

Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight COC

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 26, 2025 St. Anne's Conference Center



	N-F-0	AGENDA	VIDEO
I. CALL TO OF			
	Bonner called the meeting to or	rder at 9:09 a.m.	<u>4:47</u>
	MMENT RULES	Contrary of a Life consensation	F 07
Reading of the guidelines for respectful participation and public comment.		<u>5:07</u>	
III. ROLL CALI		A constitution of the second	<u>7:05</u>
	ren Commissioners were preser		
•	Robert Bonner, Chair	Present	
•	Luis Garcia, Vice Chair	Present	
•	Hans Johnson, Vice Chair	Present	
•	Arthur Calloway II	Present	
•	Irma Hagans Cooper	Present	
•	Patricia Giggans	Present (left at 11:30am)	
•	James Harris	Absent	
•	Jamon Hicks	Present	
CO	C Staff Present:		
•	Bikila Ochoa	Deputy Executive Director (DED)	
•	Christina Villacorte	Communications Manager	
•	Tracy Jordan	Principal Staff Analyst	
•	Robert Flores	Community Services Coordinator	
Age	ncy Representatives:		
•	Jason Skeen	Assistant Sheriff, LA County Sheriff's Department	
•	Heather Staufenberg	Assist. Bureau Chief Director, LA County Sheriff's Department	
•	Dara Williams	Chief Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspector General (OIG)	
•	Matthew Dill	Senior Deputy, Office of County Counsel (CoCo)	
V. CONSENT	CALENDAR		
May	15, 2025, Meeting Minutes were	e approved.	7:44
 Commission's 2024 Annual Report. This item was deferred to later in the meeting. 		8:18	
Chair noted t	he 2024 annual report is missing	g an organizational chart. Chair said the Commission's org	2:38:36
chart should	show the Executive Director rep	orts to the Commission. The current version shows the	
Executive Dire	ector reports to the Board of Su	pervisor's Executive Officer instead. He encouraged the	
incoming Cor	nmission Chair to work with EO	Yen on revising the org chart	
Chair made a	motion, seconded by Commiss	ioner Hicks, to approve the 2024 Annual Report.	
Commissioner Cooper requested clarification regarding the organizational chart.		2:45:23	
Chair deferre	d public comment on item IV Ar	nnual Report and moved to item IX, OIG report.	2:47:20
V. FAMILY IN	MPACT REMARKS		
No a	ction on this item		
VI. UNFINISH	ED BUSINESS		
		Life Ad Hoc Committee Report and revised	<u>8:59</u>
	<u>o</u>	epartment (LASD) Staff Wellness and Suicide Prevention.	
		by Commissioner Cooper, for the Commissions to adopt all 4	
recommenda	tions.		

 Vice Chair Luis Garcia provided a follow up presentation that highlighted updated recommendations based on previous discussion on suicide prevention and employee wellness initiatives within the LASD. He addressed LASD's concerns with recommendations #2 and #3 requiring LASD to review and modify their psychological response to critical incident policies and procedures and to identify a place on their public-facing website to post annual Psychological Services Bureau data. Vice Chair Garcia noted that the Commission's proposed recommendations aim to clarify duties and enhance oversight of the Sheriff's department. Vice Chair announced a 5th recommendation for the Commission and OIG to receive a report back in writing from LASD by September 5, 2025, regarding mechanisms for enhancing LASD suicide prevention efforts. Following the presentation, Vice Chair Garcia acknowledged LASD's subject matter expert Heather Staufenberg, Assistant Bureau Chief, Psychological Services Bureau (PSB). Assistant Bureau Chief Director Staufenberg provided an overview of the LASD's ongoing initiatives to support and improve the mental health and wellness of its sworn personnel. She highlighted the range of services available to LASD personnel and presented statistics from the first quarter of 2024, noting a 23% increase in appointments, a 17% rise in outreach efforts, and a 29% growth in field consultations compared to the previous quarter. 	<u>10:02</u>
 Chair Bonner thanked Vice Chair Garcia and Assistant Bureau Chief Staufenberg for their presentations and moved to commissioner comments. 	22:13
 Commissioner Cooper requested a restatement of the first quarter 2024 statistics related to mental health services utilization. 	22:55
 Commissioner Giggans inquired about confidential appointments. 	23:31
 Vice Chair Johnson inquired about LASD efforts and increased utilization of services fitting into the overall progress on employee wellness and mental health services among sworn personnel. 	23:52
 Chair Bonner praised staff and Ad Hoc Committee members Vice Chair Garcia and Commissioner Cooper for producing an excellent report. Chair Bonner stated that the report's recommendations are strong and appropriate for submission to the Sheriff, and voiced support for both the Ad Hoc's report and the revised recommendations. Chair Bonner noted a possible motion to dissolve the Quality of Life ad hoc committee. 	27:31
 Commissioner Callaway suggested dissolving Quality of Life ad hoc committee, noting that the report is not confidential and has been made publicly available. He stated that if further action is deemed necessary in the future, the Ad Hoc Committee could be reestablished. 	29:45
MOTION : moved by Commissioner Callaway seconded by Vice Chair Johnson to dissolve the Quality of Life Ad Hoc Committee.	30:06
 Assistant Bureau Chief Staufenberg reported that LASD does not agree with recommendation #3 or conducting further LASD internal research. She pointed out that the data from both the Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection and Blue HELP., which the committee referenced, is based on voluntary reporting and is not mandatory. She emphasized the importance of recognizing these limitations when evaluating the recommendation. 	30:31
 Chair Bonner reported that Assistant Bureau Chief Staufenberg's concern had previously been raised, prompting the Ad Hoc Committee to revisit the issue in response to feedback, including from the Psychological Services Bureau and inquired if Vice Chair Garcia was in favor of recommendation #3. 	31:17
 Vice Chair Garcia confirmed that the Ad Hoc Committee continues to support Recommendation #3 as currently worded. Chair noted that the Bureau Chief's comments were formally noted and moved to public comment followed by a vote on the motions. 	31:45
PUBLIC COMMENT:	
 Caller #3 inquired about the number of suicides by LASD deputies. 	32:22
 Cindy Nunez commented on mental health and wellness available to impacted families. 	34:23
Motion to adopt the Quality of Life Ad Hoc Report.	
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VOICE VOTE: Bonner, Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Giggans, Hicks, Johnson	<u>35:57</u>
7 Ayes: Bonner, Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Giggans, Hicks, Johnson O Nove	
0 Nays1 Absent: Harris	
Motion passed 7-0 Motion to dissolve the Quality of Life Ad Hos Committee	
Motion to dissolve the Quality-of-Life Ad Hoc Committee.	26.52
VOICE VOTE: Bonner, Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Giggans, Hicks, Johnson	<u>36:53</u>
 7 Ayes: Bonner, Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Giggans, Hicks, Johnson 0 Nays 	
• 1 Absent: Harris	
Motion passed 7-0	
VII. NEW BUSINESS	
A. Chair Bonner announced the Slate of nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Chair Bonner advised	37:31
that his term would end on July 17th and officially withdrew his name from the slate for the	37.31
Chair's position. He went on to defer item 7A until after the Chair and Executive Director's	
report.	
B. Chair Bonner announced that the Commission's plans to present him with a scroll and plaque will	38:38
not take place today and requested the Commission's permission to return in the Fall to receive	<u> </u>
it.	
C. Chair Bonner said the Commission is weighing reconstituting the PREA ad hoc committee in light	39:09
of a recent PREA motion by the Board. He deferred the item until after the slate of candidates.	
Chair Bonner then moved to item VIII.	
Given that the Commission is not the lead agency in the Board's motion and that the Commission is just	1:46:33
supposed to monitor the LASD's progress, the Commission decided not create a new PREA Ad Hoc. He	
requested the Executive Director and staff monitor LASD's progress with PREA compliance and report	
back to the commission. Chair Bonner then moved to item VIII B.	
Commissioner Cooper gave an overview of the Chair and Vice Chair duties and announced the slate of	1:14:30
candidates.	
 Vice Chair Johnson shared his qualifications and goals for the position of Chair. 	1:19:46
 Vice Chair Garcia shared his statement of qualifications and goals for the position of Vice Chair. 	1:25:24
 Commissioner Calloway shared his statement of qualification for the position of Vice Chair. 	1:30:12
Commissioner Giggans moved to approve the slate of candidates, Chair Bonner seconded the motion.	1:33:04
The Commission moved to public comment.	
PUBLIC COMMENT:	
 Caller User 3 commented about future transparency and open communication with the public. 	1:35:35
 Deanna Brock commented on the vice chair candidates and the end of Chair Bonner's term. 	1:36:50
 Usef Miller commented on the end of Chair Bonner's term. 	1:39:03
 Crystal Jones commented on uplifting transparency and trust. 	<u>1:40:43</u>
Vanessa Perez commented about Chair Bonner.	1:42:39
 Melissa Miramontes commented about law enforcement accountability. 	1:43:15
Motion to approve the slate of candidates	
VOICE VOTE: Bonner, Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Giggans, Hicks, Johnson	1:45:28
• 7 Ayes: Bonner, Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Giggans, Hicks, Johnson	
• 0 Nays	
• 1 Absent: Harris	
Motion passed 7-0	
Following the vote, Chair returned to item VII C.	<u>1:46:33</u>
VIII. COMMISSION/LASD REPORTS	

 A. Chair's Report 1. Chair Bonner announced that this would be his final report as Chair of the Commission. He outlined his three priority goals that included: Securing the Board of Supervisors' adoption of revisions to section 3.79 of the County ordinance, initiating legal action to enforce Measure R and advocating for the passage of AB 847 that would grant oversight commissions the authority to subpoena documents discussed in closed session. Chair Bonner noted the Commission's 27 recommendations on deputy gangs and cliques are its most important recommendation. Despite the fact that his term ends on July 17, 2025, he will continue to devote time and energy toward the priority goals mentioned. 2. Chair Bonner provided an update on the proposed revisions to Section 3.79 of the County Ordinance. He noted that revisions have not been placed on the Board of Supervisors (BOS) agenda, but he remains confident that the BOS will ultimately approve them. Chair also reported that, at the request of the Justice Deputies, the Commission drafted additional language to be included in the revisions to ensure that the Commission protects the confidentiality of peace office information and that County Counsel (CoCo) has not responded to the proposed changes, causing further delay. 3. Chair Bonner reported that AB 847 will appear at the Senate Public Safety Committee agenda on July 8, 2025, and recommended submitting a letter of support. He moved, seconded by Vice Chair Johnson, to authorize the Chair to draft and send a support letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion to direct the Chair to draft a letter in support of AB 847 to the Senate Judiciary Committee. VOICE VOTE: Bonner, Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Giggans, Hicks, Johnson 7 Ayes: Bonner, Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Giggans, Hicks, Johnson 	<u>39:44</u>
Nays	
• 1 Absent: Harris	
Motion passed 7-0	
4. Chair Bonner provided an updateon the Commission's plans to enforce its three subpoenas related to use of force cases against Joseph Perez, Andres Guardado and Emmett Brock. Chair Bonner shared the key points in the written report and advised that no response to the enforcement action has been filed by the County on behalf of the Commission. Following his report, Chair Bonner returned to item VII A.	<u>56:00</u>
 B. Executive Director's (ED) Report Deputy Executive Director (DED) Bikila Ochoa shared the ED report in the absence of ED Moseley. 1. DED Ochoa informed the Commission that staff is collaborating with the Executive Office on a special project to develop a standardized onboarding process for all new County commissioners. 2. DED Ochoa highlighted recent and ongoing Commissioner and staff activities, including internal operations, trainings, upcoming events, and community engagement. 3. DED Ochoa reported that he was tasked with reviewing the status of the Commission's strategic plan, to be agendized for discussion in September. 4. DED Ochoa provided a staffing update, noting that the Commission is still working to fill the Sr. Analyst position and that the Commission will onboard two summer interns soon. 5. DED Ochoa announced several upcoming events, including a virtual listening session in July on deputy gangs. He also mentioned the possibility of postponing the COC's annual conference to next year to align with its 10-year anniversary. 	2:18:42
Vice Chair Johnson inquired about hosting National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement	2:24:59
(NACOLE) in Los Angeles.	
Chair Bonner moved to the Sheriff's report.	2:25:21
C. Sheriff's Report (Assistant Sheriff Jason Skeen)	2:26:10

 Assistant Sheriff Skeen reported that LASD is reviewing its response to the recent demonstrunrest over the recent weeks. He highlighted improvements to employee wellness and stat positions, by funding nine positions to support within the Psychological Services Bureau (PS Assistant Sheriff Skeen reported a decrease in crime by over 10.7% and noted a reduction of part one crimes as of this week and an approximate decrease of 665 part one crimes per miclosing, Assistant Sheriff Skeen reported that LASD staffing has improved, with a net gain of sworn personnel and that the increase was achieved by reducing vacancies and impairment Vice Chair Johnson inquired about LASD's involvement with enforcing immigration efforts. Chair Bonner noted that state law allows the Sheriff to transfer custody of undocumented indiviconvicted of serious crimes and that not adhering to that sends Immigration and Custody Enfor (ICE) into the community to apprehend those individuals. Assistant Sheriff Skeen confirmed that LASD follows and enforces the law and that inmates are transferred over to federal agencies if a lawful order is presented. Chief Deputy Inspector General Dara Williams advised that LASD will release inmates with viole to federal agencies with the proper detainer and arrest warrant and if the judicial warrant is on by ICE, they will not release the inmate. Chair Bonner then returned to item IV. BREAK: 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. IX. A. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG) UPDATE A. OIG Chief Deputy Dara Williams discussed the OIG's 2025 First Quarter report. She noted to section in the report that addresses immigration and highlighted LASD's live scan process and the section in the report that addresses immigration and highlighted LASD's live scan process and the position of the process and the pro	ff (5B). of 3,841 onth. In (123) ts. 2:28:41 iduals (2:30:08) cement 2:31:38 ent crimes (2:32:18) ly signed hat a (2:48:03)
the place of birth for all inmates is sent to the Federal Government. Ms. Williams reported her role as Chief Deputy of the OIG, she was denied access to crime scenes on multiple occurrence that a letter was sent to the BOS regarding OIG's position on the issue. Chief Deputy William reported on budget curtailments, the inmate welfare fund and delays with OIG requests.	that, in asions and
	3.00.06
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Assistant Sheriff Skeen encouraged Chief Deputy Williams to continue rolling out to the sce	
Commissioner Calloway questioned what can be done to ensure OIG has access to every so	
Commissioner Cooper recommended documenting the date, time, officer on scene.	3:07:32
 Vice Chair Johnson advised that the agenda for next Commission meeting would include an 	
confirm that the OIG's access to crime scenes has been restored.	3:09:58
• Commissioner Calloway inquired if there is an LASD policy regarding informal meetings.	
	3:10:48
Reports of Ad Hoc Committee	
B. Chair Bonner reported on the Commissioner vacancy interview panel and inquired when the	
interview process would begin. Chair Bonner encouraged the DED to expedite the interview	•
 Chair Bonner reported on the Deputy Gangs ad hoc and reported an online survey for the p share their experience with deputy gangs and noted that a virtual listening session will take July 10. 	
• Vice Chair Johnson reported that the Technology ad hoc will be meeting with Undersheriff to discuss drone use and policies and practices.	April Tardy <u>3:16:33</u>
 Chair Bonner advised that a special hearing and educational presentation on the UoF was p and postponed. 	3:18:46
 Commissioner Cooper reported receiving notification on a possible outbreak of smallpox in County facility requiring inmates to give blood and take the vaccine. 	the North <u>3:19:44</u>
 Chair Bonner called for public comment on the OIG report, Ad Hoc Committee report and t Annual Report, followed by general public comment. Public Comment 	he 2024 <u>3:19:59</u>
i danc comment	

 Cindy Nunez commented on Supervisor Barger declining to reappoint Chair Bonner to the Commission. 	3:21:44
Ali Rubinfeld commented on the OIG report.	3:24:06
Gina Youngblood commented on in custody deaths.	3:26:03
Ron Dowell commented on Commissioner Bonner's departure.	3:26:52
 Deanna Brock commented about Chief Deputy Inspector General Williams' report. 	3:29:02
 Sahara White commented about Chair Bonner's leadership. 	3:30:41
Following public comment, Chair Bonner called for a voice vote on the motion to approve the 2024 Annual Report followed by general public comment.	
Motion to adopt the 2024 Annual Report.	
VOICE VOTE: Bonner, Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Giggans, Hicks, Johnson	3:32:41
7 Ayes: Bonner, Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Hicks, Johnson	
• 0 Nays	
• 1 Absent: Harris	
Motion passed 7-0	
X. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS	
Isaac Ashberry commented on two in custody deaths.	3:33:32
 Steve Hill spoke about his arrest and firearms that were confiscated. 	3:37:19
 Helen Jones thanked Chair Bonner and the Commission for the work that they do. 	3:39:36
Minerva Garcia commented on Chair Bonner's term with the Commission.	3:41:44
 Nicolas Garduchi commented about his children being abused by their mom. 	3:43:56
Carlos Montes encouraged the Commission to continue their efforts.	3:46:17
Vanessa Perez spoke about LASD crime stats.	3:48:18
XI. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS	
July 10, 2025, Virtual Listening Session related to Deputy Gangs.	
July 17, 2025, Next COC Meeting at St. Anne's	
Meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.	