PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Correspondence Received

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	**Relate To**	**Position**	**Name**	**Comments**
20.		**Favor**	Ali Rubinfeld	
			Allan hernandez	they took a oath to protect and serve and what they have done is terrorize and retraumatized our community deserves an outcome we had to pay with years in a cell and we were held accountable .why are they any different ,we hit jails because of systems and poverty what is their reason for becoming gang members while they wear a badge we pay for !
			Ann Dorsey	
			Anthony Arenas	Agenda Item 20: Identifying Deputy Gangs within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to Ensure Accountability and Risk Mitigation [IN FAVOR] I want to thank Supervisor Mitchell alongside the 414 other letters sent ahead of this meeting for addressing deputy gangs—who use Billions in county funding to terrorize LA's most vulnerable residents who have consistently been ignored. LASD and the County should have taken much more severe actions to protect the community a long time ago. Any Supervisor that does not support this motion is making the conscious decision to harbor deputy gangs, and will be assumed to be profiting from their activities. Deputy gangs have been linked to patterns of excessive force and violence that undermines their ability to uphold their oath to protect and serve. Courts, independent oversight bodies, and investigative journalists have documented incidents in which membership in these deputy gangs were associated with excessive use of force, falsification of reports, witness intimidation, retaliation against whistleblowers, and targeted harassment of Black and Brown community members. The existence of deputy gangs within LASD is not a secret, but a well-known problem that has cost the County millions of dollars and has inflicted an enormous amount of harm and trauma on communities. The deputies involved in the 2020 beating of Joseph Perez, a 22-year-old man, who was unarmed and experiencing a mental health crisis, were proven to be part of the Industry Indians deputy gangs, who continued their violence just 2 years later. In 2022, a group of LASD deputies threatened and intimidated a group of teenagers at a Montclair bowling alley. Two of the deputies involved admitted to having an Industry Indians tattoo. When LASD's Internal Affairs Bureau began its investigation, they did not ask the involved deputies for names of others who might share the same tattoo. LASD's Internal Affairs Bureau told the Industry Sheriff's Station leaders about the tattoos but told the OIG that they had no plans to investigate who else at the station was a member of the deputy gang. The OIG reported that LASD was asked whether they had identified any

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	group that meets the definition of a law enforcement gang under Penal Code section 13670. LASD responded that it did not identify any such group. When asked to, “confirm that the Department has not identified any group that qualifies as a law enforcement gang,” LASD noted that while the Department has not shied away from conducting multiple large-scale investigations, LASD still did not identify any deputy gangs. How can this be possible when there are factual incidents of deputy gangs terrorizing people, like Joseph Perez? Under Penal Code section 1367016, any association with deputy gangs is grounds for termination. If those deputies that beat Joseph Perez in 2020 had been terminated, would they have inflicted that trauma to the group of teens at the Montclaire Bowling Alley just 2 years later? Deputy gangs are not a problem of the past, but a persistent issue that continues today. The existence of deputy gangs has not been adequately resolved because they continue to plague the County, particularly Black and Brown communities historically and systemically brutalized by law enforcement. Millions of dollars paid out in settlements for deputy gang misconduct, paid for by the same families being victimized. Our money is better used for alternatives to incarceration.
candice woodward	i am in favor of this motion thank you holly for seeing us as humans that matter
Carlos M Montes	It long overdue to identify deputy gangs and their logos. Please vote in favor of this motion.
Carolina Goodman	
CINDY NUNEZ	Our loved ones continue to loose their lives to these deputy gangs. It is costing our county millions of dollars, it’s time we hold LASD accountable and end deputy gangs within LASD. Enough is enough. Please vote in favor, just look at us impacted families and our communities who continue being victims of these gangs. A badge is not a license to kill nor join a gang. Sheriff Luna must be held accountable for his department. He ran his campaign on a promise to end deputy gangs within LASD.
Claudia Romero	I lost my brother to a sheriff there is not one day I don't miss him not one day I fear being stopped by a sheriff. in order to gain back safety those enforcing it should not be causing the harm.
Crystal Chavez	
Derek Mejia	It is time for the Board of Supervisors to do something about Deputy Gangs!
Gaby Hidalgo	
George Nunez	For years I was held in a cell to be held accountable for my mistake, I made those choices based on poverty and survival i never hurt anyone this gang has murdered, raped, destabilized our community they need to be held accountable !
Gloria Hernandez	Deputy gangs are not a problem of the past. This issue cannot be solved if it is not properly identified. This requires independent oversight and public transparency. Los Angeles County must investigate across stations and units,

				not just individual incidents. There must be real and meaningful consequences for deputy gang participation. Addressing deputy gangs should not become an excuse to expand policing or incarceration
			Isabella Rivera	
			Jasmin Jones	
			Jenn Lima	LASD cannot be trusted to hold themselves accountable. LASD is so out of compliance with the laws and constitution that the County has lawsuits from the CA DOJ, Federal DOJ, ACLU, and more because LASD gangs can't stop abusing and killing people in the jails. Taxpayers then foot the bill for legal costs, and every year they ask for more money to fix problems they never will fix while the community suffers. They continue to illegally block investigations into their misconduct and deny legal subpoenas because the information would confirm that this department regularly falsifies reports of their own criminal activity.
			Jessica Galvan	I could say so much that has already been said i just want to thank miss Holly for not forgetting about the injustices we have delt with in jail and outside of jails by the hands of the sheriff dept.
			Samuel Banda	Everyone needs to be held accountable for their bad choices, and misconduct including law enforcement employees.
			Samuel Banda	Everyone should be held accountable for the involment in deputy gangs so thank you i am in support
			Sennett Devermont	
			steffani Rivera	
		Oppose	manuel hurtado	it would make it less problems with in the brown and black hoods and more respect for the city
		Item Total	**23**	
Grand Total			**23**	

As of: 9/16/2026 7:00:07 AM

September 14, 2026

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email

Re: In Support of Supervisor Holly Mitchell's Motion, *Identifying Deputy Gangs within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to Ensure Accountability and Risk Mitigation*

We applaud — and urge unanimous approval for — Supervisor Holly Mitchell's Motion, *Identifying Deputy Gangs within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to Ensure Accountability and Risk Mitigation*, to be heard on September 15, 2026. Supervisor Mitchell's motion rightly acknowledges that the decades-long crisis of deputy gangs in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) is not merely historical but very much a present source of tremendous harm to county residents. The Board of Supervisors (Board) must do its part to eradicate LASD deputy gangs and protect the public. With this motion, the Board can take a fundamental step towards doing what LASD has proven unwilling or unable to do under seven different sheriff administrations — fully investigate and identify deputy gangs and their members.

The Board Should Fulfill its Obligation to Eradicate Deputy Gangs

Supervisor Mitchell's motion builds on a series of Board actions, including the motion brought by Supervisors Mitchell and Solis and approved five years ago, titled *Measures to Eradicate Deputy Gangs and Create Stronger Civilian Oversight and Checks and Balances over the Sheriff and Sheriff's Department*.[1] In this September 2021 motion, the Board tasked the County of Los Angeles Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) with soliciting public input and developing recommendations for a holistic approach to eradicate LASD deputy gangs and address associated problems — including through "structural changes" and "policies that the Board may issue under relevant State and local laws and ordinances."

[1] At the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisor's (Board) September 28, 2021 meeting, as part of agenda item 26, the Board unanimously passed this motion read in by Supervisors Hilda Solis and Holly Mitchell. See L.A. Cnty. Bd. Supervisors, Statement of Proceedings for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors 32 (Sept. 28, 2021), http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/1113870_092821.pdf; Motion by Supervisors Hilda L. Solis and Holly Mitchell, Measures to Eradicate Deputy Gangs and Create Stronger Civilian Oversight and Checks and Balances over the Sheriff and Sheriff's Department (Sept. 28, 2021), http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/162339.pdf.

While the COC's investigation, with crucial support from independent pro bono special counsel, revealed more recent details of the crisis of LASD deputy gangs, the special counsel's report included recommendations that fell short of the inclusive and holistic approach this crisis requires.[2] The recommendations relied solely on the willingness of the current sheriff and his command staff in solving a crisis that has persisted one sheriff after another for more than five decades. While Sheriff Villanueva was openly hostile to the Board and any oversight or accountability, Sheriff Luna has delivered the same result: unchecked deputy violence, including by deputy gangs. The real cancer is LASD's pervasive culture of abuse and violence that gives rise to deputy gangs in the first place. Moreover, other County agencies, including County Counsel, have played a significant role in enabling deputy gangs and misconduct. In short, LASD has demonstrated time and time again that it is unwilling to eradicate deputy gangs without Board action. LASD's merely adopting a policy on deputy gangs and other recommendations directed only to LASD — while worthwhile and even necessary — are not sufficient to eradicate deputy gangs and address the manifold associated problems.

What we need instead — as the Board's September 28, 2021 motion envisioned — are structural changes that involve independent entities outside of LASD. In response to the public outcry over the extreme jail violence and other illegal conduct perpetuated by LASD deputies and sanctioned by former Sheriff Lee Baca and Undersheriff Paul Tanaka, the Board created the County of Los Angeles Office of Inspector General (OIG) in 2014 and the COC in 2016. Community organizations brought the Measure R county ballot measure, which passed with more than 72 percent of the vote in March 2020 and granted the COC subpoena power to access LASD information.[3] Following Measure R, the Check the Sheriff Coalition (CTS) developed Measure A, the first sheriff-related county charter amendment in 20 years. Measure A passed with a resounding 72 percent of the vote, establishing a timely process for holding a sheriff accountable for abuses of power by allowing the Board to remove a sheriff for good cause.[4]

These overwhelming community-driven victories provide a clear mandate — a clarion call — from voters not only for real sheriff accountability but also for a new vision for public safety. Accordingly, the Board possesses the political capital to leverage these important

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[2] *See* Special Counsel to the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Comm'n, Report and Recommendations of the Special Counsel to the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission Regarding Deputy Gangs and Deputy Cliques in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (hereinafter "Special Counsel Report") at 3 (Feb. 2023), https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/commissionpublications/report/1138014_DeputyGangsSpecialCounselReportoCOC3.2.2023.PDF.PDF.

[3] *See e,g.*, Larry Altman, *Supporters of Measure R celebrate landslide victory for Sheriff's Department accountability,* L.A. DAILY NEWS, https://www.dailynews.com/2020/03/04/supporters-of-measure-r-celebrate-landslide-victory-for-sheriffs-department-accountability/ (Mar. 4, 2020, 1:56 PM).

[4] *See* Letter from the Check the Sheriff Coalition to the L.A. County Bd. of Supervisors (Aug. 2, 2022) (https://static1.squarespace.com/static/608642aec0f6531f1411b0a8/t/62e95c17cd59aa3910ccdf77/1659460632224/Sheriff+accountability+sign-on+letter_updated+8.2.22.pdf); *Los Angeles County, Measure A, Removal of Sheriff for Cause Amendment (November 2022)*, BALLOTPEDIA (2022), https://ballotpedia.org/Los_Angeles_County,_Measure_A,_Removal_of_Sheriff_for_Cause_Amendment_(November_2022); Piper French, *Los Angeles Voters Ousted Their Sheriff—and Then Just Kept Going*, BOLTS (Nov. 18, 2022), https://boltsmag.org/los-angeles-sheriff-measure-a/.

victories and take decisive actions. Indeed, the Board must protect the public from LASD violence, harassment, and unequal enforcement of the law by using all available means — including budget determinations, motions and ordinances, supervision of the sheriff, LASD, and other County agencies, and negotiations with the associations representing LASD sworn personnel.[5] The Board should do everything in its power to address the scourge of LASD deputy gangs and the conditions that lead to unchecked hostility and violence towards our communities, particularly Black and Latine communities. Approving Supervisor Mitchell's motion is a vital step in this direction.

Supervisor Mitchell's Motion Takes an Important Step: Providing the Board, for the First Time, with an Analysis of All Meet-and-Confer Processes Related to Deputy Gangs, Cliques, and Subgroups

We fully support the directive in Supervisor Mitchell's motion to direct the CEO – Employee Relations to report back to the Board with a written "analysis and matrix of all ongoing and unresolved meet-and-confer processes related to deputy gangs, cliques, and secret subgroups." ALADS and PPOA have abused the meet-and-confer process to obstruct, delay, and deny critical police and oversight reform efforts involving not just the eradication of deputy gangs but also the use of deadly force and the strengthening of independent civilian oversight. And the County — through County Counsel and LASD leadership — has often opted to voluntarily engage in the meet-and-confer process for decisions and policies that do not require negotiations and for unreasonable periods of time. The report-back outlined in this directive will provide keen insights into how ALADS and PPOA abuse of the meet-and-confer process exacerbates the deputy gang crisis.

California courts have held that certain decisions about public safety, the public's trust in law enforcement, and the manner in which law enforcement protects the public fall outside of the scope of representation and are not subject to mandatory bargaining.[6] According to the

[5] Boards of supervisors have a duty to "supervise the official conduct of all county officers," including the sheriff, and ensure that they "faithfully perform their duties." Cal. Gov. Code § 25303; *Dibb v. Cnty. of San Diego*, 8 Cal. 4th 1200, 1208-09 (1994). Local law recognizes that this responsibility includes the authority to direct and approve the development of policy for LASD. *See* L.A. Cnty. Code § 2.06.130.

[6] *See, e.g.*, *Claremont Police Officers Ass'n v. City of Claremont*, 39 Cal.4th 623 (Cal. 2006) (holding that the city had no duty to bargain over a racial profiling study); *San Jose Peace Officer's Ass'n v. City of San Jose*, 78 Cal.App.3d 935, 946 (Cal. Ct. App. 1978) (holding that the city had no duty to bargain over decision to adopt a new use-of-force policy); *Ass'n for L.A. Deputy Sheriffs v. County of L.A.*, 166 Cal.App.4th 1625, 1644 (2008) *as modified* (Sept. 24, 2008), *as modified* (Oct. 6, 2008) (describing the County's "interest in public accountability" of law enforcement as "significant on its face"); *Berkeley Police Ass'n v. City of Berkeley*, 76 Cal.App.3d 931, 937 (Cal. Ct. App. 1977) (holding that management policy allowing a member of the police review commission to sit in on the police department board of review hearings and sending a representative of the department to commission trial board meetings to answer questions of commission members concerning the department's position on individual complaints concern "a matter of police-community relations" and "clearly constitute management level decisions which are not properly within the scope of union representation and collective bargaining"); S.*F. Fire Fighters, Loc. 798 v. Bd. of Supervisors of the City and County of S.F.*, 3 Cal.App.4th 1482 (Cal. Ct. App. 1992) (holding that changes in promotion policy made to comply with goals of consent decree designed to remedy past racial discrimination was not subject to meet-and-confer requirements).

California Supreme Court, "[d]ecisions involving the betterment of police-community relations and the avoidance of unnecessary deadly force are of obvious importance, and directly affect the quality and nature of public services."[7]As such, "[t]he burden of requiring an employer to confer about such fundamental decisions clearly outweighs the benefits to employer-employee relations that bargaining would provide."[8]

Despite these legal precedents, laws, policies, and investigations directly and indirectly aimed at eradicating deputy gangs have been trapped in the meet-and-confer process for years. The Legislature explicitly named the corrosive effect of LASD deputy gangs as an impetus for enacting Penal Code section 13670 in 2022. The law requires law enforcement agencies to maintain policies making participation in law enforcement gangs a basis for termination and compelling officers to participate in any investigation into these gangs by an inspector general. Yet, it took LASD nearly three years to adopt a policy due to a protracted meet-and-confer process with ALADS and PPOA.[9] Sheriff Luna bifurcated the original policy that attempted to address both deputy gangs and deputy cliques or subgroups to resolve negotiations on a policy that minimally complies with state law.[10] Statements made in COC meetings that will likely be borne out by the CEO's report have indicated that the Department is still out of compliance with Penal Code section 13670 as, over four years later, the deputy clique/subgroup policy is still in the meet-and-confer process. Similarly, the COC cannot exercise its subpoena power six years after Measure R passed because its implementation is still in the meet-and-confer process. The OIG's investigation into deputy gangs has been delayed for three years by the meet and confer process. While San Diego County was able to implement A.B. 847 after a brief meet-and-confer process that concluded in March, just months after the law went into effect in January 2026 affirming civilian oversight bodies' access to certain confidential law enforcement records,[11] ALADS, PPOA, and the County are still bargaining over A.B. 847 here in Los Angeles.[12]

The County can and must interrupt this pattern by diligently monitoring meet-and-confer negotiations between ALADS, PPOA, and the County and declaring impasse when appropriate. This directive creates a much-needed pathway to do so in the context of the deputy gang crisis and provides a potential framework for how the Board can examine this practice and ensure

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[7] *Claremont*, 39 Cal.4th at 63.
[8] *Bldg. Material & Construction Teamsters' Union v. Farrell*, 41 Cal.3d 651, 664 (Cal. 1986).
[9] Frank Stoltze, *Inspector general blasts LA County sheriff's new policy on deputy gangs*, LAIST (Sep. 24, 2024, 5:00 AM), https://laist.com/news/politics/sheriffs-department-gang-policy-reaction.
[10] Minutes, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission Business Meeting (Sept. 19, 2024) at p. 5, https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/commissionpublications/agenda/1169268_COCMeetingMinutes9-19-24-Final.pdf
[11] *See* Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission Business Meeting (Mar. 19, 2026) at 1:16:40, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Qj5eZnVt74&t=4414s.
[12] *See* Letter from COC Deputy Director Bikila Ochoa to County Counsel Attorney Joshua Goodman, *Questions Regarding Meet-and-Confer Over AB 847* (Sept. 9, 2026) https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/EmailResponseFromCountyCounseltoCOConSeptember9_2026.pdf

other reforms are not unnecessarily delayed by ALADS and PPOA's weaponization of the meet-and-confer process and County Counsel's inaction.

For decades, the Board and oversight bodies have put the onus on LASD to address the deputy gang crisis. Under this approach, deputy gangs persist and continue to harm our Black and Latine communities. Five years ago, this Board understood that eradicating deputy gangs requires a holistic approach impervious to leadership changes, departmental restructuring, and cultural resistance within LASD. We urge the Board to pass this motion as an essential step to confront the systems enabling the deputy gang crisis head-on to protect our communities.

Sincerely,

ACLU Foundation of Southern California
Cancel the Contract Antelope Valley
Centro CSO
Check the Sheriff Coalition
Dignity and Power Now

cc: Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
Los Angeles Office of the Inspector General

Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I urge Los Angeles County and the Sheriff's Department to take seriously the longstanding, documented concerns surrounding deputy gangs and secretive subgroups within LASD.

This is not about attacking deputies or law enforcement. It is about community safety, accountability, and trust.

When groups within law enforcement are associated with excessive force, misconduct, retaliation, or a code of silence, the damage affects entire communities—and the many deputies who serve with integrity.

We need an independent and transparent process to identify these groups, examine their impact, and ensure misconduct cannot be protected by silence or loyalty.

We must also protect deputies who come forward and report wrongdoing. Accountability is not disloyalty.

Our communities deserve professional, constitutional, and accountable law enforcement. And our deputies deserve an institution where integrity is valued.

Accountability is not anti-law-enforcement—it is essential to legitimate law enforcement and public trust.