



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING



poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023, 12:00 P.M.

VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Ms. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo,
 Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith,
 Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and
 Chair Esché L. Jackson

2. Approval of the January 26, 2023, meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, and unanimously carried, (Commissioners Garcia-Leys and Lewis being absent) the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) approved the January 26, 2023, meeting minutes:

Ayes: **5 –** Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Absent: **2 –** Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys

Attachments: [Approved January 26, 2023 Minutes](#)
 Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on two At-Large Commissioner recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
 - a. Diane Terry
 - b. Eduardo Mundo

- Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Chair Jackson provided a brief biography on each candidate and explained the selection process which included the Selection Ad Hoc Committee, justice deputies, and POC staff who were not involved in the ranking or scoring of candidates.

Commissioner Meredith and Commissioner Canales shared their input on the two candidates.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys joined the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Commissioner Carrillo proposed a motion to recommend Mr. Eduardo Mundo for to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for appointment consideration on the POC.

On motion of Commissioner Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Canales, and unanimously carried, (Commissioner Lewis being absent) the POC agreed to recommend Mr. Eduardo Mundo to the Board of Supervisors to fill an at-large Commissioner position on the POC:

Ayes: **6 –** Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Absent: **1 –** Commissioner Samuel Lewis

Commissioner Carrillo proposed a motion to recommend Dr. Diane Terry for to the Board for appointment consideration on the POC.

On motion of Commissioner Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Kakani, and unanimously carried, (Commissioner Lewis being absent) the POC agreed to recommend Dr. Diane Terry to the Board of Supervisors to fill an at-large Commissioner position on the POC:

Ayes: **6 –** Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Absent: **1 –** Commissioner Samuel Lewis

Attachments: [Supporting Documents](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on the plan to return to in-person meetings beginning March 1, 2023.

- Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
- Steven Edwards, Senior Deputy County Counsel, Los Angeles County Counsel

Ms. Julien gave an overview of the Brown Act and explained how the POC will transition to hybrid meetings beginning March 1, 2023, and continue to use all platforms to solicit community engagement and participation.

Mr. Edwards encouraged Commissioners to notify Ms. Julien or himself regarding meeting attendance to maintain Brown Act compliance.

James Maddox addressed the POC.

Ms. Julien confirmed Commissioner Canales' inquiry that other viable locations, including non-profit organizations, with public parking and ease of public transportation are being considered.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about hosting the regular POC meetings in different cities within Los Angeles County. Chair Jackson explained that having a standard meeting location is best for now as the POC transitions to hybrid meetings. Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared that the regular POC meetings will be at a designated meeting location, but other events and forums can move around the county.

Commissioners Canales, Meredith, and Carrillo emphasized the need to host meetings in the Palmdale/Lancaster areas, among other parts of Los Angeles County, to foster live community engagement.

Chair Jackson expressed that the POC will use a phased approach on identifying rotating meeting locations based on feedback from the public.

Attachments: [Meeting Schedule](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's involvement with auctioning firearms.

- Adolfo Gonzales, Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department
- Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien explained the Board's motion on "Ending Los Angeles County's Practice of Firearm and Ammunition Auctions" and provided an update for the POC's report back including discussions with the Chief Executive Office, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), and the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Chief Gonzales mentioned that the process for destroying weapons is being solidified in partnership with LASD and the County's Internal Services Division (ISD). He added that the goal is to have a timeline and confirmed vendor within the next two weeks (end of February 2023) so weapons can start being destroyed.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Commissioner Canales inquired about an expected timeline for destruction of the firearms. Chief Gonzales stated that there are 334 weapons that the Probation

Department hopes to begin destroying those weapons within the next three weeks once the vendor is confirmed.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about delays in information being relayed, Chief Gonzales emphasized that daily morning meetings are taking place with County Counsel, Bureau Chiefs, and Deputy Directors.

Chair Jackson inquired about the record keeping of the destroyed weapons. Chief Gonzales mentioned that the weapons will be given to the LASD, who will track using the serial numbers.

Attachments: [Board Motion](#)
[Article/Media](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

6. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's progress on compliance with the December 20, 2022, motion of the Board of Supervisors requiring the phase out of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray in units housing youth with developmental disabilities, girls, and gender-expansive youth at Central Juvenile Hall as well as full phase out plans.
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
 - Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General

Dr. Sarah Gongora, Project Director for the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission, explained an issue with discrepancies found in the Probation Department's OC Spray deployment reports at Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH).

Mr. Bates emphasized that a plan has not been provided by the Probation Department, nor has the Probation Department been following their OC Spray Phase Out plan, which was provided to the Board in 2019. He mentioned that the goal is to have the OC Spray completely phased out within 180 days.

Ms. Julien expressed appreciation to the staff and the youth in the units where there were reduced to no OC Spray deployments at BJNJH, demonstrating that supervision of youth can be done without OC Spray as the Board instructed.

Chair Jackson inquired about what contributed to the staff not using OC Spray. Mr. Bettino and Ms. Fletcher were unable to pinpoint what contributed to the week of zero OC Spray deployments.

Commissioner Canales inquired about staffing during the week where there were zero OC Spray deployments at BJNJH.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, for the POC to commend the BJNJH staff who were working between January 9, 2023, through January 15, 2023, for not deploying OC Spray.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about what a staff commendation entails.

Commissioner Meredith echoed that something tangible should be done to recognize staff.

Commissioner Lewis joined the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, and unanimously carried, the POC agreed to commend the staff who were working between January 9, 2023, through January 15, 2023, at BJNJH.

Ayes: 7 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

James Maddox and Thomas Bell address the POC.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about updates to the reported discrepancies and the Early Intervention System (EIS).

Ms. Fletcher mentioned that Probation is waiting on verification for two of the six reported discrepancies, but there were four discrepancies over a six-month period that were not counted due to the OC Spray not contacting the youth's face or skin.

Mr. Bettino stated that the EIS has been in play for a while, but the Probation Department pulled it offline for enhancements because it wasn't being utilized effectively. He added that the improved EIS will track overuse of force to gauge how often folks respond, and when they do respond, is it within policy (but calculation is them being compared to each other). Expected launch in Spring 2023.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about Probation's plan to phase out OC Spray, Ms. Fletcher explained that lots of planning has been going on. She added that all the necessary training will be completed, and OC Spray will be phased out in the target units using a tiered approach by February 27, 2023.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about OIG's request for a complete phase out of OC Spray within 180 days within all units and facilities in accordance with the 2019 Board motion. Ms. Fletcher mentioned that Probation will learn a lot from the process once the phase out in select units. Mr. Bettino provided historical context, focusing on the training component, as to why the OC Spray has not been eliminated since the 2019 Board motion. He added that there are several new recruits that will be trained, not equipped with OC Spray, and deployed to the camps and halls.

Chair Jackson inquired on how the POC can receive feedback directly from staff members who will be assigned to units where OC Spray is prohibited. Ms. Fletcher mentioned that Probation will host employee town halls, plan focus groups where the POC can attend, and the POC can invite employees to speak to the POC.

Attachments: [OIG and POC Report Backs](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

7. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's response to the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General's Second Report on the Department of Justice settlement.
- Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General
 - Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Mr. Bates encouraged everyone to look at page 8 of the OIG's Second Report on the DOJ Settlement which has been attached to the agenda.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Commissioner Kakani expressed appreciation for the transparency that the [OIG's Second Report on the Probation Department's Compliance with the Department of Justice Settlement Agreements on Juvenile Halls](#) brought around uses of force (UOF) and Probation's reporting of those events despite the report's findings being troubling and out of compliance with the DOJ settlement agreement.

Commissioner Kakani proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Canales, to formally request a start to finish guide of the reporting/review process (flow chart) that happens after a UOF has occurred, including expected timelines for those events; and provide the protocol in written format to the POC within 30 calendar days of this request.

In response to Commissioner Carrillo's inquiry about an existing flowchart being available, Mr. Bettino confirmed that there is a review process that's embedded in the UOF policy.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys mentioned that direct references to the UOF policy and relevant statutes should be included.

Commissioner Meredith requested how the policies are reviewed, when they are reviewed, and what the expected timelines are for reporting use of force incidents be clarified.

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Canales, and unanimously carried, the POC agreed to approve the formal information requests including a flowchart and review process after use of force incidents occur:

Ayes: 7 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Attachments: [OIG's Second Report on the DOJ Settlement](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

8. Report from the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission on progress on the Commission's strategic goals including outstanding requests for information and sexual misconduct hearings.

- Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien reported that the POC's Sexual Misconduct Ad Hoc Committee is addressing the over 300 cases alleging sexual misconduct against the Probation Department. She added that next steps and opportunities for support systems will be shared during a special meeting.

With regards to the outstanding information requests, Ms. Julien reported that the programs and services calendars for the facilities have been received, but the monthly intake log is still outstanding.

Daniel addressed the POC.

Attachments: [PROBSTAT Data](#)
[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
[Population Statistics](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

III. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

Commissioner Lewis recommended that discussion on identifying the policies and criteria for determining where youth currently sentenced to SYTF facing serious charges will be housed be added to a future agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the POC.

You may submit public comment by e-mail to info@poc.lacounty.gov.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. one business day before the scheduled meeting to be included on the agenda. Please include the Agenda Item(s) and meeting date in your correspondence. Correspondence received by 5:00 p.m. the same day of the meeting shall become part of the official record.

Aditi Sherikar, Daniel, James Maddox, Ronaldo Villeda, Josue Pineda, Mel Bailey, V, and Commissioner Canales addressed the POC.

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

IV. ADJOURNMENT

11. Adjournment for the regular meeting of February 9, 2023.

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.