



Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission



MONTHLY MEETING

April 16, 2026 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
St. Anne's Conference and Event Center

MEETING MINUTES

[AGENDA](#) | [VIDEO](#)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Hans Johnson, Chair
- Arthur Calloway, Vice Chair
(arrived 9:14 a.m.)
- Luis S. Garcia, Vice Chair
- Irma Cooper
- Patricia Giggans
(arrived 9:14 a.m., departed 12:30 p.m.)
- James P. Harris
- Jamon Hicks
- George Newhouse

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

- Sheriff Robert Luna (departed 10:05 a.m.)
- Asst. Sheriff Jason A. Skeen
- Deputy Inspector General Dara Williams
- Shana Wilcher and Caroline Shahinian,
Office of County Counsel

STAFF PRESENT

- Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director
- Bikila Ochoa, Deputy Executive Officer
- Robert Flores, Community Services Coordinator

COMMISSIONER/S ABSENT:

- London McBride

1. **CALL TO ORDER (0:01)**

Chair Hans Johnson called the Los Angeles Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission) meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and provided an overview of the agenda.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (0:07)**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT RULES (4:36)** Commission staff member Robert Flores explained how the community can provide public comment on an item on the agenda during the meeting.

4. **ROLL CALL (6:40)** Commissioner staff member Robert Flores conducted the roll call. The quorum requirement was established.

- **Commissioners Present:** Chair Hans Johnson, Vice Chair Arthur Calloway, Vice Chair Luis S. Garcia, Commissioner Irma Cooper, Commissioner James P. Harris, Commissioner Jamon Hicks, and Commissioner George Newhouse
- **Quorum:** Seven Commissioners were present during the roll call, constituting a quorum.
- **Late Arrival:** Commissioner Patricia Giggans arrived at 9:18 a.m., after the roll call.
- **Excused Absence:** Commissioner London McBride

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR (7:37)**

The Commissioners reviewed the items on the consent calendar. There were no questions. Chair Johnson called for a motion to approve the consent calendar.

MOTION (7:51)

Commissioner James Harris moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner George Newhouse seconded the motion.

VOICE VOTE:

- **7 Ayes:** Chair Hans Johnson, Co-Vice Chair Arthur Calloway, Co-Vice Chair Luis S. Garcia, Commissioner Irma Cooper, Commissioner James P. Harris, Commissioner Jamon Hicks, and Commissioner George Newhouse
- **0 Nays**
- **0 Abstentions**

The motion passed unanimously by a vote of **7 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.**

6. FAMILY IMPACT REMARKS (8:29)

Ivette Correa spoke of the in-custody death of her brother, Juan Correa, at Men's Central Jail (MCJ).

7. SHERIFF'S UPDATE (19:28)

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Sheriff Robert Luna reported:

- Community engagement: LASD participated in YMCA's Good Friday breakfast, L.A. Mission's Easter outreach, Sheriff's Youth Foundation athletic league events for at-risk youth near Century and Norwalk Stations, Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect's Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss Conference, LASD's Women's History Celebration, LASD Academy Class 488 graduation (40 deputies), and the funeral for Sheriff's Deputy Levi Vargas who died while participating in the Baker to Vegas challenge.
- Technology upgrades: LASD is updating its Computer-Aided Dispatch System (CADS) and seeking to install a jail management system. LASD received a Gold Eagle award from the L.A. County Quality and Productivity Commission for its collaboration with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk on a state-of-art ballot processing center.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Part I (26:04)

- Anastasia encouraged the Commission to do its best and thanked the Sheriff for participating in the Commission meeting.
- Omar Agiri, whose Air Force veteran son Maxwell died in custody, asked Sheriff Luna whether it is a crime to falsify Title 15 checks.
- Eric Strong claimed Sheriff Luna is misleading the public by claiming the increase in jail deaths is driven by an aging jail population. He noted the deaths are mostly of inmates ages 20-29. He said it's a leadership issue that MCJ inmates are eating moldy food and missing medical and mental health appointments.
- Byron with the TransLatin@ Coalition said the LASD should address its liability costs.

DISCUSSION: (32:50)

- Commissioner Garcia commented, as a former person in custody at MCJ, and as someone who has toured MCJ's food services section, that he does not think the trustees responsible for food preparation would distribute moldy food, particularly in their own cell block. He said the only time he saw moldy food at MCJ was when people stored food in their cells.
- Chair Johnson said the Board of Supervisors (BOS) expressed "considerable impatience" at its April 7, 2026 meeting after approving the latest settlement involving charges against the LASD – an \$8 million settlement for alleged harassment and assault by the "Banditos" deputy gang. He asked the Sheriff about actions being taken to address deputy gangs. Sheriff Luna responded that deputy gangs have been a challenge for possibly 50 years and it will take more than the three years he's been in office to eradicate them. Still, he said there is a lot of work that has been done, and is being done, including: creation of the Office of Constitutional Policing; changes to the LASD's use of force policy and gang policy; making clear to new recruits, supervisors and Department executives that he will not tolerate gang behavior; complying with most of the

Commission's recommendations on deputy gangs; and redesigning the Field Officer Training Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Part 2 (46:36)

These speakers had been disconnected due to technical issues when they tried to comment immediately following the Sheriff's report.

- Cindy Nuñez, sister of Francisco Nuñez, asserted the problem is not new recruits but existing staff participating in deputy gangs, particularly those in leadership positions at the LASD.
- Deanna Brock acknowledged Sheriff Luna has made sincere efforts to address deputy gangs.
- Raquel Derfler with Cancel the Contract commented that Vice Chair Garcia's remarks about moldy food at MCJ raise doubt about his impartiality in LASD oversight.
- Jacqueline Venters stated that the LASD should not be allowed to investigate itself, noting that it never held its deputies accountable for shooting her son on April 4, 2011.

8. COMMISSION REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (53:15)

- Executive Director Moseley provided updates on training and community engagement, including the Commission's April 9 community forum on in-custody deaths and its May 6 forum on Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR).
- On AB 847, she reported that the San Diego Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) has gained access to the San Diego Sheriff's Department's confidential files after only a month-long meet-and-confer process with labor unions that began in February and ended in March.
- Commission staff developed and submitted two proposals for this year's National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) conference, one entitled "From Custody to Care: Expanding Oversight in Custody Facilities" and the other about law enforcement use of A.I.
- She also reported that the Commission's office is temporarily located in the Hall of Administration basement pending construction of its office on the Vermont corridor.

B. CHAIR'S REPORT (1:00:44)

- Chair Johnson noted the significance of the March 26, 2026 California Court of Appeal's unanimous ruling in *Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO) v. Sonoma County*, and what it should mean for L.A. County. In the meantime, he said, the Commission is continuing to update its governing ordinance, Chapter 3.79 of the L.A. County Code, in light of AB 847.
- Chair Johnson revealed there are 59 open meet-and-confer items with labor unions at the LASD, instead of 46 as previously reported, on such topics as tasers, deputy background checks, deputy cliques, station and unit logos with inflammatory insignia, etc.
- Following the success of the Commission's April 9, 2026 community forum on in-custody deaths, a follow-up event is being planned.

PUBLIC COMMENT (1:12:22)

- Joshua Goodman, L.A. County Senior Deputy County Counsel specializing in labor relations, stated that, "Chair Johnson has interpreted the Sonoma case to mean that oversight bodies may use their subpoena power without meeting and conferring with the relevant unions; however, the decision does not reach this conclusion." He emphasized that the Court simply affirmed that IOLERO has subpoena power. He noted that, in L.A. County, the Commission and the Office of Inspector General's subpoena power is unchallenged; however, the issue is

whether L.A. County is required to meet-and-confer about the impacts of the new oversight laws such as Measure R and AB 847. He noted that the L.A. County Employee Relations Commission, Superior Court, and California Appellate Court have each ruled that the L.A. County is required to meet-and-confer regarding the impacts and effects of such laws.

- Jacqueline Venters noted having subpoena power doesn't guarantee compliance.
- Yusef Miller, North County Equity & Justice Coalition, asked what good is subpoena power if it cannot be enforced?
- Deanna Brock asked if everyone wants transparency, why are these subpoenas being fought?

DISCUSSION (1:19:39)

- Commissioner Newhouse observed that Mr. Goodman made a public comment about a topic that the Office of County Counsel, in a recent memo to the Commission, directed the Commission not to discuss in a public forum, labeling it attorney-client privileged information. Commissioner Newhouse called for that memo to be retracted as County Counsel is "using attorney-client privilege to obscure and hide the issue." Commissioner Newhouse added that when County Counsel states the Commission has subpoena power but advises the Commission that it cannot enforce this subpoena power until after what seems to be "endless meet-and-confers," then the Commission effectively does not have subpoena power. Commissioner Newhouse noted that he has issued many subpoenas over the years as an attorney and was never required to meet-and-confer with his adversary first. "Doesn't make any sense," he said.
- Chair Johnson commented that he hopes the LASD will respond to a "message of concern" (as opposed to a formal complaint) over two Palmdale community members being jailed and denied food, women's hygiene products, shoes, telephones, and the ability to notify family members. Both community members were ultimately released without charge.

9. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. INSPECTOR GENERAL UPDATES (1:25:58)

- Chief Deputy Inspector General, Dara Williams, said the Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a report with 17 recommendations on the LASD's use of force policy that emphasized the need to clarify the distinction between deadly and non-deadly force and to make sure that de-escalation is mandated during the entire course of events, not just in the moments leading up to the use of force.
- Ms. Williams added that while LASD has updated the body-worn camera section of its Custody Division manual, the main issue remains the need for infrastructure upgrades to maximize the benefit of body-worn cameras. The OIG has suggested using randomized audits of footage and responding with misconduct investigations as needed.
- She stated that the LASD's policy on deputy cliques – or what the OIG prefers to call "secret deputy subgroups" – instituted by former Sheriff Alex Villanueva, is "not a strong policy." She believes the LASD may want to prohibit deputy gangs by citing their discriminatory practices, banned under California Penal Code Section 13670.
- Ms. Williams suggested the County could explore developing a countywide policy to ban subgroups in violation of the law and then meeting and conferring with unions on the effects after the countywide policy's implementation, not before. "It wouldn't completely alleviate the requirement for meeting and conferring, but it might get us to where we want faster," Ms. Williams said.

B. SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION (SBC)

The SBC had no representatives present at the meeting.

C. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS (1:44:24)

- **Budget:** Commissioner Harris said the ad hoc is awaiting the LASD's and CEO's formal responses to the ad hoc's adopted budget staff report.
- **Complaints:** Commissioner Calloway said the ad hoc will meet next month to discuss the development of an internal complaint tracking process, and ways to address the Commission's inability to review complaints. Chief Deputy Inspector General Williams asked that the OIG be involved in those meetings, and Chair Johnson consented.
- **Governance:** Chair Johnson said the ad hoc will be tracking BOS motions and resolutions that require action by the Commission and its ad hocs.
- **Disciplinary Process:** Commissioner Hicks said there is no update.
- **Deputy Gangs and Cliques:** Commissioner Harris said the ad hoc will schedule a meeting to discuss several topics taken up today. Chair Johnson said as the third anniversary of the Commission's 27 recommendations on deputy gangs and cliques approaches, Deputy Executive Director Bikila Ochoa is developing a report based on community experiences with deputy gangs and cliques.
- **Jail Staffing and Conditions:** Commissioner Cooper stated the ad hoc is planning a follow-up to its recent in-custody deaths community forum. She encouraged family members to share information with the Commission about their experiences and added that the ad hoc wants the Medical Examiner and Coroner to more promptly provide them with transparency about their relatives' cases.
- **Legal:** Commissioner Hicks acknowledged the motion on Item 11C of today's agenda and applauded Commissioner Newhouse's comments on subpoena powers.
- **Protection of Media in Demonstrations:** Commissioner Garcia said the ad hoc has provided feedback on the LASD's draft media policy.
- **Technology:** Chair Johnson said the committee will host a virtual community forum on automated license plate readers on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT (1:53:06)

- Jacqueline Venters spoke of the "Jump Out Boys" deputy gang. She commented on the shooting of her son five times in the back and the deputy responsible not being imprisoned.
- Anastasia Komarovs commented that if people want better governance, they should elect it on June 2, 2026.
- Yusef Miller called for updating the policy for responding to protesters
- Cindy Nunez thanked Commissioner Cooper for reiterating that community voices matter and criticized Commissioner Garcia's comments about jail conditions.
- Deanna Brock questioned the sincerity of candidates campaigning at today's meeting.

10. RECESS (2:01:58) EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION (2:19:00)

A. Updates on the LASD's compliance with the Johnson Settlement Agreement

This item will be taken up at the Commission's May 21, 2026 meeting.

B. Updates on LASD's implementation of the Board of Supervisors' March 3, 2026 motion, "Strengthening Accountability to Significantly Decrease Jail Deaths in the Los Angeles County Jails," including actions taken and planned to reduce in-custody death.

- LASD Custody Compliance and Sustainability Bureau Commander Christine Coles said bureaus involved in the Board motion have met and plan to meet every two weeks. She anticipates creating a working group to develop a response to the Board motion.
- Chair Johnson noted that the Board requested the LASD to analyze whether security equipment such as body scanners can be used to screen employees, vendors and visitors entering its jails. Commander Coles said the LASD has been looking at such technology for some time, trying to identify what would be most effective and least intrusive. As it has not made a selection, it has not sent a recommendation or funding request to the Board. Commander Coles said the effects of using such equipment would be subject to meet-and-confer.
- Commander Coles said completed vulnerability assessments requested by the Board are being evaluated to determine the feasibility of certain Board recommendations.
- She added that employees are being trained on the LASD new policy to ensure accountability for the quality of Title 15 safety checks.

DISCUSSION (2:28:59)

- Chair Johnson asked whether the LASD can install more CCTV cameras. Commander Coles responded that this is under discussion but requires additional funding.
- Chair Johnson asked whether the LASD is enforcing its policy against the use of phones and other devices by employees to watch movies, including pornographic movies. Commander Coles responded that the LASD notifies employees that it is unacceptable to engage in any activity solely for personal enjoyment when they are supposed to be actively working to ensure the safety of incarcerated individuals. She knows that employees have been disciplined in several cases but not how many.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Assign March 3, 2026 “Strengthening Accountability to Significantly Decrease Jail Deaths in the L.A. County Jails” Motion Follow-Up to Jail Conditions & Staffing Ad Hoc Committee (2:34:36)

Chair Johnson noted that the BOS’ March 3, 2026 motion on jail deaths also includes responsibilities for the Commission and called for a motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Irma Cooper moved to approve assigning “the Commission’s follow-up responsibilities related to countywide efforts to significantly decrease jail deaths to the Jail Conditions and Staffing Ad Hoc Committee for coordination and monitoring, and to direct the Jail Conditions and Staffing Ad Hoc Committee, with staff support, to 1) Report back on a potential scope of work for CHS to seek funding to obtain an outside consultant to evaluate recent deaths, identify trends, and provide recommendations and best practices to reduce in-custody deaths in collaboration with LASD, ME, OIG, COC, SBC, Auditor-Controller, and CEO-Risk Management; 2) Coordinate with OIG and SBC to support monitoring of the accessibility and availability of Naloxone in jail facilities. Commissioner James Harris seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2:37:03)

Anastasia commented that she appreciates the Commission meetings being available online.

DISCUSSION (2:37:58)

Chief Deputy Inspector General Williams recommended that both the OIG and the Commission be involved in the working group that Commander Coles said would be created to respond to the Board motion on in-custody deaths. Commissioner Harris agreed with her recommendation.

VOICE VOTE:

- **8 Ayes:** Chair Hans Johnson, Co-Vice Chair Arthur Calloway, Co-Vice Chair Luis S. Garcia, Commissioner Irma Cooper, Commissioner Patti Giggans, Commissioner James P. Harris, Commissioner Jamon Hicks, and Commissioner George Newhouse
- **0 Nays**
- **0 Abstentions**

The motion passed unanimously by a vote of **8 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.**

B. Creation of a new Nominating Ad Hoc Committee for the election of new officers on the Commission (2:41:53)

Chair Johnson explained that the Nominating Ad Hoc Committee members, none of whom would be under consideration for Chair or Vice-Chair(s), would be responsible for selecting a slate of nominees for Commission officer positions. At the June meeting, the slate will be presented to the full Commission, and the floor will be open for any other Commissioners to be nominated. The vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting, during which candidates will have an opportunity to provide statements on their qualifications.

MOTION

Commissioner George Newhouse moved that the Commission “approve the creation of a Nominating Ad Hoc Committee, which will be dissolved once its task is completed.”

Commissioner Jamon Hicks seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2:44:02)

Anastasia commented that the Commission should keep up the good work.

VOICE VOTE:

- **8 Ayes:** Chair Hans Johnson, Co-Vice Chair Arthur Calloway, Co-Vice Chair Luis S. Garcia, Commissioner Irma Cooper, Commissioner Patti Giggans, Commissioner James P. Harris, Commissioner Jamon Hicks, and Commissioner George Newhouse
- **0 Nays**
- **0 Abstentions**

The motion passed unanimously by a vote of **8 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.**

Commissioner Irma Cooper was selected to chair the Nominations Ad Hoc Committee, with Commissioners Jamon Hicks and Patti Giggans as members of the committee.

C. Discussion and Approval of Resolution from the Legal Ad Hoc Committee Entitled “Enforcing Subpoenas and Ensuring Access to Unconflicted Counsel” (2:46:43)

- Chair Johnson reported that the resolution calls on the LASD to comply immediately with the Commission's three lawfully issued subpoenas and raises concerns that continued delay or non-enforcement may reflect a potential conflict given that County Counsel represents both the Commission and the LASD. It requests that County Counsel, by April 20, 2026, provide the Commission with a clear position on the subpoenas and its selection of independent outside counsel.
- Commissioner Newhouse commented that County Counsel recently issued a memo to the Commission indicating that it has, in effect, taken a position that the Commission is not allowed to enforce the subpoenas, which the Commission’s Legal Ad Hoc committee disagrees. He added that Sheriff Luna’s lawsuit seeking declaratory relief is no longer an issue as it was dismissed following the passage of AB 847.

- Commissioner Calloway asked why County Counsel stopped allowing the Commission to issue subpoenas. It was previously able to enforce subpoenas for personnel. He questioned why it is not been prevented from enforcing subpoenas for documents.
- Commissioner Newhouse said County Counsel’s position is essentially that the Commission technically has the legal power to issue subpoenas but cannot do it without first having a meet-and-confer with the unions ALADS and PPOA, a process that takes years.

MOTION

Commissioner Newhouse moved to adopt its Legal Ad Hoc Committee’s resolution that includes:

- 1) Call[ing] on the Los Angeles County Sheriff to comply immediately with the Commission’s three lawfully issued subpoenas and on the L.A. County Counsel to enforce them;
- 2) Any delay, nonresponse, disregard, indecision or refusal by LASD to comply with the subpoenas or by County Counsel to enforce the subpoenas issued by this Commission raises not only noncompliance under law, but also the serious question of an internal conflict of interest insofar as County Counsel claims to represent, simultaneously, the interests of this Commission and LASD;
- 3) In light of the holding of law in IOLERO, the Commission calls on County Counsel, to review its legal position on the enforcement of subpoenas lawfully issued by this Commission and to report back to this Commission with a clear, unequivocal position no later than Monday, April 20, 2026 and, if failing to fully reconcile to the satisfaction of this Commission the serious question of an internal conflict of interest by County Counsel, to furnish this Commission by Monday April 20, unconflicted outside counsel to represent the interests of this Commission faithfully and effectively (which is consistent with best practices for other oversight entities and can ultimately be less expensive to taxpayers) or failing such acceptable assignment, to recognize the interest of this Commission in selecting its own outside counsel without delay, obstruction, interference, or encumbrance in order to exercise the authority granted this Commission under state law, which includes achieving enforcement of the three subpoenas and effectuating the mission and purpose of this Commission under law. Commissioner Giggans seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2:55:13)

- Ali Rubinfeld urged the Commission to take legal action to be able to enforce its subpoenas.
- Deanna Brock reiterated that it’s important for the Commission to have subpoena power.
- Raquel Derfler accused unions within the LASD, and County Counsel, of using meet-and-confer to be obstructionist.

VOICE VOTE:

- **8 Ayes:** Chair Hans Johnson, Co-Vice Chair Arthur Calloway, Co-Vice Chair Luis S. Garcia, Commissioner Irma Cooper, Commissioner Patti Giggans, Commissioner James P. Harris, Commissioner Jamon Hicks, and Commissioner George Newhouse
- **0 Nays**
- **0 Abstentions**

The motion passed unanimously by a vote of **8 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.**

12. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS (3:01:11)

- Ivette Correa criticized the Sheriff.
- Jacqueline Venters spoke of her support for Andre White, who is running for Sheriff.
- Ali Rubinfeld said the LASD’s noncompliance with subpoenas may be a systemic issue.
- Olivia Irene Fitz Simmons described what she called “nightstalking.”

- Amada Otero encouraged the LASD to coordinate with the Department of Youth Development to refer human trafficking survivors to services instead of arresting them.
- Anastasia urged the audience to vote for a gang-free California.
- Raquel Derfler read a statement from a young person describing her arrest in Palmdale and being denied basic necessities before being released without charges, previously referenced by Chair Johnson.
- Deanna Brock thanked the Commission for fighting to enforce the subpoenas issued for her son, Emmett Brock, as well as Joseph Perez and Andres Guardado.

13. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS (3:17:41)

Chair Johnson announced the Commission's May 6, 2026 ALPR Virtual Community Forum and May 21, 2026 Commission Meeting, among other events.

14. ADJOURNMENT (3:17:49)

The meeting adjourned at 12.25pm.

DRAFT