they precede the Cavemen, or did
12 they come after?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: They preceded, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: And do you know who would've seated the
15 Little Red Devils?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not sure. Maybe (inaudible).

17 MR. PACHECO: So it's the Little Red Devils, the Cavemen,
18 and then the Banditos in terms of order in East Los Angeles; is
19 that right?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

21 MR. PACHECO: And were any sheriff's deputies members of
22 both the Little Red Devils, the Banditos, and the Caveman all
23 at the same time?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe it's possible.

25 MR. PACHECO: And is it that it's not possible because the

1 different gangs timed out after a certain period of time?

2 Like, those Little Red Devils would go for a certain period of
3 time, and then other (inaudible) would come along; is that how
4 that worked?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) transition to different groups.

6 MR. PACHECO: I see.

7 Do you know how big the Little Red Devils were?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: And do you know the name of any one Little
10 Red Devil member?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

12 MR. PACHECO: Do you know the name of any one Bandito
13 member?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: You never got a tattoo with the Little Red
16 Devils or the Banditos?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

18 MR. PACHECO: Were you ever a member of the subgroup
19 Little Red Devils or the Banditos?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Was I ever a member of that group?

21 MR. PACHECO: Yes.

22 So just so we're clear. You weren't a member of the
23 Little Red Devils or the Banditos?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

25 MR. PACHECO: How big were the Little Red Devils in terms

1 of membership?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I couldn't speculate.

3 MR. PACHECO: How big were the Banditos in terms of
4 membership?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know.

6 MR. PACHECO: Would it surprise you if it was approaching
7 60 members?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not quite sure.

9 MR. PACHECO: Are any members of the Little Red Devils
10 still in the Department, generally?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so.

12 MR. PACHECO: Are any members of the Banditos still in the
13 Department?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so.

15 MR. PACHECO: Who are they?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: You don't know, or you won't say?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: Are there any members of the Caveman
20 subgroup that are still in the Department?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so.

22 MR. PACHECO: Did former Sheriff Villanueva know whether
23 or not you were a member of the subgroup the Cavemen when he
24 elevated you to assistant chief?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever talk with him about it?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: And when Mr. Villanueva elevated you to
4 undersheriff, do you know whether he knew whether you had been
5 a member of the subgroup the Cavemen?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: And you don't recall him asking about your
8 membership in the Cavemen?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: Before you promoted any deputy or suspended
11 any deputy, did you ask them whether they were a member of any
12 exclusionary subgroup or clique?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: That wouldn't be my role, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: Okay.

15 MR. MURAKAMI: That wouldn't be my role.

16 MR. PACHECO: So the answer is no?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

18 MR. PACHECO: But you never asked a deputy sheriff whether
19 they were a member of an exclusionary subgroup or clique?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: That is not my role, sir.

21 MR. PACHECO: So the answer is no?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

23 MR. PACHECO: Let's shift our attention to the time that
24 you were City of Industry.

25 How long were you in Industry?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe (inaudible) in different ranks.

2 MR. PACHECO: Huh?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Maybe 20 years through different ranks.

4 MR. PACHECO: Twenty years.

5 What was your highest rank in the City of Industry?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: Station captain.

7 MR. PACHECO: Station captain, the equivalent of a, like,
8 a watch commander (inaudible)?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) station.

10 MR. PACHECO: I see.

11 So what is the role of the station commander?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: Essentially, you're supposed to be like the
13 chief of police for (inaudible) areas and contract cities.

14 MR. PACHECO: So your title was station captain of
15 Industry? That was your highest rank?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: At the station?

17 MR. PACHECO: Yes.

18 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

19 MR. PACHECO: Okay.

20 Who did you report to?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: It would be -- they changed over
22 (inaudible) Chief Terracaro (phonetic), Commander Tescroggin
23 (phonetic), and (inaudible).

24 MR. PACHECO: At the time you were at City of Industry,
25 did you ever investigate the existence of exclusionary

1 subgroups or cliques at the Industry station?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: In your many years in the City of Industry
4 and at that station, did you ever hear of a subgroup by the
5 name of the Industry Indians?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: As you sit here now, do you know who is a
8 member of the Industry Indians?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: Can you give us a single name of any member
11 of the Industry Indians?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: And is that because you refuse, or you don't
14 know the name of any member of the Industry Indians?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know their names, sir.

16 MR. PACHECO: Were you a member of the Industry Indians?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

18 MR. PACHECO: Did you interact, as far as you know, with
19 any member of the Industry Indians?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

21 MR. PACHECO: Did the Industry Indians have a tattoo?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so.

23 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever see the tattoo?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

25 MR. PACHECO: Do you know what the tattoo was?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: As far as I know (inaudible).

2 MR. PACHECO: Had you seen a deputy bearing that tattoo on
3 his hands, face, neck, or navel, what would you have done?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Nothing, sir.

5 MR. PACHECO: You know how long the Industry Indians
6 existed at the Industry station?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

8 MR. PACHECO: Do you know whether the Industry Indians
9 still exist at the Industry station?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: As far as I know, yes, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: That they continue to exist at the Industry
12 station.

13 MR. MURAKAMI: As far as I know, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: How many members are there in this subgroup,
15 the Industry Indians?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: Recently there was some press about the
18 Industry Indians. Have you seen that press?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

20 MR. PACHECO: Are you aware that there was a confrontation
21 between some individuals, deputies who've had tattoos of
22 Industry Indians and members of the community? Are you aware
23 of that?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: And you're aware that there was a violent

1 incident in February of 2022 with off-duty deputies from
2 Industry?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Are you referring to the second incident?

4 MR. PACHECO: Yes.

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: And those off-duty deputies were involved in
7 an altercation at the Montclair Bowling Alley; is that right?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: And were you aware of the incident in 2022?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: When did you first become aware of the
12 incident?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: In the newspaper, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: No one in the Department told you about this
15 incident until you read it in the newspaper?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: (Inaudible)?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: What happens at the (inaudible).

19 MR. PACHECO: Who would be tasked to investigate that
20 Industry Indians altercation?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: More than likely, it'd either be
22 (inaudible) or Internal Affairs if anyone was told to
23 investigate it.

24 MR. PACHECO: Are you aware that one of the deputies
25 flashed a handgun at teenagers?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: In the newspaper, sir.

2 MR. PACHECO: Are you aware in the newspaper that the
3 group of deputies had been drinking?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: According to the news media, yes, sir.

5 MR. PACHECO: When you read that article, did you decide
6 to learn more about the event?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

8 MR. PACHECO: So the first that you learned about it is
9 once you were retired?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: And did you read in the newspaper that the
12 allegation is that a deputy punched a teenager in the face?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: And you're aware in the press that the
15 deputy and sergeant had tattoos linked to that Industry Indians
16 subgroup?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: According to the media, sir?

18 MR. PACHECO: Correct.

19 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

20 MR. PACHECO: And you don't know those particular
21 deputies?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) online.

23 MR. PACHECO: Do you know whether or not those deputies,
24 in fact, had Industry Indians tattoos?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: Were those deputies hardworking deputies?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so.

3 MR. PACHECO: Are you aware of testimony by

4 Chief of Staff Larry Del Mese before this commission where he

5 testified that he had been a member of the Grim Reapers, and he

6 removed his tattoo from his ankle?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so, sir, yes.

8 MR. PACHECO: Do you know any single person who is a Grim

9 Reaper?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: According to what you're saying, Larry Del

11 Mese, so yes, sir.

12 MR. PACHECO: Other than Chief of Staff Larry Del Mese, do

13 you know the name of any other single Grim Reaper now?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: Let's go to Exhibit 6.

16 Have you ever heard of a subgroup by the name of the

17 Jump Out Boys?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: Do you know is that an exclusionary

20 subgroup?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: As far as I know, sir, yes.

22 MR. PACHECO: And is Exhibit 6, in front of you and also

23 on the screen, the logo for the Jump Out Boys?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: You know where they were located?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: From what I was told, they were members of
2 the Gang Enforcement Team.

3 MR. PACHECO: In what station?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe it's countywide.

5 MR. PACHECO: Countywide?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: And do you find that logo particularly
8 menacing with a skeleton pointing a gun?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: Do you know what the significance of the two
11 cards are?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: I'm not a poker player, but is that the dead
14 man's hand?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

16 MR. PACHECO: What does OSS stand for?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: Operation Safe Streets.

18 MR. PACHECO: Operation Safe Streets?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

20 MR. PACHECO: Would that be a logo consistent with the
21 fundamental policies of professional policing?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: The logo, no, sir.

23 MR. PACHECO: Want to turn your attention to an event that
24 happened in 2015, the off-duty shooting of a
25 Deputy Travis Jonsen. Did you have any involvement with that

1 at all?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: Did you investigate or oversee the
4 investigation with regards to those events at all?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Where did it occur?

6 MR. PACHECO: Kern County.

7 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

8 MR. PACHECO: Have you learned about this or heard about
9 this in the media about the off-duty shooting in 2015, Deputy
10 Travis Jonsen at all, in the media or otherwise? Did you hear
11 about that?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

13 MR. PACHECO: You didn't hear about it?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not sure.

15 MR. PACHECO: Okay.

16 Before I put up the next exhibit, if anybody's
17 particularly squeamish, turn away. I guess you would consider
18 this a trigger warning.

19 If you can look at this Exhibit 7, please. We'll get
20 it up on the screen.

21 Have you ever seen this particular photo before?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

23 MR. PACHECO: Do you know what this photo is?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe it's a (inaudible).

25 MR. PACHECO: (Inaudible). This was in the newspaper, as

1 far as you remember?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: And this is Deputy Jonsen's ankle, and looks
4 like a gunshot wound to his tattoo; is that correct?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: Do you know weather this was investigated by
7 the Department, either IAB or ICIB?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know. It should've been, yes, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: And do you know whether or not the tattoo
10 was shot because it was an unauthorized tattoo?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I couldn't say, sir.

12 MR. PACHECO: We can take that down off the screen.

13 Was there a exclusionary subgroup in the county's
14 jail system called the 2000 Boys?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: According to news reports, yes.

16 MR. PACHECO: As far as you know, you don't have any other
17 information other than what you read in the newspaper about the
18 2000 Boys?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

20 MR. PACHECO: How about the 3000 Boys? Were they a
21 subgroup in the county's jail system, and do you know anything
22 about them other than what you read in the newspapers?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir. Just read it in the newspapers.

24 MR. PACHECO: Once you read about them in the newspapers,
25 did that trigger any inquiry in your mind to investigate the

1 2000 or 3000 Boys?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Can you say that again, sir?

3 MR. PACHECO: Sure. Fair enough.

4 Did you ever investigate the 2000 Boys, whether they
5 actually existed?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever investigate whether the 3000
8 Boys actually existed?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir. (Inaudible) I believe (inaudible)
10 administration. So it happened before we came into office.

11 MR. PACHECO: Okay.

12 But did you ever investigate the jails to determine
13 whether they had any active exclusionary subgroups or cliques?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: Did you and Sheriff Villanueva ever make a
16 conscious decision not to inform the public about the existence
17 of cliques or exclusionary subgroups in the Department?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: At any time during your tenure as the
20 undersheriff, did you initiate an investigation into the
21 existence of subgroups or cliques in the Department?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) in the IA interviews at Compton
23 station.

24 MR. PACHECO: The Internal Affairs of the Compton station
25 was the closest. But that, I believe you testified before,

1 wasn't connected (inaudible) to the existence of subgroups in
2 Compton; am I wrong about that?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: It was in terms of finding out the
4 existence of the group and then (inaudible).

5 MR. PACHECO: I see.

6 But other than that, there was no other investigation
7 that you initiated into the existence of subgroups or cliques
8 in the Department?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible), sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: And anytime during your tenure as the
11 undersheriff, you never investigated to find out the number of
12 people involved in exclusionary subgroups or cliques?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: When I say "you," I mean the Department. Is
15 that clear?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: That's clear, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: And at any time in your tenure as the
18 undersheriff, you never investigated the impacts on the
19 community that exclusionary subgroups or cliques have on the
20 Department?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: At any time during your tenure as the
23 undersheriff, did you facilitate the Office of Inspector
24 General's investigation into the existence or membership of
25 subgroups, cliques?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: We provided information to them, but I'm
2 not sure what you mean by "facilitate."

3 MR. PACHECO: Well, at any time during your tenure in the
4 Department, did you obstruct or hinder the inspector general's
5 investigation into exclusionary subgroups or cliques?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

7 CHAIR KENNEDY: Can you -- do you need a break?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Mr. Pacheco, would this be a good time to
10 take a quick -- short break?

11 MR. PACHECO: Let's take a break.

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

13 So why don't we take a 15-minute break.

14 (A 15-minute recess was taken.)

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: Can we get started?

16 I guess Mr. Bonner had to leave, but I think the rest
17 of us are here.

18 (Inaudible).

19 MR. PACHECO: Thank you.

20 Sir, do you understand that you're still under oath?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: I'm going to ask you turn to
23 Exhibit Number 8, and that's up on the screen, in part. And I
24 will represent to you -- but I want you to look at it -- that
25 it is a letter from the Office of Inspector General to the

1 former sheriff, dated January 19, 2022, requesting detailed
2 information about, in their language, deputy gangs. Do you see
3 that letter?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

5 MR. PACHECO: Do you remember receiving that letter?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: Do you acknowledge that that letter is
8 seeking information about deputy gangs?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

10 MR. PACHECO: Do you acknowledge that that letter is
11 seeking information about deputy gangs?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: And we're going to turn to Exhibit Number 9.

14 You can turn to that in the binder, and then it'll
15 be, in part, on the screen. It's a letter from you, dated
16 February 10, 2022, to Max Huntsman, the inspector general. Do
17 you see that letter?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: And do you see that it's in response to the
20 January 19, 2022 letter?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

22 MR. PACHECO: And do you see that it's a letter affixing
23 on page 2, your signature: Timothy K. Murakami?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: And it's signed in your role as

1 undersheriff.

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: And in that -- does that help you remember
4 the January 19 request?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: Do you remember this letter? The February
7 10, 2022 letter.

8 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: Do you remember refusing to provide
10 information to the Office of Inspector General with regard to
11 deputy gangs?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe -- well, I think all the
13 information that he requested had already been provided.

14 MR. PACHECO: So the way you read your February 10 letter
15 was that you had already provided the information so you
16 weren't going to provide it again?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so, but I couldn't tell you
18 (inaudible).

19 MR. PACHECO: And then I'm going to ask you to turn to
20 Exhibit Number 10 in your binder. We'll put that on our own
21 screen. And I will represent to you that Exhibit 10 is a
22 letter dated March 21st, 2022, from the Office of Inspector
23 General. It is signed by the inspector general, Max Huntsman,
24 requesting the same information being requested in January of
25 that year, to which the Department responded in your letter

1 that they would not provide.

2 And it also addresses on page 4 that they have not
3 received the information that you -- that the Department said
4 it had already produced. In fact, in the second line on page 4
5 of the second paragraph, it says -- Well, the first line:

6 "Undersheriff Murakami's letter contends that the OIG
7 is requesting records it already possesses or has viewed.
8 This is inaccurate because OIG is requesting many records
9 that it does not have. Moreover, the Sheriff's Department
10 is required to produce all records related to OIG's
11 Section 13670 investigation, including references provided
12 previously so OIG can ensure that production is complete
13 and that there is a clear trail of documents and
14 information produced to the Department pertaining to this
15 investigation."

16 So, sir, do you contend that the Department provided
17 the materials despite the OIG's March 21 correspondence?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe we did. Yes, sir.

19 MR. PACHECO: So in response to this March 21st letter,
20 the Department did not provide any additional materials to the
21 OIG; is that correct?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so, sir.

23 MR. PACHECO: Was this a instance where the Department
24 refused to provide materials to the OIG in its investigation of
25 deputy gangs?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, I believe that he was provided
2 information. I'm not sure it goes to the extent that he is
3 requesting. But I know that I believe it was (inaudible). I
4 think we had to get it back and try and (inaudible) and OIG.
5 (Inaudible) they said they didn't receive some, if we could
6 verify what's been sent.

7 MR. PACHECO: So do you believe Mr. Huntsman's statement
8 that this is inaccurate because OIG is requesting many
9 documents it does not have -- is inaccurate? Do you think his
10 statement's inaccurate in that letter?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so. (Inaudible).

12 MR. PACHECO: Did you write back to him in response to
13 Mr. Huntsman's March 21, 2022 letter?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't recall, sir.

15 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever provide additional documents
16 (inaudible) the Department to the OIG in connection with its
17 investigation of deputy gangs?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I'm not sure exactly what we sent
19 them. They said (inaudible).

20 MR. PACHECO: Did you oversee the production of any
21 documents in connection with this body's investigation of
22 deputy gangs?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: Are you respectful of the Civilian Oversight
25 over law enforcement?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

2 MR. PACHECO: Do you believe civilians have a value in
3 responsibility to oversee law enforcement?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

5 MR. PACHECO: And do you believe that they should have
6 access to important documents and materials so that they can
7 exercise that function responsibly?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: It depends upon the (inaudible) what they
9 can or cannot see.

10 MR. PACHECO: A (inaudible) personnel records or things
11 permitted by law, isn't there (inaudible) that the Department
12 can provide that will shed some light on this issue of deputy
13 gangs?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: I think so.

15 MR. PACHECO: And yet, the Department didn't provide that
16 information to this file?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I'm not sure, sir.

18 MR. PACHECO: And the Department did not bend over
19 backwards to provide information to the Office of Inspector
20 General. In fact, in response to their written inquiries, did
21 not provide additional material; is that true?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I'm not sure, sir.

23 MR. PACHECO: And do you acknowledge that Penal Code 13670
24 requires the Department to provide records as requested by the
25 Office of Inspector General, don't you?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not sure what the statute requires.

2 MR. PACHECO: Let's take a look at it. It is Exhibit 3.

3 And let's go to the bottom -- focus on the bottom.

4 I'm better reading it from this copy. It says, in
5 part, sir, toward the end of that statute, Penal Code 13670:

6 "A law enforcement agency shall cooperate in any
7 investigation into these gangs" -- their word, not
8 mine -- "by an inspector general" -- like Huntsman -- "the
9 attorney general, or any other authorized agency."

10 Do you see that language?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

12 MR. PACHECO: So at the -- when this law was passed, this
13 is a law that the Department focused on; right? This was a
14 relatively recent law and caused some review by the Department.

15 MR. MURAKAMI: I think that the problem that we run into
16 may be a difference of opinion within the highlighted area, the
17 definition of what a deputy gang is.

18 MR. PACHECO: Well, let's -- I'm glad you mentioned that.
19 Let's go up to the first part.

20 And so, "Law enforcement gang is defined as a group
21 of peace officers within a law enforcement agency who may
22 identify themselves by name and may be associated with an
23 identifying symbol, including but not limited to, matching
24 tattoos, and who engage in a pattern of on-duty behavior
25 that intentionally violates the law or fundamental

1 principles of professional policing."

2 Do you see that language?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

4 MR. PACHECO: That's pretty broad language; right?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

6 MR. PACHECO: So this would apply to any instances, you
7 would agree, that -- where there's a negative impact on the
8 fundamental principles of professional policing; correct?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: That's a matter of interpretation, sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: Where? Let's look at that language. It's
11 pretty clear -- isn't it? -- that it applies to any gang who
12 engage in a pattern of on-duty behavior that intentionally
13 violates the law or fundamental principles of professional
14 policing. You see that language.

15 MR. MURAKAMI: It goes further, sir.

16 MR. PACHECO: Oh.

17 "Including but not limited to excluding, harassing,
18 or discriminating against any individual based on
19 protected category under federal or state
20 antidiscrimination laws, engaging in or promoting conduct
21 that violates the rights of other employees or members of
22 the public, violating agency policy, the persistent
23 practice on unlawful detention or use of excessive force
24 in circumstances where it is known to be unjustified."

25 And it keeps going. That's pretty broad; is that

1 not?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: That doesn't go toward what they mean by
3 professional policing (inaudible).

4 MR. PACHECO: So your view with this is a narrow statute?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Say again.

6 MR. PACHECO: It's in your view that this is a narrow
7 statute, that it doesn't apply to deputy gangs? I'm just
8 trying to understand your view.

9 MR. MURAKAMI: Based upon how you define deputy gangs,
10 you're using a broad definition which doesn't apply.

11 MR. PACHECO: But isn't law enforcement gangs a broad
12 definition under Penal Code --

13 MR. MURAKAMI: No.

14 MR. PACHECO: -- 13670?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

16 MR. PACHECO: I see.

17 Is that why you didn't investigate subgroups and
18 cliques because this language, you think, is not precise?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: As far as a investigation, (inaudible) some
20 type of criminal operation or violation of policy in order to
21 look into (inaudible).

22 MR. PACHECO: But it doesn't require a violation of
23 policy. Yes, it does require, in some instances, if there's a
24 violation of law, it applies. But it also applies if there is
25 a violation of fundamental principles of professional policing;

1 right?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes. But it's defined in the following
3 sentence what they mean by that.

4 MR. PACHECO: Right. In a very broad way; right?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: It's (inaudible) of what they're talking
6 about in terms of professional policing (inaudible).

7 MR. PACHECO: I think we'll part company, but we'll leave
8 it to the language that this statute is being very broad.

9 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

10 MR. PACHECO: Sorry. What's that?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: We can agree to disagree.

12 MR. PACHECO: I think we're disagreeing. This seems to be
13 a very broad statute, but you're saying that you read it very
14 limited way. And because you read it in a limited way, did you
15 then refuse to produce documents to the OIG; is that --

16 MR. MURAKAMI: We gave them documents (inaudible).

17 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever go to county counsel to get
18 some guidance on the legal interpretation of this particular
19 statute?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm going to object. (Inaudible).

21 MR. PACHECO: I'm not going to ask what the county counsel
22 told you. But did you go to them to ask for their
23 interpretation of California Penal Code 13670?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so. The constitution of policing
25 person and (inaudible).

1 MR. PACHECO: Did you go to the constitutional policing
2 person?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so.

4 MR. PACHECO: And who's that person?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: That'd be (Inaudible).

6 MR. PACHECO: When did you go to that person?
7 (Inaudible).

8 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

9 MR. PACHECO: Did you go to county counsel to discuss
10 California Penal Code 13670?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so, sir.

12 MR. PACHECO: Who, at county counsel's office, did you
13 speak with about Section 13670?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: I couldn't say for sure. I'm assuming it
15 would've been (Inaudible).

16 MR. PACHECO: Come again.

17 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

18 MR. PACHECO: Anybody else at the County Counsel's Office
19 that you spoke to about 13670?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so.

21 MR. PACHECO: Did you have any emails, texts, Post-it
22 notes, or other communications with county counsel about the
23 application of California Penal Code Section 13670?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: Did you have any text, emails, written

1 communication with the Office of the Inspector General, other
2 than the letters we've seen, about the breadth of California
3 Penal Code Section 13670?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't know, sir.

5 MR. PACHECO: And you're not a lawyer?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: Excuse me?

7 MR. PACHECO: You're not a lawyer?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: During your time at the Department, did
10 Sheriff Villanueva ever direct you not to investigate the
11 existence, scope, membership, or actions of subcliques or
12 subgroups in the Department?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: And by the way, since that language is up on
15 law enforcement...

16 You see the language that -- where it says that a law
17 enforcement gang -- it says "who may identify themselves by
18 name and may be associated with an identifying symbol,
19 including but" -- this language -- "but not limited to..."

20 So when it says "but not limited to," that's a
21 broader expression of that language, rather than a narrower
22 expression of the language. Would you agree?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not quite sure, sir.

24 MR. PACHECO: During your time at the Department, did
25 former Sheriff Villanueva ever direct you to not investigate

1 the impacts of sheriff deputy gangs, subgroups, cliques, or law
2 enforcement gangs on the community?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

4 MR. PACHECO: Certain sheriff personnel have spoken to the
5 press, such as The New Yorker, Knock LA, The LA Times, and to
6 this body how they've been targeted by exclusionary subgroups
7 or cliques in the Department. Are you aware of any of those
8 types of allegations?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

10 MR. PACHECO: And what did you do in response to any
11 allegations of retaliation on deputies by any subgroups or
12 cliques?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe that each (inaudible) was
14 investigated by Internal Affairs.

15 MR. PACHECO: Did you direct any of those investigations?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: What were the findings of any of those
18 investigations?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe they came out with no evidence
20 stating that (inaudible). And I believe all those allegations
21 (inaudible).

22 MR. PACHECO: Was any deputy or any personnel in the
23 Sheriff's Department harassed as a result of their cooperation
24 with this body?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: And do you know of any deputies or staff in
2 the Department who were harassed as a result of their
3 cooperation in any inquiries about subgroups or cliques?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

5 MR. PACHECO: Do you know whether or not former
6 Sheriff Villanueva ever attempted to become a member of a
7 subgroup or a clique?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: No knowledge?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: No knowledge.

11 MR. PACHECO: Do you think it's inconsistent with the
12 fundamental principles of professional policing to have groups
13 and the Department that exclude women, black people, and gay
14 people?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: I never heard of anybody being excluded.
16 It would be wrong, if that's true.

17 MR. PACHECO: And it would be wrong such that it would
18 violate the fundamental principles of professional policing;
19 correct?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes.

21 MR. PACHECO: And you think that it enhances community
22 police relations for the Department to have groups that exclude
23 women, black people, or gay people?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: You're making it sound (inaudible).

25 MR. PACHECO: Do you think it's illegal for cliques

1 operating in the Sheriff's Department to exclude women? If you
2 know. Again, you're not a lawyer. But do you know if it's
3 illegal for cliques operating in the Sheriff's Department to
4 exclude women?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't think it'd be illegal, but
6 (inaudible). I'm not sure why, but I don't think it's against
7 the law. It's a private (inaudible).

8 MR. PACHECO: Well, do you think it's illegal for cliques
9 operating in the Department to exclude black people?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not sure if the word "illegal" would
11 apply.

12 MR. PACHECO: Same question. Do you think it's illegal
13 for cliques operating in the Sheriff's Department to exclude
14 any member of the LGBTQ community?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir. That'd be illegal, sir.

16 MR. PACHECO: Do you think it's consistent with the
17 fundamental principles of professional policy to investigate
18 complaints about the existence of subgroups that exclude black
19 people, women, or gay people?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Say again -- can you ask that again?

21 MR. PACHECO: Of course.

22 Do you think that it's inconsistent with the
23 fundamental principles of professional policing to investigate
24 complaints about the existence of subgroups that exclude black
25 people, women, and gay people?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe that if a complaint of that
2 nature was received, they should investigate.

3 MR. PACHECO: Would you view this commission's actions as
4 that kind of a complaint?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

6 MR. PACHECO: (Inaudible) desire to investigate?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: You're making it -- there's no official
8 allegation of exclusion of any group (inaudible). April Tardy
9 testified about the exclusion of blacks (inaudible) station
10 tattoo. So that in itself is (inaudible).

11 MR. PACHECO: Let's talk about that then. You said that
12 April Tardy has a station tattoo; correct?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: What's the tattoo of?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: It's a Temple -- it's a Temple V
16 (inaudible) station tattoo.

17 MR. PACHECO: Is Temple V a exclusionary subgroup?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

19 MR. PACHECO: Do you know why she got that tattoo?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: She stated that same thing that the
21 (inaudible) said; it was station pride and being considered a
22 deputy.

23 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever talk to April Tardy about the
24 tattoo?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever hear from her why she got the
2 tattoo or didn't you get the tattoo?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

4 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever see her tattoo?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: Was the subgroup in Temple a violent
7 subgroup?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: Not that I know, sir, no.

9 MR. PACHECO: Do you know any members of the subgroup in
10 Temple station?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I just stated one, but other than that, I'm
12 not sure, sir.

13 MR. PACHECO: So other than what you're saying about
14 April Tardy, do you know any other member of the Temple
15 subgroup?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

17 MR. PACHECO: And you've never looked into it further to
18 investigate members of the Temple subgroup?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

20 MR. PACHECO: Would you agree that subgroups --
21 exclusionary subgroups undermine the chain of command and
22 discipline in the Department?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: They should not impact chain of command or
24 discipline.

25 MR. PACHECO: Have you ever heard of subgroups engaging in

1 work slowdowns in stations if they don't get what they want?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, if you're referring to East LA and
3 Compton by April Tardy, these are facts, and it was proven that
4 it wasn't (inaudible).

5 MR. PACHECO: And who investigated that? You said April
6 Tardy?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: April Tardy.

8 And she did direct that at both East LA and Compton
9 because there were allegations of work slowdown, and I had her
10 look into it. And both of them showed there was no work
11 slowdown.

12 MR. PACHECO: Was that in a written report?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so.

14 MR. PACHECO: And what group was involved with
15 April Tardy investigating work slowdown?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: It would be her chain of command, the
17 lieutenant commander or captain giving direction as to
18 (inaudible).

19 MR. PACHECO: Did Internal Affairs or any other group look
20 into work slowdown issues?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: No.

22 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever initiate an investigation into
23 subgroups and their use of excessive force against citizens?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Did I ever initiate it, sir? No, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: Do you know whether anybody in the

1 Department initiated an investigation about subgroups and their
2 use of excessive force against citizens?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: There is -- besides making sure (inaudible)
4 investigation (inaudible) excessive force, but (inaudible)
5 subgroup, I'm not sure (inaudible). But I did have Risk
6 Management Bureau look into the correlation between officer-
7 involved shootings and the alleged members who were in
8 subgroups, and they found no correlation.

9 MR. PACHECO: They found a correlation?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: No.

11 MR. PACHECO: No correlation.

12 And was that a written report?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

14 MR. PACHECO: And who conducted that investigation?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: It'd be Risk Management.

16 MR. PACHECO: Who at Risk Management conducted that
17 investigation?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: Every member -- (inaudible).

19 MR. PACHECO: When was that conducted?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Probably years ago.

21 MR. PACHECO: And what did -- a particular station or
22 stations that were --

23 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) look at it over -- I believe it
24 had to do with civil suits, but I couldn't confirm that.
25 (Inaudible).

1 MR. PACHECO: So was it conducted in connection with civil
2 suit but not a larger inquiry into the issue?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: I think so, (inaudible).

4 MR. PACHECO: As undersheriff or at any time in the
5 Department, you didn't refer law enforcement gangs, subgroups,
6 cliques to the California Attorney General for investigation;
7 is that right?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: "No, sir," you did not refer them?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: No.

11 MR. PACHECO: And you did not refer any subgroup or clique
12 issue or issues to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for
13 investigation?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe -- well, I think that we
15 discussed both the allegation at Compton station and East LA
16 station to the FBI and gave them whatever data we had.

17 MR. PACHECO: But did you ever go to the FBI and say, "Can
18 you assist and look at this greater issue about exclusionary
19 subgroups or cliques in the Department"?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: The Department is (inaudible) at East LA
21 and Compton together.

22 MR. PACHECO: Do you think that the Department can
23 capably, fully, completely investigate subgroups and cliques in
24 the Department, generally, internally?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: Can you say that again?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: Sure.

2 Do you think that the Department can fully,
3 completely, capably investigate itself as it relates to
4 subgroups and cliques?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: I think there could be (inaudible)
6 investigation. But, again, you run into the problem with
7 employee rights, you know, where you're going to run into
8 issues.

9 MR. PACHECO: All right. So, no. I hear you about
10 challenges to investigation, but my question is slightly
11 different, and that is: Do you think that the Department can
12 police itself, in that, can it investigate subgroups and
13 cliques fully and fairly?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, I do.

15 MR. PACHECO: Who in the Department -- what group would be
16 responsible for such an investigation if one was ever to
17 investigate?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, the Internal Affairs, if there's
19 anything involving policy violation (inaudible) criminal
20 investigations.

21 MR. PACHECO: The investigations that you think of though
22 related to specific misconduct, as opposed to be sort of a
23 general inquiry about whether subgroups and cliques exist in
24 the Department; is that right? Is that how you --

25 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

1 MR. PACHECO: You never directed and don't know about any
2 investigation overall about subgroups or cliques in the
3 Department; correct?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Correct.

5 MR. PACHECO: And do you think that the Department will
6 ever be in a place where it will investigate itself fully and
7 completely as to subgroups and cliques?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I'm not sure, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: And you're not sure, why?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Because of the fact that it's
11 Sheriff Luna's department now, and all he's concerned about is
12 legal (inaudible). I think there's (inaudible).

13 MR. PACHECO: So do you think an outside agency is needed
14 in order to get to the bottom of this problem in the Sheriff's
15 Department about subgroups and cliques?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: Could be. Like I said, (inaudible) to both
17 East LA and Compton. In East LA and Compton, (inaudible) so
18 it's an open investigation.

19 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever look for any power in your role
20 in the Sheriff's Department to the Los Angeles District
21 Attorney's Office for investigation?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: In connection with what?

23 MR. PACHECO: Connection with subgroups.

24 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

25 MR. PACHECO: And as undersheriff, did you ever refer any

1 subgroup matter to the LA District Attorney's Office for
2 prosecution?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Not my role, sir.

4 MR. PACHECO: When you were the undersheriff, were any
5 deputies terminated for participation in sheriff deputy gangs,
6 subgroups, or exclusionary groups?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

8 MR. PACHECO: As undersheriff, did you ever direct ICIB or
9 IAB to question deputies about their participation in
10 exclusionary subgroups or cliques?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so.

12 MR. PACHECO: Did Sheriff Villanueva do so?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

14 MR. PACHECO: When were you promoted to assistant chief of
15 patrol operations?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: I think you mean the Sheriff (inaudible)?

17 MR. PACHECO: Yes.

18 MR. MURAKAMI: That was in December, 2017, I believe.

19 MR. PACHECO: When did you first learn that you had been
20 promoted to assistant sheriff?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: It wasn't that much before that
22 (inaudible).

23 MR. PACHECO: Who told you that you would be promoted?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Sheriff Villanueva.

25 MR. PACHECO: When did you actually first start in your

1 role as assistant sheriff?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: That would be (inaudible) December of 2017.

3 MR. PACHECO: And you were promoted three ranks at once
4 from captain to assistant sheriff; is that correct?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: And then shortly after that, you were
7 elevated to undersheriff in March of 2019?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: 2018, sir.

9 MR. PACHECO: 2018.

10 When were you told that you would be --

11 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: (No audible response.)

12 MR. PACHECO: -- sorry.

13 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: (Inaudible) when Alex Villanueva was
14 elected Sheriff. (Inaudible) elected Sheriff in December of
15 2018, served as Sheriff from '19, '20, '21, '22. December '22,
16 he lost the election, at which time, Sheriff Luna became
17 Sheriff. So, you know, (inaudible) I want to say when he was
18 elected Sheriff, he wasn't Sheriff in December, 2017 -- it's
19 '18, '19, 2020, and then (inaudible).

20 MR. PACHECO: When were you told that you were first
21 elevated to undersheriff?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: That would've been March of (inaudible).

23 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: (Inaudible).

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Yeah, I believe 2018 -- '19?

25 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: '19.

1 MR. MURAKAMI: Okay.

2 2019.

3 MR. PACHECO: Yeah, thanks.

4 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Absolutely.

5 MR. PACHECO: Who told you that would first be elevated to
6 undersheriff?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: Sheriff Villanueva.

8 MR. PACHECO: At some point, Sheriff Villanueva appointed
9 you to the Truth and Reconciliation panel; correct?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: And you oversaw that panel?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) has to do with deputy
13 gangs.

14 MR. PACHECO: It had to do with deputy gangs too.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (No audible response.)

16 MR. MURAKAMI: Okay.

17 Yes, he did.

18 MR. PACHECO: Do you know Carl Mandoyan?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, I do.

20 MR. PACHECO: Was he a Grim Reaper?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so.

22 MR. PACHECO: Let's go to Exhibit 14. And Exhibit 14 was
23 the logo we looked at before; that's a Grim Reaper logo.

24 Do you know whether Mr. Mandoyan had a Grim Reaper
25 tattoo?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't know, sir.

2 MR. PACHECO: And Mr. Mandoyan was affiliated in South
3 Los Angeles station of the Sheriff's Department?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so.

5 MR. PACHECO: And his matter came up for review before
6 you; correct?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: Say again.

8 MR. PACHECO: His matter came before review in front of
9 you on the Truth and Reconciliation?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes.

11 MR. PACHECO: Who sat on the Truth and Reconciliation
12 panel with you?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: It was myself -- it's hard to recall right
14 now, but the assistant sheriffs, Chief Vera (phonetic), all of
15 our Internal Affairs, (inaudible).

16 MR. PACHECO: How frequently did it meet?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

18 MR. PACHECO: How frequently did it meet?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: That's up to the person (inaudible).

20 MR. PACHECO: Who came up with the name, the Truth and
21 Reconciliation Committee?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe the Sheriff.

23 MR. PACHECO: Sheriff Villanueva?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

25 MR. PACHECO: And was this Truth and Reconciliation

1 Committee created just to handle the Mandoyan matter?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: Did it handle other matters?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

5 MR. PACHECO: It was disbanded at some point; correct?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: Why?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: Because of the -- I believe the County
9 entered a lawsuit, or somebody did, regarding Carl Mandoyan.

10 MR. PACHECO: And what was the issue with regard to
11 Mr. Mandoyan in the Truth and Reconciliation Committee?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: Whether or not that he got a fair review,
13 and whether exculpatory evidence was being excluded.

14 MR. PACHECO: Was it the review of his history of criminal
15 violations?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: We didn't look at anything additional. We
17 just looked at the case itself.

18 MR. PACHECO: And what did the case itself involve?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

20 MR. PACHECO: Let me put it to you this way: Had
21 Mr. Mandoyan been terminated from the Department at some point?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

23 MR. PACHECO: And then, he appeared before the panel that
24 you chaired, and he was reinstated; is that correct?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: He didn't appear. But the investigation

1 was under review, and then, yes, he was reinstated.

2 MR. PACHECO: And you knew at the time that he was
3 reinstated that he was a member of the Grim Reapers.

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Even when you asked me did I know, I can't
5 say I know, but that's what people are saying. I think it
6 might have been in the media reports.

7 MR. PACHECO: At the time that you were chairing this
8 panel, had you known he was a Grim Reaper, would you have
9 reinstated?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

11 MR. PACHECO: In your time at LASD, did you ever
12 discriminate against someone on the basis of race?

13 (Mr. Murakami and his counsel confer.)

14 MR. MURAKAMI: No.

15 MR. PACHECO: Did you ever use racial epithets or ethnic
16 slurs to describe your subordinates?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. You're going to answer the
19 question.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) court order
21 (inaudible).

22 CHAIR KENNEDY: (Inaudible) law enforcement gangs
23 discriminate based on race and religion?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) racial epithets
25 (inaudible).

1 MR. PACHECO: Let me ask you this way: Are you aware of
2 two public lawsuits, one by Carlos Parga and one by a
3 Tracy Stewart, against the Department based on their work at
4 the Industry station and their involvement with you?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) two protective orders
6 that are in place for each of those not to discuss the content
7 of (inaudible).

8 MR. PACHECO: Why don't we --

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: This is publicly available information.
10 You don't need to have (inaudible) --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The complaints were (inaudible).

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: This was widely reported.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm just telling you there are
14 protective orders that are in place for you (inaudible) issued
15 by the Court.

16 MR. PACHECO: Just so that we're clear here, did
17 Mr. Murakami sign onto those protective orders?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I believe his counsel did.

19 MR. PACHECO: And so you have counsel in connection with
20 the (inaudible)?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm not working with anyone. I've
22 been given direction by his counsel that involves (inaudible)
23 what he can answer; so (inaudible).

24 MR. PACHECO: Here's what I would recommend: Let's now
25 take our 10-minute break and we'll come back, because I have

1 some thoughts about that.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Sure. It's (inaudible).

3 MR. PACHECO: Thank you.

4 (A 10-minute recess was taken.)

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Mister -- Counsel, whenever you're ready.

6 MR. PACHECO: Thank you.

7 Mr. Chairman, we have one additional document. We're
8 going to label it in order in our binder as number 17, and
9 we'll hand it out now.

10 CHAIR KENNEDY: Sure.

11 MR. PACHECO: Mr. Murakami, I have enough time for you and
12 your counsel to review what's been marked as Exhibit Number 17,
13 and I'll ask you questions about it.

14 I will just represent for purposes of the record, it
15 is a letter from county counsel, dated March 6, 2024, to the
16 commission's chair in response to a Public Records Act request,
17 attaching information that was provided in response to that
18 inquiry.

19 (Mr. Murakami and his counsel confer.)

20 MR. PACHECO: Sir, have you had the opportunity to review
21 Exhibit 17?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

23 MR. PACHECO: And I know that you wouldn't have seen the
24 March 6, '24 letter. I just wanted you to see it, that it is
25 material produced in response to a Public Records Act request.

1 Do you see that letter?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

3 MR. PACHECO: And attached to it is the Sheriff's
4 Department -- there's two documents and those are -- have you
5 ever see those two documents before?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so. No, sir.

7 MR. PACHECO: Okay.

8 And are you familiar with the County Equity Oversight
9 panel?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, I am.

11 MR. PACHECO: What is that?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: It's a panel that reviews allegations of
13 policy and equity (inaudible).

14 MR. PACHECO: And in September of 2020, that panel
15 concluded you'd violated the Department's policy against racial
16 discrimination and harassment; is that correct?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't believe that (inaudible)
18 what it provided (inaudible) these documents are a part of his
19 personnel file, which is protected (inaudible) as well as
20 everything (inaudible) consent dealing with (inaudible).

21 MR. PACHECO: Mr. Murakami, I want you to look at the
22 document dated September 15, 2020, from Scott Gage, the
23 commander of South Patrol Division to the County Equity
24 Oversight panel. And there were two allegations against you
25 that the panel considered; is that correct?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so.

2 MR. PACHECO: And one of the charges was unfounded, the
3 policy of equality discrimination based on race and sexual
4 orientation; is that correct?

5 (Mr. Murakami and his counsel confer.)

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) objection that these
7 are public documents related to his personnel file (inaudible)
8 being questioned about this (inaudible).

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: This is a public document that was
10 produced last night by the county counsel pursuant to a public
11 record that requests a public document.

12 MR. PACHECO: Mr. Murakami, does this document reflect
13 that the panel found that it was unfounded that you had
14 violated the policy of equality discrimination based on race
15 and sexual orientation?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Once again, while it hasn't been
17 provided, I agree with the county counsel determination
18 (inaudible) that it's still exempt and privileged pursuant to
19 852.7, as well as Government Code Section 3300 et seq.
20 (Inaudible).

21 MR. PACHECO: Yes or no?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

23 MR. PACHECO: Are you refusing to answer based on
24 instruction from your counsel?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

1 MR. PACHECO: And I'm going to ask you a series of other
2 questions. If you follow the instruction, that's fine. We'll
3 just make it clear on the record.

4 Is it true that on September 15, 2020, or thereabout,
5 that the County Equity Oversight found that the charge against
6 you for policy of equality inappropriate conduct toward others
7 based on race was unfindable?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have the same objection on that
9 (inaudible).

10 MR. PACHECO: Again, do you refuse to answer the question?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

12 MR. PACHECO: Do you see where the panel had recommended a
13 written reprimand to the Sheriff's Department about you based
14 on their findings? Do you see that?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Same objection and advice to my
16 client.

17 MR. PACHECO: Are you following the advice of you counsel
18 not to respond?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

20 MR. PACHECO: And is it true that despite the
21 recommendation of the County Equity Oversight panel to
22 institute discipline in the form of a written reprimand for
23 violation of the policy, inappropriate conduct toward others
24 based on race, that the Department, nonetheless, refused to
25 impose any discipline?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Once again, I'll impose the same
2 objection and advice to my client.

3 MR. PACHECO: So based on your advice of counsel, you're
4 not going to respond; is that correct?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

6 MR. PACHECO: Mr. Kennedy, I don't have further questions
7 at this time.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

9 So I guess some (inaudible) county counsel's
10 (inaudible). (Inaudible) reason for all kinds of things today
11 that being in a hearing, county counsel's produced these
12 documents (inaudible) public records (inaudible) not going to
13 answer questions about (inaudible). For the record,
14 (inaudible).

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: As I am personal counsel,
16 Mr. Chairman, my interpretation is completely different than
17 yours. So while I expect (inaudible) follow by my (inaudible).

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: No, I understand, and I'm glad you're
19 here. (Inaudible) if it's been released as a public record.

20 MS. KIRBY: (Inaudible).

21 CHAIR KENNEDY: (Inaudible)?

22 MS. KIRBY: Good afternoon. Amara Kirby from County
23 Counsel (inaudible) in the letter from county counsel
24 (inaudible) signed off (inaudible).

25 CHAIR KENNEDY: So there is no bar to simply releasing

1 this public record if a witness will not answer about and
2 (inaudible). This is a public record.

3 MS. KIRBY: Yes. (Inaudible) I do believe that
4 (inaudible).

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. So make it a part of the record.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) that typically,
7 something like this, there would be notice of release so that
8 we would be able to object to any release of it. That was not
9 (inaudible) notified. (Inaudible) considered for release
10 (inaudible) a violation of his rights under 832.7, again. And
11 (inaudible) release of this.

12 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I (inaudible) and that (inaudible).

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now I'm aware of both my
14 objections, but I don't (inaudible).

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I guess we'll find out one way or
16 another later on. So I'm going to treat it as a public record
17 and make it part of our record here.

18 And, Mr. Pacheco, thank you so much. Do you have
19 anything else?

20 MR. PACHECO: Nothing further.

21 CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner questions?

22 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Yes.

23 Sir, you mentioned that you received your invite to
24 join the deputy gang (inaudible), but did you ever consider who
25 recommended you or how you got the award?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: No.

2 COMMISSIONER COOPER: So you just received the award, had
3 no idea who gave it to you, who recommended, what criteria?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

5 COMMISSIONER COOPER: And then I had another question.

6 You constantly referred to the permission of the
7 union. I am very concerned about who was running the
8 Department. You as "under deputy" or the union?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: That's a misinterpretation. Sorry that you
10 took it that way.

11 When we deal with a union, they have employee rights.
12 We can't violate their rights. (Inaudible) comply. But we're
13 not afraid of the unions. But, again, if -- the cause is not
14 to violate any personal rights, which I think you'd respect
15 (inaudible) investigation (inaudible) itself.

16 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Management rights is what I'm
17 talking about. You kept making statements, "I have to get an
18 approval from the union to manage a department unit." Unions
19 don't tell companies or corporations how to manage employees or
20 manage their business.

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Again, I think you're misinterpreting what
22 was said. They're not following some legal (inaudible) on
23 every decision they made. There's certain things where --
24 there's a Peace Officer Bill of Rights. And if we infringe
25 upon it, one, it's going to be tossed out, and, two, we're

1 going to be held to civil liability.

2 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Now, the other question I have: You
3 made statements that you weren't aware of a lot of things going
4 on in your department like the Kennedy stuff, you wasn't aware,
5 the Compton stuff. But as the undersecretary (inaudible),
6 under deputy and the top, how can you not know what's going on
7 in the Department?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: It depends upon what matter because what
9 happens, and the other staff -- we have 18,000 employees and
10 there's a chain of command. Certainly, like when Mr. Pacheco
11 talked about something dealing with a deputy, it doesn't rise
12 to my level. It went to our command team in the Department.
13 Most things are handled by captains, commanders, and chiefs,
14 and it depends upon the level of the issue (inaudible) before
15 it ever reaches my desk.

16 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Well, when things hit the newspaper
17 and the world, you mean you're not concerned about looking at
18 the reports and reading them for yourselves and then
19 questioning what really happened?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: We did, ma'am.

21 COMMISSIONER COOPER: I didn't get that based on your
22 answers.

23 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, what happens is that, one thing,
24 (inaudible) in social media, but the report is not always the
25 truth. For instance, our panel did a level of investigations

1 or maybe in the command staff, which I don't think looked at
2 the (inaudible) whether it's true or untrue.

3 COMMISSIONER COOPER: (Inaudible) stand that. But the
4 fact you do get a written report, you get a brief, you read it,
5 do you question some of the stuff in there?

6 Secondly, when they asked you about whether or not
7 the deputy gangs were investigated, did it seem unusual? Was
8 the leg tattoo shot off? Was it investigated? Your answers
9 was, like, "I'm the second top man in command, but I don't
10 know."

11 MR. MURAKAMI: The thing about the allegation in the
12 shooting the tattoo, I think it happened in 2015.

13 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Way before you?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: Yeah, way before me. So I'm unaware of it.
15 And if -- based upon the media report, that's insane. You
16 know, if that -- these allegations are true, that's insane.

17 What happens is that they're suddenly feeling like --
18 say, for instance, there was an incident in Compton station
19 where two deputies got in a fight. Those allegations might
20 have implied that one was (inaudible). We investigated. We
21 even give things to the FBI. You know, so a lot of these
22 things that are controversial, (inaudible) are initiated, we
23 were bringing the FBI in because we wanted things (inaudible)
24 to hold us accountable, and maybe we all could offer them to
25 take it over, you know, (inaudible) if they see a civil

1 violation at the federal level, they can kick back to us.

2 (Inaudible.)

3 COMMISSIONER COOPER: Now when you transferred people from
4 the Compton station and the East LA station, did you get
5 permission from the union before you transferred those people?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: What happened is -- the problem we have is
7 that there is no proof of misconduct, whether illegal or
8 violation of policy. (Inaudible) best interests of everybody
9 if they move from the area of the station. And then what
10 happens then, we had (inaudible) as to their employee rights.
11 We can't force them to leave. So all the moves that were out
12 of Compton and East LA (inaudible) were voluntary. You know,
13 that's where the unions became involved (inaudible) employee
14 rights.

15 COMMISSIONER COOPER: No other questions. Thank you.

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: Patti?

17 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Yeah. I just want to follow up on
18 the volunteers. There was -- that was very important
19 information I received about the movement of those out of
20 Compton and East LA station. So when you say "it's voluntary,"
21 how does a -- I mean, how do a group of people decide
22 voluntarily that they don't want to be there anymore? "Send me
23 somewhere else." What's that process? There must be some
24 discussion. "It's not working here. You're not working here."
25 Well, we have to take this -- we recommend you consider --

1 could you explain that process?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, at the time, April Tardy was the
3 chief over Central Patrol both at Compton and East LA station.
4 I talked to her about what we needed to do. She personally
5 went down there and met the deputies, along with the union
6 person. The union person (inaudible) used their (inaudible)
7 conversation (inaudible). We just wanted the deputies to know
8 that it's probably better for us, better for the Department, if
9 they go somewhere else, another station. So that's what's
10 voluntary. We didn't force them. We couldn't force them. But
11 they left voluntarily.

12 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: So (inaudible) by that kind of
13 behavior?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

15 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: You know, (inaudible) recommending
16 that you leave, but you can do it on your own volition, which
17 is fair. The union is there to make sure there is no real
18 coercion, but they're seems to be -- there seems to be an
19 argument, some coercion, even if it's informal, and that
20 because -- in a sense because there was -- there were reasons.

21 How many people were transferred? Do you remember?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: I'd be guessing at best, but maybe a dozen.

23 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: A dozen, yeah. I think that's
24 (inaudible) too.

25 MR. MURAKAMI: Somewhere in there.

1 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Thank you.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Jamon?

3 COMMISSIONER HICKS: (Inaudible).

4 When you said that when you got to the (inaudible)?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER HICKS: (Inaudible).

7 MR. MURAKAMI: You're talking 40 years ago, and no insult
8 to anybody. I'm on medication. That's why I'm an old man
9 (inaudible).

10 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Well, you remembered getting the
11 tattoo; right?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, I do.

13 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Have you ever heard of a "inking
14 party"?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: Just in the media. I've been following
16 that, but I never heard of the term before that.

17 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Never heard the term "inking party"?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

19 COMMISSIONER HICKS: And the people present when you were
20 getting the tattoo, you know, they thought it was like a inking
21 party?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: Say again?

23 COMMISSIONER HICKS: (Inaudible)?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: There was just the ten that were present,
25 but they didn't label it anything. It was a tattoo parlor.

1 COMMISSIONER HICKS: What's the difference between, in
2 your mind, the difference between the Cavemen and the
3 Executioners?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, there are a few based upon what I
5 read in the media.

6 COMMISSIONER HICKS: No, outside the media. In your mind,
7 what's the difference between a Caveman and an Executioner?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not quite sure because I don't know
9 much about the Executioners. You know, as far as what they --
10 they're accused of doing refuse to do certain things, but I'm
11 not fully aware of what the circumstances were. As far as some
12 of its activities, there's no allegations of anything. That's
13 what the difference would be, I think.

14 COMMISSIONER HICKS: These transfers that you were talking
15 about, how is that fixing the problem if you just transfer
16 these people to another station (inaudible)?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, in our belief, it's just a couple of
18 things. If they truly wanted (inaudible) a recommendation that
19 a station move him somewhere new, you know, they carry the same
20 recommendation. But also the fact that if they ever got into
21 any type of trouble, you know, the fact that they have a
22 station tattoo will multiply the problem.

23 COMMISSIONER HICKS: But doesn't it send a message to
24 other deputies that "If you misbehave, the worst thing that
25 will happen is you're transferred to another station"

1 (inaudible)?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: The problem you have is that you can't
3 discipline them for having a tattoo. It's not a violation.

4 COMMISSIONER HICKS: What if there's a violation of a
5 policy in the Department?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: Then they will face discipline.

7 COMMISSIONER HICKS: I think there was a question about
8 "Code of Silence." Is that a media term as well?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: It's an old term, sir.

10 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Have you heard of it within law
11 enforcement?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

13 COMMISSIONER HICKS: It exists within law enforcement?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: You said I heard of it.

15 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Does it exist within law enforcement?
16 Is there, like, a Code of Silence involved, or is that the
17 media?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: I think in any profession, even the medical
19 profession, there's some limit of people that don't want to
20 talk.

21 COMMISSIONER HICKS: So in law enforcement there's a Code
22 of Silence?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible) say anything (inaudible).

24 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Mr. Murakami, you mentioned, here
25 in your testimony here today, six times, the name of

1 April Tardy, and you made a seventh reference to her in the
2 answer to a question just now. And I'm curious, is your
3 reference to her repeatedly, is that accidental, or is it
4 (inaudible)?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: It's factual.

6 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And is your reference to her and
7 her alleged gang tattoo, is that in reference to anything that
8 you have observed directly, or is that just what you've read in
9 the media about her tattoo?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Can you rephrase that question?

11 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Is your repeated reference to
12 April Tardy a reference to what you've read about her or
13 anything you have heard directly about her from subordinates,
14 previously or from your observations?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: No personal observation. I saw a post
16 after she came there and was questioned about station groups.

17 And then, I heard that she went to Civil Service and
18 (inaudible) and explained what it was.

19 You know, and then some are just the fact that I
20 heard that people that worked the station were unhappy because
21 of the fact that maybe she had a tattoo, you know. So that's
22 what it is.

23 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And when you were sheriff (sic),
24 was she underneath you in the chain of command, or was she
25 above you in the chain of command?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: She was below me.

2 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yeah.

3 And who was above you in the chain of command during
4 the period when you were undersheriff from 2019 to 2022?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: The Sheriff.

6 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And what was his name?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: Alex Villanueva.

8 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And were you undersheriff during
9 the period of February, 2022 when the off-duty incident of
10 deputies in a drunken brawl in Montclair occurred?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And your testimony was that you had
13 no awareness of that episode whatsoever?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: No, because you're talking about a drunken
15 fight at a bowling alley. So that doesn't go to the attention
16 of my level. It's handled by mostly the chief. In fact, the
17 review was sent out by the chief at the end (inaudible). I
18 think Sheriff Luna was advised after that of what we call case
19 review. But he didn't know about it 'til after case review
20 himself, or so I was told.

21 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Was the (inaudible) to be aware or
22 respond to (inaudible) April Tardy's fault as well?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

24 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And was there any follow-up about
25 that incident whatsoever, which occurred on your watch, during

1 the remainder of your tenure on the force in the chain of
2 command?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Again, I'm not aware of any follow-up. The
4 case was fully investigated by Internal Affairs. And, again,
5 the level of the offense never rose to notify me.

6 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Regarding the Indian tattoos that
7 existed at the Industry station, do you wish to add at all to
8 your testimony or your answers to questions about awareness of
9 those Indian tattoos today?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: And, for the record, your answer:

12 "If you had seen an Indian tattoo, what would you
13 have done?"

14 And your answer was: "Nothing, sir."

15 Do you wish to add to that at all?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

17 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you.

18 No further questions.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: JP?

20 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Yeah.

21 Undersheriff, thank you for being here today.

22 Appreciate you being here and answering our questions.

23 Just to clarify the record (inaudible), have you
24 (inaudible) you were, at that point, (inaudible) captain in
25 Industry station?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

2 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Okay.

3 When you relocated, did you skip a rank where you
4 went from captain of Industry station to undersheriff or chief?
5 What was your (inaudible)?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: I went from captain to assistant sheriff
7 with the idea that I did my time as a commander even though I
8 had the duties of assistant sheriff.

9 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Okay. If you can give me the
10 timeline.

11 So Alex is sworn in in December.

12 MR. MURAKAMI: Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: When did you become -- you go to be
14 the captain at Industry station?

15 MR. MURAKAMI: I did. What day did I leave Industry
16 station?

17 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: No.

18 Once Alex got sworn in, when did he elevate you?

19 MR. MURAKAMI: At a separate --

20 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: So the same time he was sworn in?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

22 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Bumped up to -- and you went to --
23 you then became assistant sheriff in December, 2018?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

25 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: So you were assistant sheriff over

1 the investigation (inaudible) ongoing into the Kennedy Hall,
2 essentially?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

4 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Were you in the promotional process
5 of Chief Burson -- were you -- did you have some say in the
6 promotion of Chief Burson from captain to chief?

7 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

8 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: How did that happen?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: That, I don't recall.

10 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Okay.

11 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

12 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Okay.

13 Can we just go back and (inaudible). Go back to when
14 you got the (inaudible). Was that something you got at the
15 conclusion of your training or some -- like , after you've been
16 off training from the union, (inaudible) peers?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: It was after training, but how long
18 afterward, I don't recall. (Inaudible).

19 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Okay.

20 But it wasn't the kind of thing, like, "I got off
21 training." "Good for me." "I didn't go down," and your
22 Caveman tattoo? That's not the situation; correct?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

24 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Okay.

25 So it was after you showed whatever you needed to

1 show that (inaudible) after you'd been off training that you
2 then went to the (inaudible) and got the Caveman tattoo?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

4 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Did you ever (inaudible) East LA '87
5 or Industry?

6 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

7 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: (Inaudible)?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: I went to recruitment in '87.

9 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Oh, okay.

10 How long were you there?

11 MR. MURAKAMI: A couple of years.

12 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Okay.

13 (Inaudible). When did you get your (inaudible)?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: (No audible response.)

15 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: (Inaudible)?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

17 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: (Inaudible).

18 MR. MURAKAMI: At least maybe 14 years in, so maybe '93.

19 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Okay.

20 And you (inaudible)?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

22 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: So you never worked Industry
23 together?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: Never.

25 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Okay.

1 (Inaudible).

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Luis?

3 COMMISSIONER GARCIA: I wanted just to go back to the
4 Fort Apache (inaudible), and correct me if I'm wrong, but as
5 far as I think the record reflected, the logo was really born
6 out of (inaudible) East LA residents and (inaudible) East LA
7 and (inaudible) LA Sheriff station and the (inaudible) were
8 protesters in the 1970s shown (inaudible). So (inaudible) that
9 history context, I mean, shortly afterward, (inaudible) then
10 Sheriff Pitchess talked about taking a low profile.
11 (Inaudible).

12 So I raise that now because when we hear it, in my
13 time as commissioner, spent time in and out of county jail.
14 You know, I go back to 1992 with Coats (phonetic) Report, and
15 we have the 2011 CCJV report, the RAND report. We had Sarah
16 Gupta (phonetic) who sat before the Board of Supervisors and --
17 that don't like (inaudible). And I have personal (inaudible)
18 in law enforcement. I have a little experience with jail and
19 prison. And when I hear the discussion of station tattoos and
20 those tattoos that meet the legal definition of PC 13670, in
21 every station that there is, if it was up on the wall, that
22 would be a company (inaudible) description of what this, you
23 know, (inaudible) has in Century and has a emblem or logo
24 that's painted on the wall. I think every station has one
25 (inaudible).

1 And from my understanding, with, like, April Tardy,
2 she got a station tattoo that matches the station's identifying
3 logo that's found on (inaudible) substation.

4 Now, per the -- this administration, the policy for
5 deputy gangs in the Sheriff's Department is out of line with PC
6 13670, is in this meet-and-confer process.

7 And you're retired (inaudible), you know, by both
8 (inaudible) both retired after 35 years, and so I wish you all
9 the best in retirement.

10 As a private citizen now, already from Los Angeles
11 County, given this history of this issue, whether it's
12 subgroups or blah, blah, blah, whatever it is, there's a
13 problem that (inaudible) by various county commissions, various
14 reports.

15 Do you think this policy with this administration,
16 when it comes down and is enforced within the Department -- do
17 you think that will begin to differentiate between the station
18 tattoo and what's a tattoo that meets legal criteria of
19 PC 13670?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: I think they're walking a difficult line
21 trying to decide what's a good tattoo, what's a bad tattoo.
22 That's why, in general, will the Department ban tattoos?
23 (Inaudible) upon a regular tattoo different from one with a
24 (inaudible). Well, we couldn't differentiate. So, again, we
25 came up with a policy that they couldn't be showing any

1 tattoos. So any time the Department's going to try to decide,
2 well, this group's okay, that one is bad, is going to open a
3 can of worms to the extent of lawsuits, because the criteria
4 (inaudible), or you deal with it as it comes.

5 And, again, we looked at quantity as: "If they're in
6 violation (inaudible), then (inaudible) associated with a group
7 (inaudible) in the policy."

8 But a tattoo itself, alone, you know, there's a lot
9 of street gangs. And I said, "If a guy walked in here with a
10 "18th Street" tattoo, I'd identify him as a gang member."
11 There's certain criteria that need to be met. (Inaudible)
12 identifying tattoos. Well, there's (inaudible) that need to be
13 checked off because that (inaudible) the soon-to-be (inaudible)
14 Sheriff Luna is walking that line to say, "This one's okay, and
15 this one's bad." You know, (inaudible). If he can figure out,
16 hats off to him. But if not, you need to (inaudible).

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: (Inaudible).

18 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Two questions.

19 Back to Cavemen. Is there any correlation between
20 the tattoo (inaudible) watch at the station? For instance, the
21 morning people have Caveman tattoos; the p.m. people have
22 Banditos, (inaudible). Was there any correlation, meaning,
23 that that tattoo is watch (inaudible)?

24 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe so.

25 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Okay.

1 Based on when -- you've been in law enforcement a
2 long time. (Inaudible) a new deputy sheriff any advice if he
3 came to you and said, "Hey, you know, I'm getting a tattoo"?
4 What would your advice be --

5 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, in light of what's going on there, we
6 had chiefs, myself, command staff, (inaudible) with the patrol
7 (inaudible) stations discouraging getting a tattoo, whether
8 they think they're good or bad is not -- it's not a good thing.
9 You know, it's not sending out the message that you want. So
10 we're strongly telling them not to get a tattoo. And that's
11 our advice.

12 COMMISSIONER HARRIS: Good.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. So in light of that, Mr. Murakami,
14 as the former second in command of the sheriff's station, is it
15 your opinion that you can't fire or discipline a sworn law
16 enforcement member who has a KKK tattoo or a Nazi tattoo?

17 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't think we can.

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: So deputy sheriffs can walk around with a
19 swastika tattoo on their body, and that's not -- no one can do
20 anything about that?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: I think as long as it's covered or -- I
22 mean, that's my belief. I could be wrong though.

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: If they shoot members of public, people
24 who are of color, it's irrelevant, and you can't do anything
25 when they have a KKK tattoo because that's their First

1 Amendment right, in your view?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: I think you're taking it to another level.

3 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I'm asking you a question.

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Yeah, I know.

5 As far as the criminal aspect, no. But in terms of
6 liability, it'd be a mess.

7 CHAIR KENNEDY: What about firing? disciplining? Like, "I
8 don't want you in my law enforcement agency policing the public
9 with a swastika tattoo."

10 MR. MURAKAMI: I'm not sure if you could.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

12 And you said that whether you can -- or you can't use
13 the tattoo as evidence, really, of anything; right?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: What do you mean?

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, you said that you can't arrest a
16 gang member with an 18th Street tattoo because a tattoo is not
17 enough.

18 MR. MURAKAMI: Right.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: But isn't it true that it is one of the
20 five or six things you'd use to make the opinion that someone
21 is gang-involved?

22 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

23 CHAIR KENNEDY: One. That's what I said. One of the five
24 or six criteria; right?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes.

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: So why isn't a deputy gang tattoo on an
2 officer one of the criteria that could be used to decide
3 whether they're violating Penal Code 13670, which prohibits
4 members of any law enforcement gang -- and that's the
5 Legislature's term, not mine.

6 MR. MURAKAMI: I don't believe you can. It's within their
7 rights under the First Amendment. Again, you're drawing it out
8 further than it should be.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: So you can use the tattoo as
10 circumstantial evidence of proof that a young person is in a
11 criminal street gang, but you can't use the tattoo as
12 circumstantial evidence that a member of the Sheriff's
13 Department may be a member of a law enforcement gang?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible). Honestly, I'm offended that
15 you're comparing (inaudible).

16 CHAIR KENNEDY: I'm going to -- I'm actually going to
17 (inaudible). I'm going to ask you, are you alleging the
18 statute refers to groups that associate together under a common
19 symbol, and it states a tattoo. And you're telling me, as the
20 sworn second in command of the Sheriff's Department, that you
21 cannot use that as evidence of anything with respect to law
22 enforcement gangs?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: Well, I'm telling you that's my belief, and
24 if Sheriff Luna believes otherwise, he can do what he wants to
25 do now. I'm done. But --

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: I understand that.

2 And do you think -- well, first I should say, is this
3 the first time, Mr. Murakami, that you've publicly admitted
4 that you have a Caveman tattoo?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe so.

6 CHAIR KENNEDY: And, in fact, in the past, haven't you
7 denied that you were affiliated with the Cavemen?

8 MR. MURAKAMI: I wasn't responsive.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: I'm sorry.

10 MR. MURAKAMI: Unresponsive.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: I don't understand your answer.

12 Have you, in the past, denied that you were
13 affiliated with the Cavemen?

14 MR. MURAKAMI: I wasn't responsive; I didn't respond.

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: You were unresponsive.

16 So you were trying to deliberately evade answering
17 that question?

18 MR. MURAKAMI: That's a personal question, so yes,
19 (inaudible).

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: And is that -- were you trying to evade
21 answering the question because you knew it would be perceived
22 as a improper thing for a law enforcement officer to do?

23 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: No.

25 Do you think that you, as the undersheriff, suffered

1 from a conflict of interest in making decisions about whether
2 or not to investigate the deputy gang within the ranks?

3 MR. MURAKAMI: Again, (inaudible) your use of the word
4 "deputy gangs."

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: Law enforcement gangs. I'll use the
6 statutory language.

7 Do you think that you have a conflict of interest in
8 making decisions whether or not to investigate a law
9 enforcement gang because you yourself have a Caveman tattoo?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: Now, I think in 2020 you said that you
12 removed all of your Caveman tattoo; is that right?

13 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIR KENNEDY: And you did that because you no longer
15 wanted to be associated with the Cavemen?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: I guess you could say that.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: And after you altered the Cavemen tattoo
18 to make it a different tattoo, did you recall ever bragging to
19 other individuals in a gym in Industry that they, quote, "Can't
20 get me now," unquote? Did you say that?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: Never, sir.

22 CHAIR KENNEDY: Did you tell three other law enforcement
23 members in a gym in Industry that you had removed the tattoo so
24 that nobody could get you now, they couldn't accuse you of
25 being a Caveman? Did you say that?

1 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: So if somebody said you said that, they
3 would be lying?

4 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, sir.

5 CHAIR KENNEDY: And then my final question for you --
6 because you've been here a long time, and I do appreciate you
7 finally coming here -- is: Did you say that the Department had
8 done a study of tattoos and shootings and that the list
9 (inaudible) found that there was no correlation?

10 MR. MURAKAMI: I believe, basically, there's -- it was
11 based on the lawsuits. So they looked into officer motive. I
12 don't exactly know the details, but it was trying to look into
13 a correlation between allegations of deputy subgroups and
14 shootings, and they found no correlation.

15 CHAIR KENNEDY: First of all, who did this?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: It was (inaudible). He's the one who was
17 fired. I can't remember his name. But you should be able to
18 get it on PRA.

19 CHAIR KENNEDY: What does he look like?

20 MR. MURAKAMI: Male, white, kind of balding --

21 CHAIR KENNEDY: Could be a lot of people.

22 MR. MURAKAMI: -- not very tall. I can't remember his
23 name.

24 CHAIR KENNEDY: In this year? Year, about?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: Probably -- I can give it a guess -- 2020,

1 maybe.

2 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

3 And I ask how could the commander of
4 Risk Management Bureau conduct a study (inaudible) in the
5 correlation between having law enforcement gang tattoos and
6 shootings and find no correlation if none of you asked anybody
7 in the Department if they have any tattoo that's more a tattoo
8 affiliated with a law enforcement gang?

9 MR. MURAKAMI: I think he did it based upon the
10 allegations from the lawsuits.

11 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. But my question is: How can we
12 conduct any kind of valid study of having a deputy or law
13 enforcement gang tattoo and police shootings when you've
14 already told us that none of you asked anybody if they have a
15 tattoo? So how can that study be valid?

16 MR. MURAKAMI: If I'm not mistaken, I said (inaudible)
17 based upon lawsuits.

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: But how can you look into it? You just
19 told us you won't ask anyone those questions.

20 MR. MURAKAMI: I've stated my response and keep repeating
21 it (inaudible), sir.

22 CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I know, and I'm trying to be
23 quarrelsome, I'm just trying figure out how the study could be
24 done.

25 MR. MURAKAMI: (Inaudible).

1 CHAIR KENNEDY: And it's your claim as you sit here today
2 that no leader in the LASD can ask any deputy whether or not
3 they have one of these tattoos that are associated with a law
4 enforcement gang?

5 MR. MURAKAMI: I think it's changed now, and they are
6 asking. But I'm not positive (inaudible). But at the time we
7 were dealing with it, there was a concern over violating
8 employee rights.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Do you ever worry about members of the
10 public who had to interact with deputies who have an
11 Executioner tattoo?

12 MR. MURAKAMI: No, sir.

13 CHAIR KENNEDY: (Inaudible).

14 Patti?

15 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: It looks like -- because, you know,
16 law's involved, personnel wellness is involved, and
17 cultural beliefs involved.

18 Now, you made a decision to I think, in a sense,
19 alter your Caveman tattoo. You made that decision from your
20 own volition. Nobody asked you to do that, and you decided to
21 do that. And did you say because of the kind of atmosphere,
22 groups like this, it became -- even though you may not have had
23 the intention when you got the tattoo -- it became something
24 different?

25 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, ma'am.

1 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: (Inaudible)?

2 MR. MURAKAMI: Yes, ma'am.

3 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Now that you know you had all this
4 experience (inaudible) came to the Department and (inaudible)
5 to the community (inaudible), do you now -- would you say from
6 a reasonable person's perspective, that this whole issue of law
7 enforcement gangs, these tattoos that have menacing names --
8 Executioners, Banditos -- these are not, like, Mickey Mouse
9 clubs. They don't have, you know, those kind of types.
10 They're not friendly. They're not warm and friendly titles.
11 They're kind of menacing.

12 So would you -- how do you feel now in your
13 retirement, as a citizen, what you've been through and watching
14 the Department, (inaudible) about this issue, that giving
15 (inaudible) that the public's trust has been violated by the --
16 even the controversy, whether it's been proved 100 percent that
17 there's evil behind it or there's been bad behavior or
18 actionable criminal activity, that the public community's trust
19 in the Department (inaudible) has been violated with this issue
20 that we can't seem to dig our way out of?

21 MR. MURAKAMI: I think the intent of the deputies involved
22 is not anything bad, but the way it's being perceived now,
23 (inaudible), you know.

24 That's why, you know, I recommend people not only
25 remove them, I definitely encourage the deputies, if they were

1 to get one -- because it's not sending out a positive message.
2 And that was not the intent, you know.

3 But, again, the intent versus perception are two
4 different things, and public perception is important.

5 So, again, you know, it's -- we're talking about
6 (inaudible) don't do it anymore. It's foolish, and it is not
7 achieving what they think it is. That's why I (inaudible).

8 COMMISSIONER GIGGANS: Thank you.

9 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Patti.

10 Mr. Murakami, I wish I could say that your
11 obligations are completely over as a (inaudible) but,
12 hopefully, we can work them out. But your obligations to this
13 commission today are certainly over, and I appreciate you
14 coming and engaging in this difficult testimony of an issue
15 that is equally hard for our community. So thank you.

16 And then we're going to take public comment.

17 MR. DELGADILLO: Public comment.

18 CHAIR KENNEDY: We're going to take public comment.

19 MR. DELGADILLO: (Inaudible), Michele Infante.

20 CHAIR KENNEDY: (Inaudible).

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good afternoon. You all know,
22 (inaudible). I'm here really to, once again, amplify and keep
23 in your minds Niani Finlayson, who was shot and murdered by
24 Deputy Ty Shelton on December 4th. (Inaudible) her home, she
25 called 911 to tell there was a violent situation, and this

1 happened in front of her nine-year-old daughter.

2 The reason I'm bringing this up is that
3 Deputy Ty Shelton has alleged ties to deputy gangs, and that's
4 what we're here to discuss. As far as which one, I am
5 uncertain. In the Antelope Valley, probably the Rattlesnakes
6 or the Cowboys. But I know they don't have a lot of
7 information about what happens up in the northern part of LA
8 County.

9 What I can tell you is that he fits the pattern. So
10 back in the summer of 2020, he did the same thing, responded to
11 a domestic violence call, shot and killed an elder in the
12 community, Michael Thomas.

13 After he was on desk duty for several months was
14 returned to the streets, unleashed back on the residents of the
15 Antelope Valley. He was also promoted to the position of
16 training officer.

17 He seemed to have a certain type of community member
18 that he targets, both being black and always involved in
19 domestic violence call.

20 I, unfortunately, and I say "unfortunately" watched
21 the video of (inaudible). I had to move away (inaudible)
22 myself because I was watching someone being murdered.

23 So the videos show -- the body cam shows that when
24 the officer arrived as they were trying to kick down the door,
25 they heard some type of altercation in the home -- in the

1 apartment. They never announced that they were law
2 enforcement. Would you answer the door if someone is kicking
3 at your door and you don't know who they are? Niani did open
4 the door. She had a knife in her hand, but that knife was
5 given to her by her nine-year-old daughter to protect herself
6 (inaudible) that was abusing her and put hands on her daughter.
7 In the 16 minutes it took them to get there, she never used it
8 on the gentleman. If she was going to (inaudible) him, then
9 she would've done it before they arrived.

10 They come into the apartment, the deputy, actually --
11 Shelton -- tosses aside the Taser, and in less than a few
12 minutes, shoots Niani four times in front of her daughter.

13 So I'm asking this body to please put independent
14 eyes on that. Do it for her. And also please dig in deeper to
15 what's going on with the Rattlesnakes and the Cowboys.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

18 MR. DELGADILLO: Michele Infante, followed by Mark Brown.

19 MS. INFANTE: Good afternoon. My name is Michele Infante.
20 I'm with Dignity and Power Now.

21 It's always interesting to sit up here during these
22 deputy gang hearings to watch a pathological liar come up
23 there, continuously talk and lie in front of all these people.
24 It's interesting to watch a sociopath and a narcissist sit up
25 there and only do what's best for them. He had 43 years to do

1 something about what he saw, and he did nothing. And after 43
2 years, this man comes up here and wants us to believe that he
3 can't remember anything.

4 It's not a culture. It's a way of life. It's not a
5 culture. It's a way of life. They live it every day. They're
6 killing people every day.

7 And I think that most of you that have been up here
8 for a long time, with the exception of a few you, know that
9 this is an organization they think's independent, but we need
10 to have independent people, agencies, come in to be able to
11 look at this kind of stuff.

12 Time after time and question after question was:
13 "What did you do about any of this stuff?" And they said they
14 didn't have anything to substantiate. You have absolutely
15 nothing after 43 years of families coming to you, complaint
16 after complaint, complaining. It's not just the beating that
17 these families are taking, that their loved ones are taking.
18 These people's lives are being taken. They're not lost;
19 they're being taken. These are homicides. These are
20 homicides. These are not accidental killings.

21 And you cannot come up here and say that you have a
22 tattoo that only means pride. You had 43 years to show your
23 pride and you didn't. What you showed us was that you're a
24 sociopath.

25 You people are relentless; you have no remorse;

1 you're deceitful; you gaslight; and you don't care about
2 anyone. And every one of you know that what I'm saying is a
3 fact because all you have to go back and do is look year after
4 year at what these people are doing.

5 These people are dying, not from Sickle Cell Anemia.
6 They're not dying from hardening of the arteries. We have 16
7 bullets in the back of someone who's running away.

8 So how many more times do we need to bring these
9 people up here? It's the same story. And the same families
10 are saying the same thing.

11 These people cannot investigate themselves and it's
12 apparent. We need independent investigations just to look over
13 your own department because you can't do it. Everything is
14 that you cannot substantiate. It's not that you can't
15 substantiate; it's that you're a fucking liar. That's what it
16 is. You're a liar. And you want to cover what's criminal.

17 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

18 MR. DELGADILLO: Mark Brown (phonetic), followed by Cindy
19 Navarro (phonetic).

20 MR. BROWN: I just have a couple of comments on the
21 testimony today that I heard.

22 And I agree with the prior speaker that there seems
23 to be an element of all these professionals in the Los Angeles
24 Sheriff's Department where there is a sociopathic element to
25 being unable to recognize the danger of a gang of professionals

1 that carry weapons (inaudible).

2 So the names we heard today of these groups were Grim
3 Reaper, Executioners, Banditos, Red Devils. Those are not the
4 names of any softball team I've ever heard. I think the
5 testimony today, as the prior person said, it is embarrassingly
6 sociopathic not to recognize that. Any child would recognize
7 what those names mean.

8 The tattoos we've seen today: Skulls, guns pointed
9 at you, dead man's hands. These are not logos for a softball
10 team.

11 And I think it's absurd that the prior sheriff,
12 Villanueva, and this guy sitting in public and pretend as he
13 said, quote, "The intent of these deputies is not anything
14 bad."

15 You have those names, you have those graphic skull,
16 guns pointed at you. "Not anything bad"? Again, I agree it's
17 sociopathic. And I don't know how you're going to break this
18 down in this group of professionals.

19 He agrees that they're menacing, but it's not
20 anything bad. He agrees that this is for pride and hard work.
21 And it's all of these names and all of these designs.

22 We saw an ankle with a tattoo with a bullet hole in
23 it today. But "this is not anything bad" said the second in
24 command of the Sheriff's Department. That's what we're dealing
25 with.

1 You all were professional and fantastic today, but
2 it's hard to watch.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

5 MR. DELGADILLO: Cindy Navarro.

6 MS. NAVARRO: Good afternoon, everybody.

7 I wanted to make it known it's just I believe that
8 the gangs within the police department (inaudible). And the
9 reason I'm saying this is because on my own personal matter, my
10 case, there's a judge involved. For a judge to backdate a
11 warrant on a plane boarding to Hawaii, that I found out is on
12 vacation, he wouldn't risk this job.

13 So I'm just letting you guys and the public aware of
14 my theory which involves other agencies and entities that are
15 involved in this.

16 Also, let me (inaudible) the Temple City Sheriff's
17 Department, Rubén Gonzalez, Steven Fielder, and
18 Marco Villanueva, who (inaudible) for your guidance.
19 (Inaudible).

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

22 MR. DELGADILLO: We have some online public comment.

23 First of all, we have Salina Cole (phonetic).

24 Can you please unmute yourself. Salina Cole, you can
25 go ahead?

1 Can you please unmute yourself Salina Cole?

2 MS. COLE: Yes. Can you hear me?

3 MR. DELGADILLO: Yes, we can.

4 MS. COLE: Okay.

5 First of all, I want to thank you guys for taking the
6 time out and listen to us as a community.

7 I just want to say it's deep embedded within the
8 County. As an employee, I see the union and the County. They
9 check and balance themselves as they make these rules and
10 policies that they don't follow within the Department. You
11 know, they use the union to protect themselves. But when the
12 union is responsible to check back to the County, it seems like
13 nothing is getting done, and I say that because I'm an affected
14 family.

15 And as we create these new policies, I really want
16 y'all to think about timeframe because in 2015, my daughter's
17 life was ruined by what LA County Sheriff's Department did in
18 the Antelope Valley. And we're on year eight, and she is still
19 (inaudible), and she is still having mental health issues
20 trying to maintain her family.

21 And as a mother, to work for Los Angeles County and
22 to be a steward of SEIU 721 for 22 years and to witness the
23 behavior -- even in 2020, LA County Sheriffs holding my
24 daughter for 14 days, playing with her life, as I'm calling on
25 the phone, frantically, identifying myself as a mother, as a

1 LA County employee, which department, and still being affected
2 because the people on the phone can only do so much when the
3 people in control are doing things that are criminal.

4 And so I say think about the cause and effect of
5 this. We are on year eight.

6 My grandson is 14 years old. He lost both of his
7 parents for the first five years of this death after the police
8 killed -- and now it says on his death certificate, "homicide."
9 So it's not a question. It's a fact that he was murdered --
10 right? -- by the police, and he got victimized.

11 But all of that don't even matter. What matters is
12 the people that are left behind in the recovery that we are
13 trying to recover from, and them still acting like this is not
14 a human rights issue for everybody involved, because it is.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. DELGADILLO: Next up is Jody Martinez (phonetic).

17 You've been unmuted. Please unmute yourself.

18 MS. MARTINEZ: I'd like to speak to the commission. Thank
19 you for this examination of how deeply embedded deputy gangs,
20 gang members with badges are embedded in the largest sheriff
21 department in our nation.

22 The second in command has continued to deny deputy
23 gangs. And as the testimony revealed, he was not truthful when
24 asked questions prior.

25 Thank you to Commissioner Kennedy for drawing

1 attention to the fact that young youth in our community are
2 held liable and received criminal enhancements when they
3 contain a gang tattoo on their body.

4 And yet, Murakami was unable to draw the connection
5 that he couldn't utilize the same criteria based on the penal
6 code, which identified gang tattoos. And he refused to by
7 saying "How dare you draw a comparison between sworn deputies
8 and the general public or a criminal," when, in fact, he alone,
9 should know how deep the criminality is within his former
10 department. He should know how many people who were formerly
11 working for the Sheriff's Department were convicted of a crime.

12 I do have a unique perspective. I am the grandmother
13 of a child who was shot and murdered by a member of the
14 Banditos gang in East LA.

15 At the time of my grandson's murder, in June of 2019,
16 different community members approached our family and
17 identified the officer, Saavedra, from the East LA station, as
18 being a member of a deputy gang. And yet, we had no proof
19 until a very brave whistleblower came forward in an interview
20 and identified Saavedra.

21 So our problem, those of us who grew up in East LA,
22 have ties to East LA, and all of LA County, we're still dealing
23 with deputy gang members that are still active, actively
24 involved.

25 And it is a fallacy that these deputy gang members do

1 not wear their prejudice and their hate and their racism on
2 their bodies. And it is a fallacy that when they're out in the
3 community, they're not prejudiced against the communities that
4 they have identified with by their gang affiliation.

5 I don't know what needs to change except that these
6 deputy gang members be fired immediately.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you.

9 MR. DELGADILLO: This concludes our public comment.

10 CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. I think that concludes this
11 hearing.

12 Anthony, Maura, Julia, I just wanted to thank you for
13 assisting this volunteer commission. We could never have
14 pulled off an examination like this without all of your hours
15 of work. And with -- thank the firm that's (inaudible) for
16 donating their time to help us develop this evidence. We
17 really appreciate it.

18 That's going to conclude this hearing. I wish I
19 could announce the date of our regular hearing, but it isn't
20 set (inaudible). We are going to be at Saint Anne's on the
21 13th, which is next Wednesday, and have our regular meeting.

22 I wish I could say that this concludes our special
23 hearings on deputy gangs, but as we all know, the witness
24 refused -- sat down for some questions that relate to
25 discrimination claims that were sustained against him. So I'm

1 going to leave this open, and we may or may not have further
2 hearings at a later date.

3 Thank you, everyone.

4 (The hearing was concluded.)

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

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

6 That said digitally recorded audio of the Civilian
7 Oversight Commission Hearing, March 7, 2024, was transcribed
8 into computer-generated text under my direction and
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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.

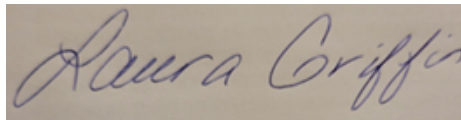
14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name
15 this 17th day of April, 2024.

16

17

18

19



20

LAURA GRIFFIN, AAERT CERT CET-1709

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