



Written Public Comment

Provided for the March 19, 2026,

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?
Ary Osvaldo Cortiano	<p>Good afternoon</p> <p>I am from Brazil, a reserve civil police officer who was stationed in an elite unit, the Special Police Operations Center, specializing in combating bank robberies, kidnappings, financial crimes, and offensive driving for police officers (in pursuit cases). I would like to bring my experience to this county of the Sheriff of Los Angeles and others.</p> <p>My email address is [REDACTED]</p> <p>I await your response.</p>	Ary Osvaldo Cortiano
Crime stats	<p>Why is the complaint process reviewed internally and not by third party at least laid has an interval affairs division.</p>	
General public comment	<p>LASD needs to end the use of the racist and violent Fort Apache Logo by Deputies at East L.A. Station. It is racist towards indigenous groups and memorializes genocide. Something LASD is probably proud of as it played a crucial role in Los Angeles' attempts to eliminate and enslave Native inhabitants.</p> <p>The Sticker on the Water Bottle of an On-Duty Sheriff's Deputy Promoting Jail Violence is just another item of proof that deputies perpetuate, glorify, and relish in LA County jail deputy violence. HOLD THESE DEPUTIES ACCOUNTABLE AND CLOSE MCJ! The sticker had 14 stars on the top which likely symbolized the widely recognized white supremacist 14 word slogan "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children." The deputy is probably part of a Nazi deputy gang. END DEPUTY GANGS NOW AND HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE.</p> <p>Do not allow LASD to use automated license plate readers as this drives LA deeper into 1984-style mass surveillance, especially when used in coordination with federal officers who are currently operating under an explicit fascist regime.</p> <p>The effort to go paperless is great, but the one thing that cannot become paperless only is jail mail. This violates first amendment rights and will disrupt family connection incarcerated loved</p>	Tony

ones. NYC had considered making jail mail paperless but did not after all due to these and other reasons.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit this public comment. We understand that the Sheriff's Office has recently proposed adopting mail digitization to reduce drug use in the County's jails. Our organizations are all deeply concerned about policies that would prevent incarcerated people and their loved ones from communicating by mail, and three organizations—the Social Justice Legal Foundation, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and the Knight First Amendment Institute—currently represent eight plaintiffs in a challenge to San Mateo County's adoption of mail digitization in its jails, *A.B.O. Comix v. County of San Mateo*. We urge L.A. County not to make the same mistakes that other locations have made.

We submitted a longer email to the Commission earlier today, and we write now to emphasize the same points. Mail digitization is dehumanizing; it introduces invasive and unprecedented surveillance of letter-writers outside of jail; and it is simply ineffective at achieving the Sheriff's stated goal.

First, mail digitization—which typically involves the destruction of original correspondence and includes a prohibition on physical mail in jails—compromises the connection between incarcerated people and their loved ones. Correspondence connects people to loved ones, community members, educators, religious leaders, and social services. Mail is tangible, durable, emotionally significant, and accessible. And the ability to maintain social ties and family connection throughout incarceration is associated with better wellbeing during and following incarceration. Mail digitization interferes with these deep emotional connections and ultimately hurts rehabilitative efforts.

Second, mail digitization further strains family connection by introducing new and invasive surveillance of unincarcerated community members, which predictably chills their speech and communication with their loved ones behind bars. While correctional facilities have historically subjected mail to manual inspection and review upon delivery, under mail digitization, correctional facilities, law enforcement, and private mail-digitization providers retain electronic copies of mail for years. Beyond mere retention, mail digitization comes with advanced

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searching capabilities that far exceed traditional mail monitoring practices. Subjecting jail mail to this new form of invasive surveillance deters members of the public from sending mail to their loved ones.

Third, while drug use can be a serious problem in correctional facilities, there is little evidence that mail digitization is the answer. Several jurisdictions that have adopted restrictive mail policies have not seen a decrease in drug use. For example, the Jefferson City News Tribune reported that after the Missouri Department of Corrections adopted mail digitization, the average number of overdoses in its prisons increased. And although the Sheriff's Office has not, to our knowledge, pointed to staff safety risks as a reason to prohibit mail, it is worth emphasizing that the risks to staff from opening and handling mail are nearly nonexistent.

Instead, common-sense measures can meaningfully impact the rate of drug-related incidents while protecting free speech and privacy rights. Many correctional facilities have found success by, for example, increasing searches of correctional staff and improving access to life-saving treatment for substance use disorder.

We urge the Sheriff's Office to reconsider and we ask this Commission to conduct further research into the source of drug-related problems in the county's jails and the expected impact of banning mail.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Krent, Knight First Amendment  
Institute at Columbia University  
Amy Xu and Hannah Comstock, Social Justice  
Legal Foundation  
Cara Gagliano, Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Peter Eliasberg and Melissa Camacho, American  
Civil Liberties Union of Southern California

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My name is Nicki Cooper, a Loyola Law School student volunteering with Cancel the Contract Antelope Valley, a member of the Check the Sheriff Coalition.

I write regarding findings from the OIG's latest report that impact Antelope Valley community policing.

The OIG's report highlights a troubling disconnect between public statements by LASD leadership and the Department's formal position on law enforcement gangs. Despite public acknowledgments by the Sheriff and Undersheriff about groups like the Banditos and Industry Indians, the Department claims it has not identified any group that meets the legal definition of a law enforcement gang under Penal Code 13670. This defies logic. If you can fire deputies for being part of a tattooed subgroup, you have identified a group.

More concerning is that of the 10 pending administrative investigations related to deputy gangs, two have been open for over three years and three for over a year. Delays of this magnitude do not inspire confidence that the Department is serious about rooting out these illegal groups. This is not a failure of identification, it is a failure of will.

For Antelope Valley residents who lived through the DOJ's findings of unconstitutional stops and biased policing, these patterns are deeply concerning. Community members under federal settlement deserve to know if Lancaster and Palmdale deputies belong to law enforcement gangs, and they need real accountability, not delayed investigations and internal protection.

I urge the Commission to identify these groups, investigate without delay, and protect the community from further harm.

Item 8.B (Commission Reports) -  
Deputy Gangs Update

Thank you.

Nicki Cooper