



**SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
BUSINESS MEETING
ST. ANNE'S CONFERENCE CENTER
Thursday, October 24, 2024**



MEETING MINUTES

Attachment: [Video](#)

Commissioners Present:

Vice Chair Luis Garcia
Vice Chair, Hans Johnson
Arthur Calloway
Irma Hagans Cooper
James Harris
Jamon Hicks

Commissioners Absent:

Robert Bonner
Patricia Giggans
Sean Kennedy

Staff Present:

Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director
Bikila Ochoa, Deputy Executive Officer
Tracy Jordan, Principal Staff Analyst
Starlet Atkins, Management Secretary
Daniel Delgadillo, Sr. Staff Analyst
Nune Petrosyan, Management Analyst
Robert Flores, CS Coordinator
Janssen Diaz, Sr. Deputy County Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Vice Chair Luis Garcia called the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission) meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Vice Chair Garcia reported that he is chairing the meeting in the absence of Chair Robert Bonner. He provided an overview of the items on the meeting agenda, and briefly discussed the Commission's code of conduct and the purpose of the Commission.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT RULES: Commission staff member Tracy Jordan explained how the community can provide public comment on an item on the agenda 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. Vice Chair Garcia briefly discussed the Commissioner Training program and called for a motion on the consent calendar.

1. Commissioner James Harris moved for the Commission to approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jamon Hicks and unanimously carried by the following vote Ayes 6, Nays 0, Abstentions 0

Ayes: 6 – Vice Chair Luis Garcia, Vice Chair Hans Johnson,

Commissioner Arthur Calloway, Commissioner Irma Cooper, Commissioner Jamon Hicks and Commissioner James Harris

Nays: 0 –

Absent: 3 – Commissioner Patti Giggans and Commissioner Sean Kennedy and Chair Robert Bonner

The vote passed Ayes 6, Nays 0, Abstentions 0.

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

V. FAMILY IMPACT REMARKS:

[\(8:56\)](#) Koreyana Johnson spoke about her uncle Eugene Wesley Youngblood who lost his life on June 5, 2024, while in LASD custody. Ms. Johnson shared information surrounding the death of her uncle and reported receiving notification of his death by a deputy homicide detective by voicemail. Ms. Johnson reported that the family was only allowed to identify his body by reviewing his picture on a cellular telephone in the parking lot of the jail facility and that her family has not yet been provided with an autopsy report. Ms. Youngblood requested an investigation be conducted surrounding the death of Eugene Wesley Youngblood.

[\(12:53\)](#) Vice Chair Garcia advised that agenda items would be addressed out of order and moved to item 3. Vice Chair Garcia reported that Sheriff Luna was unable to attend the meeting today and Assistant Sheriff Paula Tokar will report on behalf of the Sheriff on the status of each recommendation of the Special Counsel's Report on Deputy Gangs and Deputy Cliques, in addition to other important LASD items.

VI. COMMISSION/LASD REPORTS:

1. Chair's Report

Due to lack of quorum, this item was not heard.

2. Executive Director's Report

Due to a lack of quorum, this item was not heard.

3. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

[\(13:46\)](#) Assistant Sheriff Paula Tokar introduced herself and provided the Commission with an update on crime statistics on calls for service, observations, and arrests. She noted an increase in part one crimes by 2.03%. She then reported on statistics on violent crimes, homicides, rape, burglary, and aggravated assaults. Assistant Sheriff Tokar updated the Commission on the inmate population over the last year and provided a summary of arrests made compared with those booked into the system. Assistant Sheriff Tokar reported 305 firearms were confiscated in the month of September and that Use of Force (UOF) was down by 8.4%, in-custody UOF increased by 2.3% and that patrol UOF was down by 10.75%. Assistant Sheriff Tokar reported 19 deputy-involved shootings compared to 16 last year. Assistant Sheriff Tokar reported a decrease in in-custody deaths by 36% with 24 in-custody deaths year to date, compared to 38 in 2023. Assistant Sheriff Tokar advised that a self-assessment chart was developed to address recommendations on deputy gangs and cliques and that it was forwarded to the Commission and to the Office of Inspector General (OIG). LASD is continuing to work on the recommendations and reiterated that the chart is based on a self-assessment.

(17:36) Commissioner Harris requested the information on crime statistics be provided to the Commission in written form to be reviewed by Commissioners prior to the meeting.

(18:20) Assistant Sheriff Tokar advised that she would research the matter and get back to the Commission.

(18:40) Vice Chair Johnson inquired about efforts made by LASD to verify that reported violent crime statistics are accurate.

(19:58) Assistant Sheriff Tokar advised that statistics reported by the Sheriff are available to the public and that she will get back to the Commission with additional information on that issue.

(21:50) Commissioner Calloway inquired about the number of complaints received by the watch Commander and the outcome of the complaints.

(21:54) Assistant OIG Dara Williams reported that OIG generates a report on complaints at the end of their quarterly report and that direct complaints to LASD and OIG are included in the report.

(22:46) Commissioner Cooper expressed concern with the statistics on in-custody deaths and questioned what efforts are being made by LASD to prevent in-custody deaths from occurring.

(23:44) Assistant Sheriff Tokar responded to Commissioner Cooper's inquiry. She stated that LASD was budgeted to purchase scanners for property brought in by staff, and ongoing searches for illegal substances like fentanyl which is a problem. She is hopeful that technology will assist with that issue in the future.

(24:36) Commissioner Cooper also inquired about LASD cameras and LASD's failure to share body worn camera footage with family members of the deceased.

(24:52) In response to Commissioner Cooper's concern, Assistant Sheriff Tokar advised that LASD abides by the law and confers with County Counsel on what can be released. She also noted that the cameras are reviewed during death reviews and that the Department of Justice (DOJ), OIG and staff are present, and that each death is reviewed in its entirety.

(26:14) Commissioner Calloway also inquired about in-custody deaths caused by overdosing and suggested more information be provided on these types of deaths, and whether deaths by overdosing are considered confidential.

(24:59) Assistant Sheriff Tokar reported there were two confirmed in-custody overdoses and there may be more pending autopsy toxicology screenings. She noted that cause of death information is reported to LASD by the Coroner's office.

(26:43) Vice Chair Johnson reported that the Nunez family was allowed to view video footage and requested that the Youngblood family also be allowed that privilege. He added that LASD should maintain consistency with such instances in the future.

(27:22) Assistant Sheriff Tokar reported that the Nunez family worked with LASD's homicide bureau and that she would follow up with the homicide bureau to see if they can assist the Youngblood family.

(27:52) Vice Chair Johnson requested OIG and the Commission to assist with ensuring all available information be provided to the family of Eugene Youngblood and that LASD maintain consistency when providing evidence to family members.

(28:26) Commissioner Harris expressed concern with the Youngblood family receiving the death notification by voicemail and requested Assistant Sheriff Tokar investigate that complaint.

(29:26) Vice Chair Garcia commented about the overdoses and if LASD or Correctional Health Services (CHS) is responsible for ensuring the availability of Narcan in the modules and the dorms.

(30:30) Assistant Sheriff Tokar responded to Vice Chair Garcia and reported that two doses of Narcan are available on the wall in every dorm housing unit and that each Sheriff Deputy carries Narcan on their person. In addition, Assistant Sheriff Tokar reported that CHS also has Narcan available and that LASD recently placed Narcan in the hallway areas and in inmate reception areas. She noted that incarcerated people, deputies, and CHS staff all have access to Narcan if needed.

(30:39) Vice Chair Garcia also inquired if Narcan is in the jail cells and in the court rooms.

(31:00) Assistant Sheriff Tokar responded that Narcan is not located in individual cells but is now available on the buses that transfer incarcerated people to and from court. Deputies in the courts have Narcan on their persons as well.

Public Comment

(32:51) David (Donald) Harland threatened to kill the Sheriff Deputies for kidnapping, raping, and murdering his daughter, murdering his brother, and stabbing his nephew to death. Mr. Harland was escorted from the premises for making inappropriate comments and for throwing two objects towards the dais, by Commission staff, Conference Center staff and LASD on-site personnel to ensure the safety of all meeting attendees.

(35:35) Vanessa Perez commented on the recent deputy gang hearing with Max Fernandez and Deputy Paul Saldana who beat her son and was promoted to the Carson Sheriff's Department.

(37:54) S commented on confidential information and the need for all information to be made available to the public pending investigations on deaths whether the person is in-custody or not.

(39:50) Bena commented on deputy gangs, the lack of consequences for deputies involved in gangs, how the community feels threatened, and the need for Sheriff Luna to make himself available at these meeting to hear the community's concerns.

(43:16) Michelle Infante commented on the 27 recommendations made by the Commission. She expressed concern with recommendation 14 not being implemented.

(46:33) Koreyana Johnson commented on the coroner's office and her family receiving notification of the death of her loved one by voicemail.

Following public comment, Vice Chair Garcia moved to item VIII.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Meeting location for the year 2025 COC Business Meetings from proposed options.

(48:07) Vice Chair Garcia reported on two items listed under new business that included the Commission’s selection of a location and time for 2025 COC Business meetings to be held from proposed options. Vice Chair Garcia shared potential locations and called for a motion. Vice Chair Johnson moved to direct Chair Bonner and Commission staff to move forward with securing a location selected by the Commission seconded by Commissioner James Harris. Following the motion, Vice Chair Garcia then read a statement from Chair Bonner regarding potential meeting locations.

(51:01) Vice Chair Garcia read a statement on behalf of Chair Bonner expressing four factors to consider when selecting a meeting location. Vice Chair Garcia then called for a motion on the meeting location and time. Commissioner Cooper moved for the Commission to continue with the current meeting time of 9am-1pm every third Thursday of the month. Vice Chair Johnson seconded the motion.

(55:30) Commissioner Hicks inquired if there are any restrictions to the meeting end time at the Hall of Administration Board (HOA) Hearing Room.

(56:23) Assistant Inspector General Dara Williams advised that the HOA Board Hearing Room can be reserved during regular business hours.

(57:06) Vice Chair Garcia requested that the motion be amended to include the traditional meeting time.

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

(57:55) Commissioner Harris suggested selecting an alternate location if the HOA Board Hearing Room is unavailable, and moved to select St. Anne’s as an alternate location if the HOA Board Hearing Room is unavailable, Vice Chair Johnson seconded the motion to select St. Anne’s as an alternate location if the HOA Board Hearing Room is unavailable.

Vote to select the HOA Board Hearing Room as the COC Business meeting location for calendar year 2025, maintain the current meeting time, and to identify St. Anne’s Conference Center as the alternate location:

Ayes: 6 – Vice Chair Garcia, Vice Chair Johnson, Commissioner Calloway, Commissioner Cooper, Commissioner Harris, Commissioner Hicks

Nays: 0 –

Absent: 3 – Chair Robert Bonner, Commissioner Patti Giggins, Commissioner Sean Kennedy

The vote passed Ayes 6, Nays 0, Abstentions 0.

(1:01:14) Vice Chair Garcia returned to agenda item VIII B and introduced Dr. Bikila Ochoa, Deputy Executive Officer (DEO) for the COC, to report on Article 29 of the County’s Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS).

(1:03:13) Dr. Ochoa provided the background history on Article 29 of the County’s Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with ALADS and informed the Commission about a 205-page

report that was established back in 2012 by the Citizens Committee on Jail Violence. Dr. Ochoa discussed the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and addressed the need for the MOU to be updated, specifically article 29.1. He advised that the current MOU mandates that the jails maintain a ratio of 35% to 65% of Custody Assistants to Sheriff Deputies. Based on the 2012 report, replacing deputy sheriffs with custody assistants would save the County \$46,000 per employee. Dr. Ochoa advised that the current MOU is set to expire at the end of 2024 and that a new MOU will need to be in place at the beginning of 2025. He also stated that Chair Bonner submitted a letter with recommendations on Monday of this week and is requesting the support of this Commission for doing so. He noted that this issue would require extensive research and suggested the Commission consider establishing an ad hoc committee on jail staffing. Dr. Ochoa provided multiple reasons why the MOU should be revised and noted that removing the ratio from the MOU would allow the Sheriff the authority to staff the jails based on the needs.

(1:08:55) Vice Chair Johnson inquired about the reduction in jail violence and how removing the ratio would reduce that number.

(1:09:33) Dr. Ochoa responded and advised that custody assistants are trained specifically for in-custody environments and that sheriff deputies are trained to serve in patrol. There appears to be a difference with deputy skills and custody assistant skills and that more individuals trained in an in-custody environment could reduce excessive force in the jails.

(1:13:22) Commissioner Hicks inquired about funding and where the money saved would be allocated. Dr. Ochoa advised that \$50 million would be saved and that there is nothing in place to show where the funding would be allocated.

(1:14:26) Commissioner Cooper inquired about why the county would allow their management powers to be restricted. Dr. Ochoa advised that there was nothing identified during his research to determine that information or why it was added to the MOU. He also noted that an ad hoc would be able to study that issue in more detail.

(1:15:25) In closing, Dr. Ochoa advised that the current ratio prevents multiple stakeholders from inquiring about staffing issues that would make jails safer for incarcerated people and Sheriff Deputies.

(1:16:31) Commissioner Hicks moved for the Commission to recommend to the Sheriff and the County that the provision mandating a 65%-35% ratio of deputies to custody assistants be removed as part of the re-negotiation of the MOU with ALADS, and that the Chair of the Commission be directed to form a new Ad Hoc Committee, to be called the Jail Staffing Ad Hoc Committee, to study the ideal ratio of deputies to custody assistants and make any appropriate recommendations to the Sheriff regarding jail staffing. This ad hoc committee is temporary and will be dissolved once the task is completed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooper.

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

Ayes: 6 – Vice Chair Garcia, Vice Chair Johnson, Commissioner Calloway, Commissioner Cooper, Commissioner Harris, Commissioner Hicks

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 – Chair Robert Bonner, Commissioner Patti Giggans, Commissioner Sean Kennedy

The vote passed 6 ayes, 0 nays, Abstentions 0

Vice Chair Garcia called for a 15-minute break at 10:37 a.m.

Vice Chair Garcia called the meeting back order at 10:52

(1:44:14) Vice Chair informed the Commission that an announcement will be made by County Counsel. County Counsel representative Janssen Diaz announced that the Commission is a Brown Act body. It is recommended that due a lack of quorum the meeting be adjourned and that any remaining items on the agenda be reagendaized at a future meeting. Vice Chair Garcia accepted County Counsel's recommendation to adjourn the meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

(1:45:14) Vice Chair Garcia announced that the next regular COC Business meeting will be held on November 21, 2024, and that the 4th Annual Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement Conference will be held on November 8, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 11:02a.m.