



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING
ST. ANNE'S CONFERENCE CENTER
Thursday, June 20, 2024**



Attachment: [Video](#)

Commissioners Present:

Chair, Sean Kennedy
Robert Bonner
Irma Hagans Cooper
Patricia Giggans (arrived at 9:17am)
James Harris
Hans Johnson

Commissioners Absent:

Vice Chair, Jamon Hicks
Luis S. Garcia

Staff Present:

Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director
Bikila Ochoa, Deputy Executive Officer
Tracy Jordan, Principal Staff Analyst
Nune Petrosyan, Management Analyst
Amara Kirby, County Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair, Sean Kennedy called the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission) meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He provided an overview of the items on the meeting agenda and briefly discussed the Commission's code of conduct.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT RULES: Commission staff member, Tracy Jordan, announced how the community can comment on an item during the meeting.

III. ROLL CALL: Staff member Tracy Jordan conducted the roll call. The quorum requirement was met.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR:

The Commissioners reviewed the items on the consent calendar. There were no questions. Commissioner Hans Johnson moved for approval of the May 16, 2024 meeting minutes and the consent calendar. Commissioner Robert Bonner seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were adopted as there were no objections to the consent calendar.

No members of the community signed up to comment on this item.

V. FAMILY IMPACT REMARKS:

There were no submissions for Family Impact Remarks.

VI. COMMISSION/LASD REPORTS

1. Chair's Report

(5:12) Chair Kennedy updated the Commission on the Meet and Confer process and expressed concern with the meet and confer process extending past the 60 days. He went over the next steps to enforce subpoenas. He further reported that he will be reaching out to the Chief Executive Office regarding the 60-day recommended timeframe and why it has taken two years.

No members of the community provided comment on this item.

2. Executive Director's Report

A. Community Engagement Efforts

(8:35) Commission Executive Director Sharmaine Moseley reported that the Commission's staff continues to attend community events such as Community Advisory Committee meetings and Town Halls in Lancaster and Palo Del Amo. Ms. Moseley further reported on her participation in a LASD ride-along in the City of Compton and that she also attended the U.S. Department of Justice Community Dialogue event in South Los Angeles. She reported that the staff attended several community events that included a Father's Day Community event hosted by JCOD on June 9, 2024, at Earvin Magic Johnson Park in South Los Angeles, a Community Symposium on Street Takeovers and a Staff Panel presentation hosted by the California Coalition for Sheriff Oversight in California. Ms. Moseley advised that the strategic goal for community engagement and that the commission will be revisited at the next meeting to determine if 2024 goals are being met. Ms. Moseley reported that the Commission will be hosting a joint meeting with the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) on June 27, 2024, to discuss the LASD and School Resources Deputy Complaint process. In addition, she mentioned that COC staff is working with NACOLE staff to develop a panel session on Law Enforcement Gangs for the upcoming NACOLE conference scheduled for October 13-17, 2024, in Tucson, AZ. Ms. Moseley reported that she has requested approval for five commissioners and three staff members to attend the conference and that Chair Kennedy will participate on a panel and that Commissioner Hans Johnson is listed as a potential moderator. She advised Commissioners to let her know if they're interested in attending the conference. Ms. Moseley announced that the Commission's annual conference will be held November 8, 2024. Ms. Moseley reported that the strategic goals for the commission will be revisited at the next meeting to determine if 2024 goals are being met. She reiterated the importance of maintaining dialogue with community partners and other government entities. Ms. Moseley also reported that the Commission will host a joint meeting with the Probation Oversight Commission on June 27, 2024, to discuss the LASD and School Resources Deputy Complaint process.

Staffing – Ms. Moseley reported that three staff members are still on leave and noted that Deputy Executive Director Bikila Ochoa has been diligently working with Human Resources to get temporary staff and scheduling interviews to fill the Community Engagement Coordinator and the Communications Manager vacancy.

Operational Improvements – Ms. Moseley stated that she is continuing to identify ways

to improve the operation and that she is working with County Counsel, Fiscal staff, and the Executive Office regarding expenditures billed to the operation by County Counsel which led to a reimbursement to the commissions budget. She went on to report additional improvement that would include the need for a budget line item for legal services. Ms. Moseley reported that the Magic Johnson Community Center is being considered as a possible meeting location for 2025. In closing, Executive Director Moseley reported that staff is working to create a day-to-day operation manual to be used as a reference guide when the office is short staffed.

Office Space – Ms. Moseley gave an update on the Commission’s office space and advised that she anticipates staff remaining in the current location until the permanent location is completed in 2027.

There was no public comment following Ms. Moseley’s presentation.

3. Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department

([16:01](#)) Sheriff Robert Luna highlighted the Mental Evaluation Team's (MET) May 19th presentation on Strategic Communication to the LASD civilian academy for the City of Lakewood and reported that LASD has received multiple requests from community members requesting civilian-focused academies. Sheriff Luna shared LASD activities over the past month that include LASD participation in the West Hollywood Pride Festival on June 2nd, the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run on June 7th and 8th, and that LASD participated in dialogue with the Community in South Los Angeles facilitated by the Federal Department of Justice on June 12th. Sheriff Luna reported that 23 Patrol Stations held quarterly and monthly meetings and that over 800 town hall meetings have been held in the custody facility. Sheriff Luna informed the commission that during the previous meeting, he was in Washington DC for the National Memorial where two Deputy Sheriff names were added to the memorial wall. Sheriff Luna reported meeting with the head of the Civil Rights division for the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding the Use of Force (UOF) policy. Sheriff Luna acknowledged concerns related to the LASD UOF policy and acknowledged the lack of progress. He agreed to be more involved with the meet and confer process. Sheriff Luna reported that the UOF, deputy gang, and deputy clique policies are ongoing and that he anticipates some progress soon.

Following Sheriff Luna’s presentation, Chair Kennedy moved to Commission questions.

([21:46](#)) Commissioner Irma Cooper acknowledged Deputy Executive Director Bikila Ochoa and stated that his weekly summary reports to the Commissioners are excellent and she really enjoys the reports. She informed the Commission that she had attended the California Coalition for Sheriff Oversight “Balancing Power with Responsibility” and that the group acknowledged this Commission as “one of the top oversight commissions”; and they thought that what we are doing was excellent.

([22:51](#)) Commissioner Robert Bonner inquired about crime trends, maintaining public safety, and questioned if Sheriff Luna is receiving “adequate cooperation and response

from the District Attorney's office with respect to criminal defenses that have been investigated by detectives within the department." Commissioner Bonner requested Sheriff Luna provide data on the issue at the next meeting. Sheriff Luna responded that he provided a year-to-date preliminary summary that ended at the beginning of May. He advised that he would provide a detailed update later. Sheriff Luna noted that the information is also available on the LASD website. Sheriff Luna reported violent crimes is down .2%, and that property crime is up 6.6% throughout Los Angeles County. Sheriff Luna went on to inform the Commission about LASD's new data-driven crime strategy that focuses on relationship-based policing by working with specific community groups and that he anticipates "it will have a positive impact on crime throughout Los Angeles County." Sheriff Luna briefly discussed the details of the new crime strategy and noted that Captains for each Sheriff's station will be held accountable for knowing what is happening and how they are responding to it. Captains will also be held accountable for how they are engaging with community groups and government entities to make sure we are all on the same page. The Sheriff reported on strategies being used to reduce crime in specific neighborhoods. Sheriff Luna stated that his goal is to work with the District Attorney. He briefly discussed the influx of retail thefts the businesses that are affected, and the DA's response to repeat offenders and the crimes they commit.

(29:48) Commissioner Robert Bonner inquired if the CompStat process is being utilized by LASD. Sheriff Luna responded and confirmed that the system is not used by LASD. Sheriff Luna reiterated his comments about LASD's crime strategy and advised that the new system will do what CompStat does by holding LASD accountable to specific neighborhoods for crime increases and that he is willing to discuss the new strategy in detail at a future meeting.

(30:45) Commissioner Bonner inquired about the number of UOF incidents by LASD deputies this fiscal year compared to last year. Sheriff Luna responded that UOF was down 35% year-to-date with 9 UOF incidents this year compared to 6 last year, with an increase of 3 incidents. Sheriff Luna briefly discussed the incidents surrounding the 3 incidents that took place in the Valley and in Compton.

(32:15) Commissioner Bonner then inquired about policy recommendations and asked Sheriff Luna if he would provide a statement to the Commission within 60 days, explaining why he hasn't adopted a policy that has been studied by the commission.

Sheriff Luna advised that he didn't see a problem with the request, but that he would need to consult with County Counsel (CoCo) to confirm he's not violating any rules.

(34:31) Commissioner Hans Johnson requested Sheriff Luna to provide an update on the observations made by the Sybil Brand Commissioners who conducted an unannounced visit to Men's Central Jail. During their visit, they observed the misconduct of deputies on duty. The deputies failed to attend to a life-threatening situation involving the hanging of a noose in an incarcerated person's cell. Additionally, they were seen watching adult videos on screens while on duty, neglecting their responsibilities under security checks, and failing to respond to the commissioners' alerts about the conditions they observed.

Sheriff Luna agreed that the allegations are very disturbing, and unacceptable, if true. Sheriff Luna stated that LASD has a strict policy that prohibits the allegations that have been identified. He reported upon his knowledge of the incident, investigations began immediately, to get witness statements in writing. Sheriff Luna further reported that LASD's internal system should be able to confirm or discard the allegations, followed by due process and whatever discipline is warranted for employees involved.

(38:40) Commissioner Hans Johnson expressed concern with the fact that the deputies involved in the forementioned incident are still employed with LASD. Commissioner Johnson also inquired about the explosion that took place at the Pitches Detention Center shooting range that took the life of a deputy during a training incident. He asked what steps were taken to prevent a recurring incident, and how the Sheriff has responded to the \$300,000 fine issued by the State over the conditions of the trailer. Sheriff Luna responded that LASD training needs to be improved and that deputies are required to qualify on a quarterly basis. He reported that the training trailers have not been used since the incident and that a thorough internal review, as well as independent review by Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is being conducted. Sheriff informed the commission that he has been seeking assistance from other agencies.

Commissioner Hans Johnson requested confirmation that the trailers are not in use anymore and requested Sheriff to provide the Commission with the ATF finding when they are available.

(46:00) Commissioner Irma Cooper questioned if documentation on the maintenance of the equipment will be conducted before and after the incident and will that be part of the investigation. Sheriff Luna confirmed that the information would be a part of the investigation. He also confirmed that each of the Commissioner's inquiries will be included in the investigation.

(46:33) Commissioner Bonner noted the importance of the Sheriff's department to have an adequate facility for deputies to train and qualify in the use of firearms and that this needs to be included into the Sheriff's budget.

(47:35) Chair Kennedy advised that this marks the end of his tenure as Chair of the Commission. He mentioned that one of his goals was for the department to pass a policy prohibiting membership in law enforcement gangs, deputy gangs, and cliques. He mentioned that this is just one example of the meet and confer process overshadowing meaningful oversight from the commission. Chair Kennedy asked Sheriff Luna if he could expedite the meet and confer process and if he has any insights into how this commission could facilitate that or provide input, to avoid the meet and confer going on for years. Sheriff Luna responded and informed the Commission that he is optimistic and that he is not able to discuss the particulars. Sheriff Luna shared the Commission's frustration with the meet and confer delay and stated, "there's a lot going on behind the scenes." Sheriff Luna agreed that a policy to address deputy gangs is needed, and reassured the Commission that their concerns are being heard and taken seriously. Sheriff Luna stated that while some progress has been achieved, there is still much work

to be done. He went on to inform the Commission that under his current administration, any behavior in line with 13760 Penal Code will not be condoned. Sheriff Luna reported that for the first time in the history of the Sheriff's department, several employees have been dismissed due to violating policy under Penal Code 13760. Sheriff Luna highlighted that LASD is now more advanced in criminal and administrative investigations compared to two years ago.

Chair Kennedy then turned it over to Tracy Jordan for public comments.

(55:07) Tracy Jordan reported that there several public comments on this item.

Public Comment

1. Raquel Derfler from Cancel the Contract Antelope Valley commented on School Resource Deputies (SRD) and expressed concern with the need for LASD to develop policies in writing for SRDs to ensure they are not violating any policies and shared recommendations that included 1. SRDs should be involved in disciplinary or administrative actions and 2. Place a ban on handcuffing grades K-5. Ms. Derfler also expressed concern that LASDs policy does not prohibit using choke holds or carotid restraints even though federal law prohibits it.
2. Julie Martinez from Check the Sheriff commented about racism and the need to develop strategies to correct ongoing effects of racism in this country and the need to eliminate deputy gangs from the LASD.
3. Vanessa Perez commented about her son and how LASD failed him. She discussed the need to eliminate deputy gangs and expressed concern with deputies being promoted and receiving awards.
4. Benny Martinez spoke about LASD civilian academies and suggested developing academies to eliminate deputy gangs.
5. Isaac Ashbury thanked the Commission for their continued work and announced anyone interested in doing a ride along in Compton to contact him. Mr. Ashbury shared a poster board that identified homicides, several shootings by LASD and arrests in Compton over the past 24 years. He also noted that he has an organizational chart of the Executive staff with suspected deputy gang members.
6. Michelle Infante of Dignity and Power Now commented on the information that is being presented to the Commission. She expressed concern with a female that passed away at the women's facility in Lynwood 4 weeks ago and the 5 women who overdosed on fentanyl and that there was no discussion about it. Ms. Infante also made mention of the SBC report that reported LASD deputies looking at porn during their shift. She mentioned Ruby Beltran who passed away while incarcerated from Cancer.

Following public comment, Chair Kennedy moved to the next item.

VII. COMMISSION AD HOC COMMITTEES & AGENCY REPORTS

1. Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Report

(1:14:15) Chief Deputy Dara Williams noted due to the Health Insurance Portability and

Accountability Act (HIPPA) laws, OIG is often prevented from sharing certain information with the public. Ms. Williams highlighted that one of the key roles of the OIG is to monitor. She conveyed that when OIG is unable to monitor, the public cannot be informed about the efforts being made to bring about change and progress. Ms. Williams reported that OIG is participating in the Measure R meet and confer process primarily because of ERCOM. She reported that she can only disclose that OIG is part of the process and that there is ongoing communication. She stated that she believes the COCs previous Executive Director Danielle Vappie was attending the meet and confer meetings, and she suggested that the Commission verify with CoCo whether Executive Director Moseley or Deputy Executive Director Ochoa can attend the negotiations. Ms. Williams noted OIG is not allowed to attend the other negotiations and can't say what's happening in good faith.

Ms. Williams spoke about measure R and noted that the process is moving as fast as it can. She advised that there are a lot of moving parts and that several people are involved which can be difficult when it comes to scheduling, and stated at some point, an impasse must be declared. Furthermore, Ms. Williams informed the Commission that "if the Sheriff were to implement a policy without going through the meet and confer process, he would still have to meet and confer on what's called the effect of the policy." She noted if OIG is shut out of from monitoring the meet and confer on deputy gang allegations, they cannot validate if everyone is acting in good faith. Ms. Williams reported on OIG findings related to deputy gangs and noted that individuals at the sheriff's department were promoted and that there are allegations that some of those promoted individuals are or were members of an association that appear to be law enforcement gangs based on the definition. Ms. Williams also mentioned a Los Angeles Times article where a high-ranking sheriff's department official told the LA Times that he didn't remember any other deputy who was in the same group. Ms. Williams stated that Inspector General Huntsman sent a letter to the Commission pointing out that Larry Delmese and another individual also claimed to have no memory of any other deputy who was in that same group.

Ms. Williams went on to report that OIG had conducted investigations on the SRD contract and that OIG made recommendations. She reported that OIG was told by LASD that they were very close to implementing all the recommendations and that LASD had provided the OIG with a statement of work. Ms. Williams reported that OIG edited the statement of work to say, "if you include all of the things that are on your statement of work, if you accept our edits, we would be fine with the SRD contracts." However, she advised that LASD did not accept the edits, and that there was no explanation given as to why, and that there was no indication that there was an issue with meet and confer.

Deputy Chief Williams went on to report on the Sybil Brand Commission and stated that the cameras in the jails are not being monitored in real time, and that this is due to people playing cards, watching pornography, or watching movies instead of monitoring the cameras. Ms. Williams expressed concern about the lack of care given to people in custody. She suggested that one way to address the issue is to ensure incarcerated people are being observed in a way that maximizes their safety. Deputy Chief Williams reported that the Board of Supervisor has a motion to discuss fixed cameras in the jails, and that it will be one of OIG's recommendations.

Following Ms. Williams presentation, Chair Kennedy called for Commissioner questions and comments.

(1:25:29) Commissioner Bonner stated that he believes the commission would be in full support of the OIG monitoring the meet and confer process and that ‘it may would help incentivize things to move more quickly.’ He advised that this commission’s subpoena power is not only authorized by measure R, but also authorized by the state legislature in AB 1185. Bonner advised that he does not understand why there’s a meet and confer process and requested CoCo and Chief Deputy Dara Williams to provide some clarification on the meet and confer matter. Ms. Williams responded to Commissioner Bonner’s comments and advised that part of the issue is that certain matters are within the jurisdiction of management, and that the sheriff’s department is a manager and empowered to make decisions. Chief Deputy Williams advised that although the Commission has backing of state law, the key factor is effect bargaining and what is the effect on the union members.

Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2.

2. Sybil Brand Commission

There was no Sybil Brand representative available to comment.

3. Ad Hoc Reports

(1:34:43) **Interviewing Ad Hoc:** Chair Kennedy reported that the ad hoc committee submitted two names to the Board of Supervisors for the vacant Commissioner seat and that the commission is waiting for a response from the board.

(1:35:00) **Deputy Gangs Ad Hoc:** Commissioner Bonner reported that the ad hoc committee met on June 18th to discuss the issue of the Commission being charged by CoCo to cover legal services provided by outside counsel for enforcing its subpoenas. The estimated cost for this year is \$600,000. Bonner expressed concerns about the Commission's lack of knowledge regarding CoCo expenses being charged to the commission's budget. Furthermore, there is no line item budgeted to cover legal expenses, and that outside counsel does not report to the Commission nor represent the Commission.

Commissioner Bonner recommended holding additional special hearings to address the public corruption unit that was established by the former sheriff but is no longer in existence. Commissioner Bonner advised that the special hearing is needed to determine if the function of the unit was to intimidate oversight individuals. There is some evidence to suggest that this was the case, and a future public hearing is needed to address the issue. Commissioner Bonner reported that Chair Kennedy will secure the date with Loyola Law School and that Mark Lillienfeld will be called as the first witness. Bonner stated that Max Fernandez, who was also a member of the public corruption unit, will be asked to appear. If he doesn’t appear voluntarily, an authorization would be required to serve a subpoena. Commissioner Bonner called a motion to authorize the Chair to issue a subpoena to Max Fernandez.

(1:39:16) **Disciplinary Ad Hoc:** Commissioner Bonner reported that the disciplinary

process ad hoc committee members received an outstanding overview on best practices related to discipline and discipline systems from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), which is a police executive agency based in Washington DC.

[\(1:41:34\)](#) **Quality of Life Ad Hoc:** Commissioner Cooper reported that the Quality of Life ad hoc committee is still waiting on follow up material from the Sheriff's Department related to an ongoing review of the Suicide Prevention and Employee Wellness Center.

[\(1:40:19\)](#) Chair Kennedy restated the motion to read "the commission will vote whether to authorize the Chair to subpoena Max Fernandez." CoCo Amara Kirby informed the Commission that a motion is not required in this instance because the Deputy Gang ad hoc committee already has authority to issue subpoenas. Commissioner Bonner clarified that the Commission had adopted a procedure in which the ad hoc committee could authorize the chair to issue a subpoena. This subpoena would then be ratified at the next meeting by the Chair. He suggested that since the Commission was meeting now, they might as well authorize it then if they chose to do so. Commissioner Johnson interjected and seconded the motion.

[\(1:41:58\)](#) **Governance Ad Hoc:** Chair Kennedy reported that the Governance Ad Hoc is reviewing its bylaws and the ordinance that created this Commission.

[\(1:42:22\)](#) **Technology Ad Hoc:** Commissioner Johnson reported that the ad hoc committee met on May 20th to discuss and hear from LASD staff about how the department anticipates the use of drones at different Sheriff stations. The committee will continue to monitor the program for possible expansion and express concerns about contracting outside agencies for drone services.

[\(1:43:20\)](#) Chair Kennedy turned it over to Tracy Jordan for Public Comment.

Public Comment

1. Ms. Vanessa Perez commented on background checks and that LASD should conduct a more thorough background checks on deputies prior to them being assigned as SRD.
2. Benny Martinez also shared his concerns about background checks on deputies and the need to be more thorough with regards to mental health evaluations before hiring them and placing them in special areas, such as schools. Mr. Martinez also commented about eliminating the Banditos gang from the Sheriff's department because too many families are being affected and have been harassed.

[\(1:47:32\)](#) Chair Kennedy called for a 15-minute break.

[\(2:16:23\)](#) Chair Kennedy resumed the meeting following the break.

VIII. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

[\(2:17:12\)](#) Chief Deputy Dara Williams from the Office of Inspector General provided a

report on the Sheriff Department's report writing. She mentioned that the Sheriff's Department has policies on report writing, and that state laws are in place regarding report writing for regular reports as well as specifically for UOF (Use of Force) reports. Ms. Williams emphasized the importance of peace officers collecting information. She mentioned that the Sheriff's Department trains their peace officers when they join the academy and that the reports are reviewed by superiors. Furthermore, Ms. Williams highlighted that peace officers are reminded to take thorough notes and not rely solely on their memory because the information may be used in a crime or UOF investigation. To comply with state laws and adhere to Sheriff's Department policies, Ms. Williams provided a summary of LASD's report writing course outline and emphasized the importance of thorough and accurate report writing for peace officers. Chief Deputy Williams stressed the need for supervisors to carefully review and make necessary corrections to reports before approving and signing off on them. She also highlighted the requirement for submitting a supplemental report in case of identified mistakes. Ms. Williams also discussed the supervisor's role in ensuring that the reports are complete and precise when it comes to UOF applications. She also mentioned that LASD policies can be accessed on the LASD website under MPP, 4-01/020.10, which includes information on the content of incident reports, crime reporting procedures, outlines for standard reporting procedures in the Professional Standards Division, report requirements, and the use of force reporting. Ms. Williams emphasized that LASD has strict requirements for ensuring that reports are accurate, truthful, and thoroughly document the actions of the deputy. She referenced government code section 7286 as well as 12525.2, both of which are state laws that LASD must comply with. These laws require the submission of an annual report detailing specified incidents involving peace officers, including the gender and race of individuals who were shot, injured, and killed. Ms. Williams concluded by advising that good policies only work when they are practiced.

Following Ms. Williams report, Chair Kennedy moved to Commissioner questions and comments.

(2:22:46) Commissioner Cooper questioned if the supervisors use camera recordings to verify accuracy of the reports. Assistant Sheriff Aloma responded and confirmed that LASD supervisors are required to review Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in the jails and body worn camera footage to ensure the written report submitted by the Deputy matches up with what was written initially by the Deputy, regardless of the setting or the type of investigation, UOF, or otherwise.

(2:23:38) Commissioner Cooper asked about the street cameras in the community. Chief Deputy Dara Williams interjected and explained that LASD's system for body-worn cameras is evidence.com. The videos collected from the community are uploaded to the evidence.com website, making them accessible to the Sheriff's department.

(2:24:56) Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy acknowledged a representative from the LASD Training Bureau as the next speaker.

(2:25:11) Deputy Brandon Wicker (Advanced Training Officer) in LASD Training Bureau advised that he will be speaking on report writing policy and procedures, report types, use of technology and systems with those reports, report reviews and approval

processes, training, confidentiality, data security and the impact of report writing on investigations overall. Deputy Wicker reported that in addition to policies and procedures, Deputies are required to document any verbal admonishments to verbal notifications in their reports. Deputy Wicker provided a brief overview of the report writing approval process by rank for incidents that take place in the field. The reports are approved by a field sergeant or watch sergeant at the station. UOF incidents requires a watch commander, an acting sergeant or Lieutenant to conduct an interview with all parties involved. Deputy Wicker reiterated Chief Deputy Williams' comments regarding mistakes found in a report and noted that they will be corrected prior to the approval of "watch sergeant or field sergeant and then forwarded to a Detective Sergeant in the investigative unit and then dispersed to investigators in the Detective Divisions". Deputy Wicker explained that the LASD has two types of reports: Incident Reports, which are the initial reports, and supplemental reports, which allow for corrections or additional investigations by personnel other than the original author. Deputy Wicker briefly discussed the different types of incident reports and stated that reports are documented using a Word document and then attached to LASD-approved departmental forms. He also mentioned that physical evidence is stored in evidence lockers at the stations and in other designated secure areas. Deputy Wicker reported that prelims are used to scan and track evidence when it is moved from the station to a crime lab or if it's subpoenaed. Mr. Wicker described the mandatory 48-hour report writing training for peace officers in California and mentioned continued training opportunities. As an Advanced Training Officer, he is responsible for training deputies who are transitioning from a custody environment to a patrol environment, which is known as the "Advanced Officer Court or Patrol School" within the department. The course is a three-week intensive program with a focus on report writing to prepare deputies who are transitioning from a custody or court services environment to a patrol station. Deputy Wicker explained the importance of confidentiality and data security. He mentioned that incidents involving murder, sexual assault, child abuse, and cases involving juveniles are considered confidential. These files are kept in a secure location at the stations and are managed by the Head Secretarial staff. Other reports are stored in file cabinets at the stations and can be accessed publicly or upon request. He also informed us that LASD is transitioning to electronic files, and reports will be scanned and securely stored in the LASD database systems. Deputy Wicker emphasized Ms. Williams' comments about the importance of thorough report writing. He stated, "It can make or break a case," and emphasized that the key factor is the practices and thoroughness of LASD investigations conducted in the field.

(2:33:02) Following the LASD presentation on report writing, Chair Kennedy opened the floor for Commissioner questions and comments.

(2:33:09) Commissioner Patti Giggans inquired about "prelims" and its meaning. Deputy Wicker explained that "prelim" is an electronic database system used by LASD to scan barcodes generated for evidence and serves as a tracking system for evidence collection.

(2:33:47) Commissioner Cooper inquired about the technology available to deputies for typing reports while in the field. Deputy Wicker stated that deputies have access to mobile digital computers in their patrol vehicles, but he was unsure if Microsoft Word is accessible on those computers. Deputy Wicker also mentioned that there are designated writing areas at each station for deputies to complete their report writing.

(2:34:56) Commissioner Harris inquired about the accessibility of UOF reports to the public. Deputy Wicker responded that he is not fully aware of the current practice but believes that information related to ongoing investigations will be withheld until the investigations are completed.

(2:35:50) Commissioner Harris inquired about the accessibility of completed UOF investigations to the public. In response, Chief Deputy Dara Williams mentioned that based on her experience with the District Attorney's Office, the defense must file a specific motion to obtain the UOF reports as part of the discovery process. She also noted that she could not confirm if these rules are still the same to date.

(2:37:51) Commissioner Harris stated that the UOF investigative report in the Perez case had missing information. He advised the Commission should have access to the entire case file, specifically for the Joseph Perez case.

(2:40:15) Commissioner Johnson asked about complaints or frustrations made by deputies with regards to filing or retrieving reports that have been filed. Deputy Wicker responded that in his experience he has not received any negative response.

(2:42:10) Commissioner Johnson asked Deputy Wicker a follow-up question about how he handles language barriers in report writing. Deputy Wicker responded that he uses the translator hotline to request translators, but sometimes he must rely on his own language skills, especially for sign language interpretation when translators are not accessible. He has also relied on community members to assist as well as his colleagues.

Public Comment

Community member Vanessa Perez claimed that the deputies writing the reports are gang members and that their reports cannot be trusted. She spoke about her son, Joseph Perez, and stated "it doesn't take 100 punches to apprehend 5 ft 2 individual like her son Joseph and that it doesn't take seven deputies punching someone 121 times and justify it."

Community member Michelle Infante agreed that the deputies cannot be trusted based on the investigative reports. She mentioned the language used in the incident reports and stated that the forms reflect a checkbox mentality, and that the deputies are not being held accountable. Ms. Infante pointed out that deputies are supposed to document in their report the injuries of a person, but only one deputy out of seven noted Joseph Perez' injuries, which is a LASD policy. She suggested updating the LASD forms so that deputies are more accountable.

Community member Doreen Sanchez thanked the public for attending and sharing their thoughts. She called for increased community engagement and improvements in policies. Ms. Sanchez demanded answers regarding the shooting death of Rubin Salazar and the release of Leonard Pelk.

Executive Director Moseley emphasized the importance of the Commission having access to investigations and highlighted that close collaboration with the department would guarantee fair and thorough investigations. She expressed her disappointment

that the Commission currently lacks this ability. Ms. Moseley also explained the benefits of report writing, drawing from her experience, and noted that departments working with oversight entities have seen positive outcomes for both the department and the oversight body.

Presentation on Technology and Support Division

(2:54:04) Detective Todd Bernstein from the Technology and Support Division at LASD, provided the presentation on behalf of Captain Erick Kim. Detective Bernstein shared a PowerPoint presentation on the LASDs Warren Personnel Complaints Dashboard. Detective Bernstein reported that the dashboard is updated daily, and that the information is retrieved from the Departments of Personnel Records Management System also known as PRMS. Complaints are received, reviewed by a supervisor, and input into the PRMS system. The dashboard is updated once in the evening. He reported that there are some instructions for the public on how to use the report and that the default displays the last two years but that he believes the last 10 years can be retrieved and that the system is interactive. He went on to describe how the dashboard works and provided a detailed overview of each screen and what it entails, which included personnel complaints broken down by division and within the division, it's broken down by unit and noted that the right column indicates the type of complaint that was made. Detective Bernstein explained how the complaint process is supposed to work and reported that they've provided additional information to the public about the complaint process by providing a link in the MPP section that documents how the complaint process works. Detective Bernstein informed the Commission that they only handle complaints that are against sworn personnel. He reported that the confidentiality and the data security is operated by the power BI service, one of the services provided to the department by Microsoft and that LASD uses a specific version of the Microsoft platform which is the Government Community Cloud or (GCC) that has a high security level. The data is only stored in the United States. Detective Bernstein advised that they are constantly improving the system based on feedback from the public or within the department itself.

(3:03:47) Chair Kennedy asked whether any of the findings led to disciplinary action. Detective Bernstein explained that on the summary page, it may indicate whether the investigation is conducted at the department level or unit level. This suggests that the complaint has warranted an internal investigation, indicating a possible violation of department policy.

(3:05:04) Commissioner Bonner inquired whether the dashboard is solely utilized for public benefit or if department managers, station captains, and lieutenants also use it for specific purposes. Detective Bernstein replied that he is not aware of any uses within the Department. Commissioner Bonner posed a follow up question about the data and how it's used to correct behavior. Detective Bernstein mentioned that tools are being developed for managers within the Department.

(3:11:17) Commissioner Johnson inquired asked about "exonerated" and the "unable to determine" category and asked if Detective Bernstein has ever seen a complainant being exonerated due to a loophole in part B of the definition, and if the term unable to determine can be used as a disposition of a complaint and if this issue has ever been raised. Detective Bernstein responded that he is not involved in reviewing the

complaints or developing the definitions and provided an example of an incident that would fall under the “unable to determine category.”

(3:15:57) Chief Deputy Williams asked where on the dashboard does it show how many complaints were founded, or complaints where a performance level evaluation (PLE) was issued. Detective Bernstein responded and identified three categories on the dashboard where that information could be located and what the information states. Ms. Williams responded and stated that that information would not be known by the public and that the public should be able to read those three categories and be able to know that the investigations were “founded”. Detective Bernstein agreed with Ms. Williams and advised that he would consult with Department executives regarding that Ms. Williams suggestion.

(3:23:39) Commissioner Giggans commented that the dashboard is interesting and good for the public. She agreed that an additional category for a serious complaint should be added to the dashboard and that it will help build public trust.

(3:25:46) Chair Kennedy commented about the number of complaints against the Antelope Valley Sheriff stations compared to other sheriff stations. Detective Bernstein responded that other stations are busy also and without additional information it says nothing, until you see the ratio between complaints and the number of public contacts. Commissioner Johnson interjected and disagreed based on the number of complaints that the Commission hears from the public in the Antelope Valley, and he advised that this is an ongoing occurrence with Sheriff stations in the Antelope Valley.

(3:28:18) Commissioner Harris agreed that Avalon and Century station is busy but doesn’t compare to the Antelope Valley. He commented about the data and suggested all the factors need to be reviewed. He also suggested visiting the Antelope Valley more often.

(3:29:27) Commissioner Cooper commented and stated that she appreciates the presentation of dashboard and questioned how the message is being publicized.

(3:29:36) Detective Bernstein reported that this report and the stops report was developed for the public. Mr. Bernstein welcomed feedback from the Commission that would make the system easier to interpret and more user friendly.

(3:30:38) Commissioner Cooper asked how the department is getting the information out to the public. Detective Bernstein responded that the Sheriff Information Bureau did a video on the public stops report.

Public Comment

(3:31:55) Michelle Infante commented that the data being presented is inaccurate. She suggested that LASD develop a live chat for the public and community members to share information and that LASD should collect data from family members and the community. She commented about the culture of the Department and noted that it has not changed. She also mentioned that the complaint filed by Vanessa Perez was not listed under the UOF data and stated that the LASD complaint process is flawed.

Raquel Derfler also commented on the data concerning complaints and agreed that it is inaccurate. She agreed with Ms. Infante that the LASD complaint process is problematic and reflects what LASD wants you to know. She recommended that the public file their complaints with the OIG. Ms. Derfler mentioned that the Department of Justice had to step in, confirming that something is indeed wrong.

Stephanie Luna commented that she appreciates the data but that the data is flawed, and that the Sheriff's Department is sharing what they want you to know. Ms. Luna expressed concern with the Department giving the impression that they are holding problematic deputies accountable when they're doing the opposite. She shared her personal experience about filing an anonymous complaint and stated that "the complaint process needs to be reevaluated, reconstructed and remodeled because the data is not a representation of the community."

(3:41:28) Chair Kennedy advised that there is not much time left and moved to item X.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Creation of a new Standing Policy Committee – Due to time constraints, this item was not heard.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Creation of the Commission's Second Vice Chair Elected Position who will fulfil the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair and First Vice Chair, serve as parliamentarian and perform other tasks as assigned.¹

The Commissioners discussed the need for another Vice Chair and came to an agreement to create an additional Vice Chair position. The nominees for the Chair are Commissioner Bonner and Commissioner Hicks. The nominees for two Vice Chairs are Commissioner Bonner, Commissioner Johnson, and Commissioner Luis Garcia.

Commissioner Bonner moved to create a second Vice Chair position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Giggans. The Commission voted to have two Vice Chairs.

Vote on the Motion:

Chair Sean Kennedy - Yes

Vice Chair Hicks – Absent

Commissioner Robert Bonner – Yes

Commissioner Irma Hagans Cooper - Yes

Commissioner Luis S. Garcia - Absent

Commissioner Patti Giggans – Yes

Commissioner James P. Harris – Yes

Commissioner Hans Johnson – Yes

The motion passed 6 – 0. Absent/Excused: Vice Chair Hicks, and Commissioner Luis Garcia.

1. Commissioner Bonner made a motion seconded by Hans Johnson to authorize the Chair to

¹ [1162573_June2024COCMeetingAgenda.pdf \(lacounty.gov\)](#)

issue a subpoena to authorize the Chair to issue a subpoena to Max Fernandez.

Vote on the Motion:

Chair Sean Kennedy - Yes

Vice Chair Hicks – Absent

Commissioner Robert Bonner – Yes

Commissioner Irma Hagans Cooper - Yes

Commissioner Luis S. Garcia - Absent

Commissioner Patti Giggans – Yes Commissioner James P. Harris – Yes

Commissioner Hans Johnson – Yes

**The motion passed 6 – 0. Absent/Excused: Vice Chair Hicks, and
Commissioner Luis Garcia.**

XI. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy announced a joint meeting with Probation Oversight Commission on June 27, 2024, at Ervin Magic Community Center and the next Commission meeting will be held on July 18, 2024, at St. Anne's Conference Center. The meeting adjourned at 1:15p.m.