



Written Public Comment

Provided for the September 17, 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?
Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission — 2026	Why Civilian Oversight Matters to Me I believe every person in our community deserves to feel safe, respected, and heard. In 2026, I think that is more important than ever. As a woman and a member of the community, I understand how important it is to feel that you can speak up when you have a concern and know that someone will listen. That is one of the reasons I believe civilian oversight is so important. I don't see civilian oversight as being against law enforcement. I respect the work that Sheriff's deputies do and the challenges they face every day. At the same time, I believe there needs to be accountability and transparency when questions or concerns come up. Both things can be true. To me, good oversight means listening to people, looking at the facts, asking the right questions, and being fair. It means hearing the community while also giving law enforcement a fair opportunity to be heard. If given the opportunity to serve, I would bring an open mind, compassion, honesty, and a willingness to speak up when something needs attention. I would want people to know that their voices matter and that their concerns are not being ignored. Most importantly, I want to be part of building a stronger relationship between the community and the Sheriff's Department. I believe we can have safe communities, accountable leadership, and respect for the people who serve us at the same time.	JO-ANN ALFARO

	For me, civilian oversight is ultimately about people—listening to them, understanding their concerns, and helping make our communities better.	
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Request for Commission investigation: LASD West Hollywood Station, Captain Lapkin, and the no-bid Flock Safety ALPR/camera contract	I am a freelance journalist and civic organizer in West Hollywood. I lead the #FlockOffWeHo campaign and have reported on the City's \$1.47 million Flock Safety ALPR contract. I am asking the Commission to open a formal investigation into LASD West Hollywood Station's role in how this contract originated and was awarded sole-source rather than through competitive bid. Both of the City's agreements with Flock Group, Inc., the April 3, 2023 ALPR agreement and the later fixed-camera agreement, were awarded sole-source, together totaling roughly \$1.47 million. LASD West Hollywood Station operates the resulting system day to day, and a real-time watch center has been built inside the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station. Based on my reporting, Captain Lapkin coordinates the Station's Flock/AI surveillance operations. A July 27, 2026 City staff report also confirms that 14 outside agencies, including the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, accessed West Hollywood's Flock data without City Hall authorizing each instance, over the two years preceding the July 20, 2026 contract renewal, undetected the entire time. This points to a pattern of the Station's Flock operations proceeding outside authorized oversight. I am asking the Commission to determine: Who initiated contact between Flock Group, Inc. and the City or LASD West Hollywood Station, and when. Did Flock or its representatives approach the Sheriff's Station directly and pitch the system, and did Station personnel then present or recommend Flock to the City. Alternatively, did the City or the Sheriff's Station initiate outreach to Flock. What role, if any, did Flock's lobbyist Ballard Partners, or Ballard's Los Angeles office head Joe Buscaino individually, play in any contact with Station leadership, including Captain Lapkin, before either agreement was	Nik Roybal (they/them)
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	signed. And what was Station leadership's role, if any, in the sole-source justification that allowed the contract to bypass competitive bidding. I filed a California Public Records Act request on August 7, 2026 (Reference # R005153-080726) seeking communications between Vice Mayor Hang, his staff, the City Manager's office, Director Rivas, and Captain Lapkin on one side and Flock Safety, Ballard Partners, and Joe Buscaino on the other. That request remains outstanding. Given the City's incomplete response, I ask the Commission to consider its subpoena authority to obtain any communications between LASD West Hollywood Station leadership, including Captain Lapkin, and the City's Director of Public Safety Danny Rivas, on one side, and Flock Safety, Ballard Partners, or Joe Buscaino, on the other. This sits alongside the broader concerns in my August 29, 2026 written testimony to this Commission, including SB 54 fusion center data routing, the absence of stop-level and use-of-force auditing tied to Flock alerts, and LASD's vendor AI policy process. I am requesting the opportunity to provide oral public comment on this matter at the September 17, 2026 meeting.	
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	My name is Lorie Atwater. I'm not asking the Commission to decide any of my pending litigation, and I'm not going to try to explain a six-year case in two minutes. I'm asking you to look at one institutional issue: whether LASD's public complaint process actually functions when the complaint concerns members of the command structure itself. I have documentary records showing that a complaint I made in January 2020 concerning command personnel was received by Internal Affairs and routed back through the patrol command structure. In later efforts to pursue complaints arising from the May 2020 incident, I encountered additional barriers to the complaint process. I now have a pending writ proceeding concerning LASD's public complaint process. But the larger question is not just about me. What safeguards does LASD have to prevent a complaint about command personnel from being routed back into the same command structure, suppressed, rejected, or otherwise prevented from receiving genuinely independent review? I am asking this Commission to refer that narrow issue for review by the appropriate oversight or Inspector General personnel, and, if appropriate, place the integrity of LASD's public complaint-routing process on a future agenda. I have the underlying records and can provide them. Thank you.	
Lasd complaint process		Lorie Atwater
Main focus is my probation task	Aura	David Huang