



Written Public Comment

Provided for the September 19, 2024,

Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.

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What agenda item or topic will you comment on?	Provide your public comment below. Please do not share any sensitive personally identifiable information because this comment will be made public as part of the official meeting record.	What is your name?
<p>NEW BOOK ABOUT UNINVESTIGATED SHERIFF DEPUTY CLIQUE GANG HORRORS</p>	<p>A new movie and book are about to hit the South Bay of Los Angeles, promising to make the Texas Chainsaw Massacre look like a child's birthday party at Chuck E. Cheese. This soon-to-be-released work is destined to become a horror cult classic, with a chilling story centered on the brutal murders committed by men who were not only members of the local Christian community but also part of one of the world's most terrifying transnational gangs—the Tongan Crip Gang.</p> <p>In 2016, one of the suspects, known only as "Rock," gave a harrowing account to an investigator. He claimed the victims, a Central American couple, were drug dealers, and in his mind, that made it "okay." Rock described how he rented a U-Haul truck and, along with others, drove to a West Los Angeles apartment complex. They parked the truck in a large carport, waiting for the couple's 9-year-old son to ride by on his new scooter. As the boy passed, the gang members, towering over him at 6'2", sucker-punched him, duct-taped his barely conscious body, and threw him into the back of the truck.</p> <p>The gang then went to the family's apartment, knocked on the door, and forced their way inside when the parents answered. They showed the terrified couple a picture of their bleeding, bound son in the back of the truck. Desperate to save their child, the couple complied with the gang's demands. They were also duct-taped and forced into the truck. The gang then stripped the apartment of everything valuable, leaving not a single trace behind.</p> <p>The U-Haul drove to Hawthorne, where the couple was held captive in the garage of a limo company. The boy was taken to a house on 119th Street in Hawthorne, just around the corner from the limo company. Over the next few days, the family's bank accounts were drained, and they were coerced into providing information about others the gang could rob, all in the false hope that they might be released</p>	

along with their son.

Rock revealed that the young boy was tortured, sodomized, and repeatedly raped by both him and his son. When the boy tried to escape, bleeding from his injuries, they placed a plastic bag over his head in an attempt to suffocate him. When that didn't work, they wrapped him in a blanket from the Marriott Hotel and stabbed him over 39 times with a butcher knife. The suspect then showed the investigator the blood-soaked blanket, which still bore the outline of the boy's silhouette in thick, undried plasma, the stench of death still clinging to it.

But the horror didn't end there. Rock admitted that the boy wasn't the first victim to die at that house. He recounted how, when the Tongans first arrived in the South Bay in the 1980s, they clashed violently with Hispanic gang members from Lennox and Inglewood. According to Rock, members of the Lennox Sheriff's Department, who were also part of a gang clique led by a deputy named Mesa, befriended the Tongans. These deputies, who harbored a deep hatred for Mexican gangs, made a deal with the Tongans. They would make false arrests of individuals they believed to be gang members, then hand them over to the Tongans at a church on Lennox Boulevard owned by the Tongan Christian community. There, the Hispanic gang members were tortured and murdered, their deaths justified as "just punishment" by the gang members.

The bodies were dismembered and cremated in a large fire pit in the backyard of a residential house, where unsuspecting neighbors attended barbecues and parties, completely unaware of the gruesome reality. According to Rock, more than 10 victims who disappeared in the South Bay were cremated in that pit, which, though now filled in, still hides the secrets of serial killers.

Rock also shared a bizarre tale of how the Tongans quickly amassed wealth after their arrival. They were allowed to run the bingo table at Hollywood Park Casino, rigging the game so only members of their community would win. The gang used this money to

purchase an old hotel on Century Boulevard in
Inglewood.

In May of this year, in a sting operation, LASD arrested one of their own Officers, Sgt. Michael Meiser, who was with the bureau's specialized unit OSJ- Operation Safe Jails. OSJ works closely with Operation Safe Streets- OSS.

In March of this year OSS, allegedly identified and arrested and brought charges to 13 people some of whom were already in custody and some were apprehended and brought to custody.

In looking at these two cases, the one involving Sgt Meiser- who again was caught committing the same offenses as the individuals from March while on the clock, there appears to be blatant disregard for the law and the handling of the two cases. PC 1170 requires sentences to be uniform among defendants that committed the same offenses under similar circumstances. After Meiser was arrested 4/30/24, Booked 5/1/24 & released 3 1/2 hours later on a citation for a Felony, with a court date of 5/2/24- sentenced to 0 days, there has seemingly been no update.

As a resident of Los Angeles, I recently reached out to LA Times who first published the article, & LASD for an update. LA Times reported they had no update, LASD pretty much told me they weren't going to share the information. With that said I went ahead & requested the information through making a PRA request. The law allows for 10 days plus LASD an additional 14 days (Calendar days NOT Business) for the completion of a PRA. It took me over a week, after those days were completed & the assistance of the OIG, to get LASD to respond.

They stated that my request was premature as they were still conducting an Internal Investigation, & following that they would need to complete an Administrative Investigation, which is a little confusing considering, how could they know what to arrest and charge him with, without an investigation being completed? But they also sent me the Booking information on Sgt Meiser, which is similar to what is on the LASD Inmate Search but with slightly more information. Sgt Meiser was given "ID level: P"- which according to the LASD PARS MPP, states that ID level means "Prison Gang

Deputy Gangs- Specifically The Arrest of LASD OSJ Officer Michael Meiser Custody ID level "P"

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Associate", which at state level is also known as a Security Threat Group. This attachment went on to show "Citation" meaning he was Cited & Released. On what planet does a Felony receive a Citation & then allows for release, but more than that a Felony that not only endangered his co-workers & other inmates but also feels extremely criminalizing to us as a collective in Los Angeles. He & whomever his "Associates" are, are not being held to even close to the same crime & punishment standards as any of us. But the fact that there is no indication of an enhancement related to his "P" level, but the fact he has no additional court dates on calendar & his case number being 99999999 (which is typically given to probation violation cases), but it offers no way to obtain any court records of this case, it's almost like it didn't happen & never existed. POST shows he is temporarily suspended but why dont we know what is going on & where is the explanation?

Not to mention the concerns over all of the problem in Los Angeles with "Police Gangs" but this should come as no surprise considering during election debates Sheriff Villanueva accused Sheriff Luna of being from "a Long Beach Police Dept Police Gang in the North part of Long Beach, known as the North Town Rangers" to which Sheriff Luna did not deny his association with but ultimately confirmed it by stating "I dont know what he is talking about he is talking just to talk.. We eradicated".

It is unacceptable for LASD who's job is Law Enforcement to blatantly disregard the Law, in a manner that does not serve but rather allows for them to think they can continue to operate above the law in this case specifically: 1) The handling of/procedures/consequences of Sgt Meiser & 2) PRA requests

I want, what we all want, ANSWERS- Truthful Answers & Accountability. And we shouldnt have to spend this much time or go this far to get it.

Dear Commission Chair Robert C. Bonner

My name is Jung Park, and I represent the Park family, including my wife, Young Park. We have been residents of xxx community since May 2021. We are here to bring to your attention the misconduct, bullying, and discriminatory treatment we have faced from both our neighbor and local authorities, including the South L.A. Sheriff Station.

For over three years, we have been dealing with significant issues caused by our neighbor, who has been creating ongoing disturbances due to illegal short-term renters. These activities have led to constant disruptions, blocked access to the shared driveway leading to our garage, and ongoing tension in the neighborhood. Despite filing numerous complaints with the Sheriff's Department, little action was taken until we successfully obtained a court order regarding the ongoing issue of the blocked shared driveway.

Lieutenant Chang has been the only one who has truly listened to us. He exemplifies real leadership, but despite his efforts and doing all he could within his authority, he is limited in what he can achieve and cannot change the entire station on his own.

Bias and False Testimony from Community Leader

John Koppelman, the former DelAire community leader, has taken our neighbor's side in this dispute. As a former leader, John used to report monthly neighborhood updates to the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC). Despite his position and responsibility, he never attempted to mediate the issue or engage with us. Instead, he has falsely testified against our family in court and supported efforts to ostracize us from the community. His involvement with the Sheriff's Department and support for our neighbor have significantly worsened the situation.

Your attention the misconduct, bullying, and discriminatory treatment we have faced from both our neighbor and local authorities, including the South L.A. Sheriff Station.

Misconduct, Bullying, and Retaliation by the Sheriff's Department
The South L.A. Sheriff Station has consistently sided with our neighbor, ignoring or downplaying our complaints regarding public and private nuisance reports, including

Jung Park

trespassing and obstruction of our shared driveway. Response times from the Sheriff's Department have been excessively long, sometimes taking up to seven hours. On one occasion, a deputy threatened us with vandalism charges simply for trying to move a trash bin blocking access to our garage. The situation was made worse when a deputy disregarded a sign posted by our neighbor containing abusive language, which we believe constitutes child abuse.

We have also faced direct bullying, ostracism, and retaliation from the Sheriff's Department. For example, Sergeant Rojas issued a trespass notice against us on our own property without investigating our easement rights. He made discriminatory comments about our limited English, dismissing our concerns. This felt not only like an abuse of authority but also as though we were being deliberately bullied and ostracized by the very people tasked with serving and protecting the community.

We also had a troubling experience with Lieutenant Salgado. Despite our efforts to address safety concerns and ongoing harassment, he refused to meet with us, citing a complaint against him that we never made. His refusal to engage and assist us only added to the pattern of bullying and ostracism we have experienced from the South L.A. Sheriff's Station.

Lack of Enforcement from Local Authorities
Despite our neighbor receiving violations for over-height fences blocking our shared driveway and other nuisances, enforcement has been extremely slow. Our neighbor continues to obstruct our access to the shared driveway leading to our garage. We simply want to live peacefully, without these disturbances, and to access our property without harassment.

Attempts to Resolve the Situation
For the past two years, we have made repeated attempts to meet with the Sheriff's Captain to address these issues, but we have received no meaningful response or resolution. We feel mistreated, bullied, and ostracized for seeking fair enforcement of the law.

Adoption of Rules/Governance Ad Hoc Committees report	I fully support your motion to adopt revisions to Chapter 3.79 of the County Code. I support stronger civilian oversight of the LASD.	Carlos M. Montes
3.79.030	<p>The COC must have the tools and access it needs to properly address the corruption within LASD. LASD is known to be home to racist and violent deputy gangs and harass grieving families. This Commission was created by the people of Los Angeles county to oversee this department and protect the community. This commission cannot fulfill its duty to the public without access to confidential information. This Commission cannot do the job voters demanded it do through the passing of Measure R without access to confidential information. Since 2016, LASD has thwarted oversight by refusing to hand over relevant information the Commission needs citing overly technical transparency issues. As a result, this Commission cannot fully understand the scope of known LASD misconduct, like the presence of deputy gangs within the department. The community has suffered long enough. It is time to affirm this Commission's access to information, so LASD cannot hide information and prevent the COC from doing its job.</p>	Karina Lopez

My name is Kayla and I'm a resident of Los Angeles County. I endorse many of the proposed amendments to the SCOC Ordinance, especially numbers 3.79.010, 3.79.020, 3.79.030, 3.79.031, 3.79.032, 3.79.130, and 3.79.140.

Independence. It is essential for the Board of Supervisors to affirm this Commission's independence. LASD has weaponized its "confusion" over the Commission's role to delay oversight and reform and resist turning over information the Commission needs to do its job. Codifying the Commission's powers and role is an important step to ensure that LASD and the public understand this Commission's oversight function.

Access to Jails. The COC and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) were created as oversight bodies in response to extreme jail violence and other illegal conduct perpetuated by LASD deputies. In recognition of this history and to ensure it does not repeat itself, the COC must be given the authority to inspect the jails. LA County jails are notorious for their inhumane and deadly conditions. There were eight in-custody in just three months this past summer. As the oversight body for LASD, it only makes sense that the COC should have the ability to inspect the jails themselves, rather than rely on secondhand accounts from LASD, the OIG or the Sybil Brand Commission. This access is necessary for the Commission to fulfill their duties to the public oversee LASD's conduct both on the streets and within the jails.

COC Recommendations. The COC recommendations should not only carry weight with the Sheriff. The Board should create a mandatory process for the COC—the County oversight body with the most expertise on LASD—to recommend policies for LASD without affirmative directions from the Board and for the Board to deliberate on these policies, proceed with any actions necessary, and approve final policies. In other words, recommendations and issues arising out of the COC should be automatically added to the agenda for Board meetings and should lead to meaningful action.

Finally, Family Harassment. Back in November 2023, CTS presented to the COC on the crisis of family harassment. At this meeting, the COC then moved to develop and bring back policy recommendations to stop and prevent family harassment. But the COC has yet to bring this policy back to the COC – and it will be a year in November. This Commission should act immediately and adopt specific policy recommendations for LASD to meaningfully stop and prevent the harassment of families, and proactive measures necessary to implement these policies.

My name is Sol Marquez joining today with Centro CSO from Boyle Heights. Sheriff Luna, we heard you report that crime is down and so are deaths caused by deputies. You say you want officer involved shootings to stop and so do we but what I am hearing is that firing is the final ultimatum for those caught being in a deputy gangs. Sure we can celebrate that after 3 years, it's officially on paper. But in order to win justice for David Ordaz Jr, Anthony Daniel Vargas, Edwin Rodriguez we need to actually clean house. Boot the Banditos out of East Los and all gangs from all stations.

V. Sheriff Civilian Oversight

Sol Marquez

Central Jail

As agreed the Commission should be determining alternative resources and programs for criminal defenders, especially for the youth. Jails have never been the solution for anyone but the profiteers. We need to seriously be trying to make our communities safer and offering second chances or even third of training and jobs to offenders can help improve the quality of life for us all. Thank you

My name is Joshua Behrens, and I am a recent graduate of UCLA Law School, a resident of LA County, and a Legal Fellow at the Social Justice Legal Foundation. I am writing in strong support of strengthening the oversight of the LA County Sheriffs Department. Studying the role of the sheriffs in law school, I was floored to see the long history of LASD's intractable issues including widespread allegations of excessive force, deadly sheriff's gangs, and myriad instances of racist conduct. What floored me even more, though, was just how toothless the County is in attempting to reign in the violent excesses of LA County's finest. It is despicable that the County, that is more populous than the vast majority of US states, has little power to hold law enforcement accountable. I am heartened to see that the County is taking steps to bring in basic oversight measures that are commonplace across the nation. I hope that this work continues because we are all safer when the officers tasked with public safety are fully accountable to the people they serve.

Joshua Behrens

Stronger LASD Oversight

Police misconduct

The conduct of the sheriff's department