



# Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission



## MONTHLY MEETING

May 21, 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
- Luis S. Garcia, Vice Chair
- Irma Cooper (departed 11 a.m.)
- Patricia Giggans (departed 12:42 p.m.)
- James P. Harris
- London McBride (departed 12:05 p.m.)
- George Newhouse  
(arrived 9:26 a.m., departed 12:42 p.m.)

#### COMMISSIONER/S ABSENT:

- Jamon Hicks

#### AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

- Sheriff Robert Luna (departed 10:04 a.m.)
- Myron R. Johnson, Asst. Sheriff of Patrol Operations
- Dara Williams, Chief Deputy Inspector General,
- Katherine Hennigan Ohanesian, Sybil Brand  
Commission (SBC),
- Shana Wilcher and Brenda Rodriguez, Office of County  
Counsel

#### STAFF PRESENT

- Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director
- Robert Flores, Community Services Coordinator

- 
1. **CALL TO ORDER** [\(00:00:01\)](#) Chair Hans Johnson called the Los Angeles Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission) meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. and provided an overview of the agenda.
  2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** [\(00:02:00\)](#)
  3. **PUBLIC COMMENT RULES** [\(00:05:38\)](#) Commission Community Services Coordinator, Robert Flores, explained how the community can provide public comment on an agenda item during the meeting.
  4. **ROLL CALL** [\(00:07:09\)](#) Commission Community Services Coordinator, 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 Patti Giggans; Commissioner James P. Harris; and Commissioner London McBride
    - **Quorum:** Seven Commissioners were present during the roll call, constituting a quorum.
    - **Late Arrival:** Commissioner George Newhouse arrived at 9:29 a.m., after the roll call.
    - **Excused Absence:** Commissioner Jamon Hicks
  5. **CONSENT CALENDAR** [\(00:08:35\)](#) The Commissioners reviewed the items on the consent calendar, which consisted of the Commission's April 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes. There were no questions.  
**MOTION:** [\(00:08:09\)](#) Commissioner James P. Harris moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner Irma Cooper seconded the motion.  
**VOICE VOTE** [\(00:08:43\)](#)
    - **7 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; and Commissioner London McBride.
    - **0 Nays**
    - **0 Abstentions**

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

**6. FAMILY IMPACT REMARKS (00:08:59)**

None

**7. SHERIFF'S UPDATE (00:09:55)**

- Sheriff Robert Luna acknowledged the recent mass shooting at the Islamic Center of San Diego and urged community members to report concerning behavior.
- The Sheriff also reported on the LASD's assistance in the Ventura County fires, with teams embedded at command posts and prepared to respond, and the recent arrests of organized South American burglary crews using jamming devices, hidden cameras, and drones.
- **Crime statistics:** 12.8% decrease in Part I crimes, and a 30% decrease in burglaries since 2022. Part I crimes are a category of eight serious, high-volume offenses used to track crime trends. They are divided into two main categories: violent crimes and property crimes.
- The Sheriff noted that the LASD joined the Commission's Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) forum and reaffirmed that the LASD does not share data with U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for civil immigration enforcement. Its vendors are held to the same standard.
- He listed multiple recent community engagement events conducted by the LASD, including Law Enforcement Officers Month, AAPI Heritage Month, and more.

**DISCUSSION (00:34:09)**

- Commission Co-Vice Chair, Luis S. Garcia, inquired about the LASD's Correctional Care Campus presentation to the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC). Sheriff Luna clarified that Asst. Sheriff Hugo Macias made the presentation and offered to provide it to the Commission. Asst. Sheriff Macias said LASD officials visited nationally recognized correctional facilities as potential models to consider for L.A. County, including the James A. Musick Facility in Orange County and the James A. Kase Correctional Center in Ohio. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) has not decided on the proposal.
- Commissioner Harris asked which L.A. County jail facilities have the most in-custody deaths and questioned whether inadequate treatment or delays in medical care may be contributing factors. He urged the LASD to examine a recent, comprehensive analysis by San Diego County's Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) to find lessons applicable to L.A. County. Sheriff Luna acknowledged 19 in-custody deaths so far in 2026. He noted it included terminally ill individuals whose compassionate release was denied by the courts due to severity of the charges against them, such as murder and child molestation.
- The Sheriff said the LASD sought an independent assessment of its in-custody deaths from the National Institute of Corrections. The request was initially approved but has since stalled, and he is urging federal officials to advance it. Chair Johnson suggested that the Commission and the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) write a joint letter endorsing the Sheriff's request.
- Co-Vice Chair Garcia noted that the Department of Health Services' Correctional Health Services (CHS) division has a key role in jail healthcare. However, the Commission has limited oversight of CHS, limiting its awareness of staffing, budget, and gaps in care delivery. Sheriff Luna agreed that collaboration with CHS and the courts is essential for improving conditions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (00:48:53)**

- Vanessa Perez described the effects of poor jail conditions on her son at MCJ.
- Berklee Donovan of the ACLU questioned the Sheriff's characterization of "natural cause" deaths, noting that a recent death involved a 26-year-old.

## 8. COMMISSION REPORTS

### A. CHAIR'S REPORT [\(00:51:41\)](#)

- Chair Johnson reported on the Commission's recent virtual public forum on Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR), which touched on various areas of policy related to community members' privacy concerns.
- He expressed concern that during the May 7, 2026 SBC meeting that he attended with Commissioner Harris, an SBC Commissioner said she experienced intimidation while looking into the LASD's Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance.
- He announced the Commission's June 10, 2026 virtual public forum, titled "*ICE-Y Conditions: Know Your Rights and Navigate the Law,*" with clergy, congressional, and community leaders discussing constitutional rights, including the right to film encounters with masked federal agents and to communicate with loved ones who have been detained.
- The Commission will commemorate its tenth anniversary starting in July and culminating in September 2026.

### B. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT [\(01:03:20\)](#)

- It was reported that:
- The meet-and-confer process for LASD's drone policy and outside-agency force-use reporting has ended.
- Vice Chair Garcia and staff attended LASD training on social media and media engagement. Vice Chair Garcia, Commissioner George Newhouse, and staff completed LASD's jail-visit orientation for unannounced inspections.
- Commissioners and staff attended numerous community events and will attend listed upcoming events.
- The County will begin its supplemental budget process focused on critical needs. Any requests for new positions will require approval. The Executive Director will meet with the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to discuss having a dedicated budget line item for legal services.
- The development of an internal operations manual and the 2025 annual report is near completion.
- The Commission will have an upcoming Commission vacancy due to Commissioner Patricia Giggans stepping down after ten years of service.

### PUBLIC COMMENT [\(01:12:50\)](#)

- Yusef Miller commented on the previous agenda item (he had been prevented from doing so at the proper time due to technical difficulties). He said ALPRs must be subject to oversight and not be used in ways that harm communities.

## 9. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG), SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION (SBC), AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

### A. INSPECTOR GENERAL UPDATES [\(01:16:18\)](#)

Chief Deputy Inspector General (IG) Dara Williams reported that the OIG's upcoming quarterly report will include updates on the Johnson Settlement Agreement, deputy-involved shootings, and legal standards for high-risk vehicle stops conducted at gunpoint, among other topics. A more thorough update will be provided at the Commission's next meeting.

### PUBLIC COMMENT [\(01:18:36\)](#)

Racquel Derfler read a message from a mother whose son was allegedly beaten at Men's Central Jail (MCJ) and is not receiving needed medical care.

**C. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS (01:20:20)** \*Chair Johnson took this item out of order until technical issues with item 9b could be resolved.

- **Jail Conditions and Staffing Ad Hoc** - Commissioner Cooper noted that the committee reviewed SBC's recent report and expressed concern that jail conditions are not improving and, in some cases, are worsening. She recommended conducting joint inspections with the SBC, emphasizing that MCJ remains high-risk and unsafe, warranting consideration of closure.
- **Legal Ad Hoc:** Chair Johnson shared that the committee has requested independent legal counsel for the Commission, separate from County Counsel.
- **Nominations Ad Hoc:** Commissioner Cooper shared that the Commission's elections will occur this summer and that the Governance Ad Hoc Committee must review the Commission's bylaws as the current structure includes two vice chairs without formal authorization or a succession plan.
- **Technology Ad Hoc:** Chair Johnson noted ongoing work to provide feedback on the LASD's ALPR reform and technology policies, including AI-related concerns such as AI-generated reports.
- **Budget Ad Hoc:** Commissioner Harris reported that the LASD acknowledged receipt of the Commission's budget recommendations and plans to publicly post a budget status report for transparency.
- **Complaints Ad Hoc:** Co-Vice Chair Calloway reported continued progress on the complaint system modernization project. He said the committee is finalizing requirements for a complaint-tracking system with deadlines and checkpoints.
- **Safety of Media in Public Demonstrations Ad Hoc:** Co-Vice Chair Garcia noted that the BOS directed the Commission to review LASD policies for protecting journalists at protests, emphasizing that protections must apply to all journalists, regardless of immigration status. The committee has completed that review and submitted its feedback to the LASD.

**B: SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION (01:35:14)**

- SBC Commissioner Katherine Hennigan Onassian reported on continuous issues found at jails during unannounced inspections, including gaps in safety checks, barriers, missing complaint forms, and inadequate PREA compliance. She also reported on unprofessional conduct by some deputies.
- She reported that the SBC unanimously passed a resolution to close MCJ without constructing another locked facility.
- The SBC will be releasing its 2025 Annual Report which can be shared with the Commission.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**RECESS (1:42:57)**

Commissioner Cooper departed the meeting while it was in recess.

**10. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION (01:57:10)**

- A. Updates on the LASD's compliance with the Johnson Settlement Agreement and related oversight efforts, including alleged or identified violations impacting the civil rights of people with disabilities in custody, monitoring efforts to address accessibility and reasonable accommodation requirements**

- **(01:57:29) Chief Deputy IG Dara Williams** explained that the Johnson Settlement Agreement stems from LASD violations of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requiring mobility devices, reasonable accommodations, and facility improvements. She acknowledged that the LASD has made progress but said the growth in the number of incarcerated mobility-impaired people (class size) has outpaced construction of ADA areas.
- She said widespread accessibility gaps persist despite added grab bars and other modifications. She also reported unsafe showers, broken elevators and escalators, transportation barriers that sometimes cause missed court dates, and inconsistent access to mobility devices. A facility's advanced age should not excuse noncompliance once modifications have begun. Improvements after 2012 must meet updated ADA standards.
- She reiterated that OIG, LASD, and ACLU are continuing to work together toward full compliance with the goal of ending monitoring.
- **(02:06:30) LASD Custody Services Division Commander Christine Coles** emphasized strong collaboration with OIG and ACLU and reaffirmed the LASD's duty to provide ADA accommodations. She noted that the County of Los Angeles and CHS were both named in the lawsuit along with the LASD and are responsible for compliance as well.
- The LASD is proposing a Correctional Care Center for medically fragile inmates.
- Cmdr. Coles stated that the LASD has updated its policies, expanded training, improved grievance systems, held monthly town halls, and appointed lieutenants as ADA coordinators. Additional ongoing improvements include grab bars, portable shower chairs, thermal clothing, and automated ADA grievance flagging. ADA coordinators now cover all major facilities. However, remaining barriers include inconsistent town hall documentation and MCJ's outdated, inaccessible design. Cmdr. Coles reported the current class size is 571.
- Chair Johnson noted a gap between required ADA accommodations and reports of denied or conditioned access to devices. Cmdr. Coles said the LASD investigates each allegation and was able to verify a number of those allegations. She emphasized increased training for young deputies to reinforce humane and ADA compliant practices, as well as ongoing briefings and leadership messaging that their job is to provide housing and safety, not punishment. She highlighted the importance of strong leadership, including ADA coordinators and women in key roles.
- **(02:30:35) Melissa Camacho, Senior Staff Attorney at the ACLU-Southern California**, explained that the ACLU represents the Johnson class, which includes all current and future detainees with mobility impairments who require ADA accommodations. She emphasized that the LASD, Los Angeles County, and CHS all share responsibility for compliance.
- Ms. Camacho further reported that the significant growth in class size across MCJ, Twin Towers, and Century Regional Detention Center (CRDF) has resulted in many mobility impaired people being housed in non ADA areas.
- Key areas of ongoing noncompliance include inconsistency in providing safe access to showers, toilets, and mobility devices, and infrastructure failures such as broken elevators/escalators that prevent timely access to court proceedings and facility programming. Mobility devices are sometimes removed without proper reevaluation, and CHS is not sufficiently involved in determining individualized accommodation needs.
- Ms. Camacho added that ADA grievances are underreported due to fear of retaliation, lack of access, and deputies refusing or failing to appropriately file them. She said grievances should be addressed within 15 days.

- She read a message from Derek White, a class representative, who said class growth is not a valid excuse for noncompliance; defendants must plan for predictable increases.

#### **DISCUSSION (2:45:59)**

- Commissioner Calloway asked whether preventable shower-related injuries or deaths are classified differently. Chief Deputy IG Williams responded these could constitute negligent homicide in extreme cases, but this is rare.
- Commissioner Newhouse questioned why the ADA class is expanding, noting that most individuals in custody are pre-trial. He raised concerns about judges sending medically fragile individuals to jail and emphasized the need for stronger diversion options.
- Chief Deputy IG Williams explained that gaps in diversion programs, limited medical care, and judicial practices — including bail decisions — are driving the increase. She noted that the Sheriff can legally release more individuals and that OIG has repeatedly urged the release of those who are medically vulnerable through alternative supervision mechanisms. She also noted the LASD can release individuals regardless of bail status, under certain mechanisms.
- Commissioner Giggans raised past MCJ replacement efforts, prompting discussion of the County’s failure to build a promised community “system of care.”

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT (03:00:45)**

- Berklee Donovan, ACLU representative, urged opposition to the proposed Correctional Care Center and encouraged prioritizing diversion instead of building new facilities.
- Olivia Irene Fitzsimmons raised concerns about inadequate maintenance, including broken sinks and unsafe water sources, and called for stronger staff accountability.

**Commissioner London McBride departed the Commission meeting at 12:05.**

#### **10. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION (03:05:35)**

##### **Presentation on human trafficking trends through forced criminality where youth are compelled through force, fraud, or coercion to engage in illegal activities**

- Pamela Bustos, from Loyola Law School, stated that many service providers lack foundational training on human trafficking, particularly labor trafficking.
- Public perceptions of trafficking often rely on inaccurate, sensationalized imagery that emphasizes captivity, which does not reflect most trafficking experiences. Trafficking is defined by force, fraud, or coercion, not by movement across locations, and often occurs within a person’s own community.
- Survivors may appear to consent due to survival needs such as housing or food, but a key assessment is whether it was safe for the person to refuse. Forced criminality, such as the cultivation or sale of drugs, weapons smuggling, shoplifting scams and more, trap victims because the illegal nature of the activity is used as leverage and a threat of arrest, often linked to gang involvement.
- Labor trafficking—common in agriculture, domestic work, construction, and forced criminality—receives less attention than it needs and the risk could increase significantly during major events such as the World Cup and the Olympics.

#### **DISCUSSION (3:20:38)**

Citing lack of time, Chair Johnson thanked Ms. Bustos and said the topic may become the basis of an upcoming Commission forum. He also noted that Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner McBride have departed the meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT (03:23:15)**

Olivia Fitzsimmons made comments unrelated to the item.

## 11. NEW BUSINESS [\(03:25:44\)](#)

### A. Recommendation by the Governance Ad Hoc Committee for the Commission to approve the Executive Director's proposal for enhancement of the Commission's internal process regarding the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' motions.

Chair Johnson explained that this recommendation would improve the Commission's internal process for tracking BOS motions that require follow-up. The goal is to ensure deadlines in Board directives are met and that assigned responsibilities, such as community forums or ad hoc committee work, are clearly fulfilled.

#### **MOTION [\(03:27:38\)](#)**

Commissioner Harris made a motion "to approve the Executive Director's proposal for enhancement of Commission's internal process regarding the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' motions." Commissioner Giggans seconded the motion.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **VOICE VOTE [\(3:28:23\)](#)**

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

The motion passed unanimously by a vote of **6 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.**

**Commissioner Giggans and Commissioner Newhouse departed after the vote, resulting in a lack of quorum for the duration of the meeting.**

## 12. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS [\(03:29:04\)](#)

- Bernice Lopez stated that current systems fail to protect residents, citing destruction of her home, a death on her property, and a lack of accountability following the incident.
- Deanna Brock described significant difficulty obtaining records and thanked the Commission for its continued efforts toward transparency.
- C.J. Nord described an incident in which she was wrongfully detained after a mental health crisis in 2020. She said it continues to have a negative impact on her life and urged the Commission to address systemic failures that happen when residents seek help from law enforcement. She identified herself as a former public safety commissioner and requested the Commission's support in addressing the longstanding systemic failures that contributed to her case.
- Racquel Derfler relayed a message from Lori Atwater, who is seeking accountability after her home was breached without legal justification, and a deputy pushed her to the ground and pointed a shotgun at her. She demanded accountability.
- Steve Hill requested that the Commission review his case, alleging longstanding misconduct and noting that he had an upcoming court hearing.
- Patricia Mendoza spoke on behalf of a resident who was present with her during the meeting. She raised concerns regarding alleged property fraud, eviction-related misconduct, and improper actions by local authorities. The resident expressed the same concerns in Spanish.
- Jesus Gomez requested Commission support and emphasized the need for community education, particularly within Spanish-speaking communities, regarding how to seek assistance.

He highlighted the loss of housing, financial hardship, and concerns over enforcement practices and local accountability mechanisms.

- Olivia Irene Fitzsimmons reported repeated violations of protective orders and emphasized the importance of citywide camera footage and other accountability tools.

**12. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS [\(03:49:29\)](#)**

After acknowledging there was no longer a quorum of Commissioners present, Chair Johnson announced the Commission's upcoming "ICE-Y Conditions" virtual forum on June 10, 2026, and its next public meeting on June 18, 2026.

**13. CONCLUSION [\(03:49:56\)](#)**

The meeting concluded at 1:02 p.m. without a quorum.