



Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission



MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2025 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
St. Anne’s Conference and Event Center

With the AGENDA ITEMS:		VIDEO										
1 CALL TO ORDER												
Chair Hans Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.		00:02										
2 LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT		00:23										
3 PUBLIC COMMENT RULES		04:53										
4 ROLL CALL:		08:13										
Commissioners Present: <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arthur Calloway II, Co-Vice Chair</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamon Hicks</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irma Cooper</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hans Johnson, Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luis S. Garcia, Co-Vice Chair</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> London McBride</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Patricia Giggans (excused absence)</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Newhouse</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James P. Harris</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arthur Calloway II, Co-Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamon Hicks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irma Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hans Johnson, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luis S. Garcia, Co-Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> London McBride	<input type="checkbox"/> Patricia Giggans (excused absence)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Newhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James P. Harris		
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Agency Representatives Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheriff Robert Luna and Asst. Sheriff Hugo Macias, L.A. County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) Brenda Perez and Janssen Diaz, L.A. County Office of County Counsel (CoCo) Interim Inspector General Eric Bates 												
Commission Staff Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director Bikila Ochoa, Deputy Executive Director Tracy Jordan, Principal Staff Analyst Robert Flores, Community Services Coordinator 												
5 CONSENT CALENDAR		08:55										
MOTION: Commissioner Harris moved for the Commission to approve the consent calendar, consisting of January 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Newhouse seconded the motion.												
PUBLIC COMMENT None												
VOICE VOTE: 8 Ayes: Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Harris, Hicks, Johnson, McBride, Newhouse 0 Nays 0 Abstentions The motion carried with a vote of 8-0-0.												
6 FAMILY IMPACT REMARKS:	None	10:00										
7 LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF’S UPDATE		10:50										
Sheriff Luna provided the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January, Part I crime is down approximately 15.6% In custody facilities, LASD continues to expand the use of body-worn cameras, crisis intervention, de-escalation training, enhanced coordination with medical and mental health partners, and support for employee wellness and staffing stability. The LASD opened a modernized mental health processing area at the Inmate Reception Center and held a press conference announcing compliance with all but five provisions in 												

<p>the Antelope Valley Settlement, noting consent search compliance is now at 97% and proper documentation of consent requests is at 92%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LASD’s use of force audit showed 98% compliance with policy and de-escalation standards; backseat detention decreased by 62% since 2023; and overall use of force declined by 11.3% department-wide, including a 12.5% reduction in the Antelope Valley. • Operation Reclaim and Rebuild, which involved more than 80 agencies across California, recovered 156 adult and 14 minor victims and conducted 611 arrests, including 71 suspected traffickers/exploiters; 328 individuals were arrested for solicitation. • Nineteen COC recommendations on deputy gangs are completed/substantially in progress, and five are underway. The LASD disagrees with two recommendations. • Sheriff Luna met with L.A.-based immigration groups to discuss ongoing collaboration. 	
<p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Harris asked the Sheriff to begin providing the COC, in advance of the COC’s monthly meeting, copies of his monthly reports. Sheriff Luna agreed to do so. • Co Vice-Chair Calloway inquired about in-custody deaths. Sheriff Luna said the LASD had 46 in-custody deaths in 2025 and 10 in-custody deaths so far in 2026. • Commissioner Cooper requested the number of deputies trained in de-escalation. Sheriff Luna responded that his staff would follow up. • Chair Johnson inquired about establishing a commendations process to recognize exemplary de-escalation. Sheriff Luna responded that the LASD is working towards having a program by the end of the year and is seeking funding support from the community, similar to how the L.A. Police Dept. funds its own program. 	<p>20:40</p>
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racquel Derfler asked for an LASD policy change to ensure law enforcement personnel decertified by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards (POST), such as Deputy Trevor Kirk, are automatically terminated instead of being reclassified into another position, such as custody assistant or clerk. • Vanessa Perez inquired about jail conditions for her son. 	<p>31:29</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four members of the Ramirez family sought answers from the Sheriff about why their mother was removed from her son Carlos’ side during his final hours, leaving him to die alone in a hospital room. They alleged neglect, saying Carlos was denied medication and doctor visits and was placed in the general population instead of the medical ward. They said he had been managing his cancer well until the LASD arrested him for a crime that is still under investigation. He died six months after his arrest. The family declared that they hold the LASD responsible and requested Carlos’ medical records. They also requested a Spanish-speaking interpreter available for them at future Commission meetings. • Sheriff Luna responded in Spanish, which Chair Johnson later translated, saying the Sheriff was very sorry for what happened to the Ramirez family and added that he is committed to “finding out whatever he can and providing whatever information he can, based on reports” including to the COC. • In Spanish, which her daughter later translated, Carlos Ramirez’s mother asked why the LASD physically removed her from her son’s side, claiming she was a threat when she is only 4’11” tall and Carlos was connected to an oxygen tank. He died two hours later. 	<p>34:39</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Health Services - Correctional Health Services (CHS) Director Tim Belavich provided the Ramirez family with the process to request information about Carlos. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Dunmeyer described an alleged incident involving a sheriff's deputy in Lancaster. • Cindy Nuñez said she is still awaiting answers from the LASD two years after her own brother died in custody. • Deanna Brock, whose son was subjected to excessive force by a deputy, called for change. 	48:42
8A EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	Executive Director Moseley reported on pending Commissioner training and other administrative items and elaborated on the Commission's community engagement efforts.	55:10
8B CHAIR'S REPORT	Chair Johnson welcomed new Commissioner McBride, provided an update on the AB 847 meet-and-confer process, and asked County Counsel when it will complete its review of the Commission's proposed revisions to its governing ordinance. County Counsel Brenda Perez responded that the review is still ongoing.	1:03:08
PUBLIC COMMENT	T. Carter spoke about his case and Chair Johnson reiterated the Commission's Code of Conduct.	1:11:28
9A INSPECTOR GENERAL'S UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly appointed Interim Inspector General (IG) Bates stated that Deputy IG Dara Williams will provide the OIG's update at the next Commission meeting. • Chair Johnson inquired about the impact of funding cuts to the OIG. IG Bates responded that he won't allow the loss of 1/3 of OIG personnel to affect their work. 	1:16:34
9B SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION (SBC) UPDATES	<p>This item was taken out of order, as SBC Chair Haley Broder was initially unavailable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Broder provided an overview of the SBC's work, reported 10 in-custody deaths this year, and described "really, really disgusting" conditions at the jails. . • Asst. Sheriff Macias responded that LASD supports having TSA-type screening at the jails and switching to a paperless system to prevent inmates from receiving drug-laced letters and other contraband in the mail. 	1:39:03
PUBLIC COMMENT	Vanessa Perez, T. Carter, Raquel Derfler, and Ian Kennedy all called for jail reform.	1:51:40
9C REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Harris reported the Budget Ad Hoc is reviewing the \$4 billion LASD budget. • Co Vice-Chair Calloway noted the Complaints Ad Hoc is developing a complaint form and tracking database and engaging with CHS on the patient complaint and grievance process. • No reports from the Deputy Gangs and Cliques Ad Hoc • Chair Johnson reported that the Governance Ad Hoc is considering procedural changes for Family Impact Remarks at Commission meetings. • Commissioner Cooper reported that the Jail Conditions and Staffing Ad Hoc is looking into decreasing in-custody deaths and requested an SBC presentation. • Commissioner Jamon Hicks said the Legal Ad Hoc is considering selecting outside counsel for the Commission. • Co Vice-Chair Garcia reported that the Protection of Media in Demonstrations Ad Hoc is awaiting LASD's response to their information request. • Chair Johnson reported that the Technology Ad Hoc will be hosting a virtual forum on Automated License Plate Readers. 	1:22:44
PUBLIC COMMENT	T. Carter spoke about his case, directing some comments about Chair Johnson.	

	Chair Johnson reiterated the Code of Conduct.	
10A	NEW BUSINESS: L.A. COUNTY INVESTIGATION THAT HAS SPARKED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE RETALIATION AGAINST FORMER COC COMMISSIONER SEAN KENNEDY AND POTENTIAL INTIMIDATING EFFECTS AGAINST OTHER OVERSIGHT OFFICIALS Chair Johnson explained the origin of the investigation and its aftermath.	
	MOTION: Commissioner Newhouse moved to urge County Counsel to release results of investigation launched in 2025 involving outside attorney recommended by County Counsel regarding former Commissioner Sean Kennedy following COC official hearing in October 2024 where former members of LASD unit widely characterized as a “secret police” squad faced questions under oath over their prior activities. Commissioner Harris seconded the motion.	
	PUBLIC COMMENT Nick Wilson commented in opposition to the motion.	
	VOICE VOTE: 8 Ayes: Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Harris, Hicks, Johnson, McBride, Newhouse 0 Nays 0 Abstentions The motion passed with a vote of 8-0-0.	2:24:44
10B	NEW BUSINESS: LASD PERSONNEL DECERTIFICATION AND TERMINATION Chair Johnson said the LASD lacked a policy on decertification and explained the need for one.	2:25:58
	MOTION: Commissioner Harris moved for the Commission to work with LASD’s Office of Constitutional Policing to create a policy on decertification and termination of LASD employees. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion.	2:26:37
	PUBLIC COMMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick Wilson opposed the motion. Allison Rubinfeld, Racquel Derfler, Crystal, Deanna Brock, Enri Marini supported the motion. 	2:27:16
	VOICE VOTE: 8 Ayes: Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Harris, Hicks, Johnson, McBride, Newhouse 0 Nays 0 Abstentions The motion passed with a vote of 8-0-0.	2:38:01
10C	NEW BUSINESS: DISSOLUTION OF THE INTERVIEW PANEL AD HOC Chair Johnson explained the committee has fulfilled its purpose.	1:19:15
	VOICE VOTE: 7 Ayes: Calloway, Cooper, Garcia, Harris, Hicks, Johnson, McBride 0 Nays 0 Abstentions The motion passed with a vote of 7-0-0. Commissioner Newhouse left before the vote.	
11A	EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: NEW LAWS RELATED TO LASD OPERATIONS Commander Ernest Bille of the LASD’s Office of Constitutional Policing provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled, “2026 Legislative Updates Related to LASD Operations”. The list of laws	2:41:07

	included: Assembly Bills 476, 486, 572, 733, 734, 544, 630, 875, 987, 1263, 847, 1178, 1388, 354; and Senate Bills SB 524, 580, 627, 805.	
	DISCUSSION	3:00:41
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Calloway inquired why only AB 847 was subject to meet-and-confer and requested a new slide showing each law in the meet-and-confer process. Commander Bille said he would look into it and provide the requested slide. • Commissioner Cooper inquired about AB 987 and requested information on vehicle towing fees. Commander Billie responded that AB 987 was to prevent price gouging during natural disasters and added that storage companies typically publicize their fees. • Chair Johnson questioned whether meet-and-confer is being applied equitably, because while AB 847 is under meet-and-confer, legislation related to artificial intelligence data, including footage from body-worn cameras, is not. Commander Billie responded that artificial intelligence legislation is “still in its infancy.” Chair Johnson said the Commission is eager to work with the LASD as it formulates policy and adopts a vendor. • Co Vice-Chair Calloway inquired about AB 1178. Commander Billie responded that it would allow courts to consider exemptions to requests for information on the grounds that it may compromise an officer’s safety. For example, the officer may be working undercover. 	
	PUBLIC COMMENT: None	
	15-MINUTE RECESS	
11B	EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: PATIENT COMPLAINT/GRIEVANCE PROCESS, IN-CUSTODY DEATHS	3:12:39
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Johnson showed a slide with statistics on in-custody deaths in L.A. County Jails. • CHS Director Timothy Belavich provided a PowerPoint presentation on CHS efforts to prevent suicides, overdoses, and deaths from natural causes. Another slide deck showed the workflow for filing patient grievances, appeals, and health service requests. 	
	DISCUSSION:	3:36:01
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Cooper asked about addressing misdiagnoses, mental health referrals, and medical documentation. Director Belavich explained the process. • Co Vice-Chair Garcia commented that CHS should come back for another meeting to elaborate further on its work. • Chair Johnson noted concerns raised by members of the public, including T. Carter and the Ramirez family. CHS Director Belavich suggested that the Commission speak with the LA GMC and the LASD in whose care Carlos Ramirez was during his final weeks. • Chair Johnson asked about drug-laced written materials being smuggled into LASD custody settings. CHS Director Belavich responded that this is not his area of expertise. 	
	DISCUSSION:	3:47:51
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Carter commented on his case. 	
12	NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT	3:54:23
	Nick Wilson commented that the LASD has a moral crisis, and Deanna Brock spoke on AB 847.	
13	UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:	3:59:02
	Chair Johnson directed the audience to the Commission’s list of upcoming events.	
14	ADJOURNMENT	3:59:35
	The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.	