



Written Public Comment

Provided for the April 20, 2023, Commission Meeting
of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.

To submit written public comment for the official meeting record, complete
the form at <https://bit.ly/39QQIC8> For any questions, please email
cocnotify@coc.lacounty.gov or call (213) 253-5678

Topic	Public comment	Name
Deputy gang members	<p>What can be done by this commission to protect the families from harassment by LASD?</p> <p>How do we hold deputies liable for their misconduct? How do we get deputy gang members disqualified from working in law enforcement? How do we disqualify gang members from working in law enforcement?</p>	MJ King
lack of serious leadership;	<p>Whether you Board of Supervisors wanna SELF humbly & honestly admit & acknowledge it or not, nevertheless is ever more daily true, that you & etc variously thru out amidst LA County & 88 individual cities locally is that you are all to blame for ALL exhibitedly going on out there thru out amidst LA County & 88 individual cities locally 20 year's - to date = careless & senseless death's, chaos & mayhem (violent & damaging disorder) & ie: it's the EXTERNAL that affects one's INTERNAL as you all etc cannot blame it all on so called lame mental illness & thus affecting innocent people's lives. We majority 10 million adult civilian's & resident's, misc bitches are not as such to treat however you deem & to thus allow as such (above) to daily prolong & go on all because of your serious illegal, corrupt exhibited lack of true leadership & allowing all to daily play out & carry on & be exhibited out there thru out amidst LA County & 88 individual cities locally as it has nevertheless truthfully & honestly thus affecting vase people's live's, THAT of senseless externally caused TRAUMA before Holy, retributionary Eye's of Fire, Holy Majesty-King of Kings Jesus Christ, eternal Son of Yahweh Jehovah Father God & Heaven (itself) / 3 in 1 - 1 in 3 Holy Trinity.</p> <p>I cannot convey more better than I have here of & much worse Coming is going to continue & be ever more like HUMAN 'weed's amidst a garden' via Holy Bible's Matthew 13:24-43. be exhibited until you all Board of Supervisors SELF choose to get your each individual head's CLEAR via the Holy counsel of Jesus who's NEVER given anyone more that one can handle & THAT includes YOU & furthermore get your SELF deny for Holy Trinity priorities right & proper! We are to be SELF deny appeasing HIM, NOT ourselves! How long do you honestly think the majority of LA is & are suppose to continue putting up with & allowing it all because of YOU?! Your all Board of Supervisors & etc variously thru out amidst LA County & 88 individual cities locally are guilty of clear instigating, misc else via your serious lack of true & proper strategic carrying out the humane & existing law's already on the book's to have WAY better societal , misc exhibited & as such, all wrong continues carelessly & senselessly to plague LA County as if it were somehow normal?</p> <p>It's NOT right NOR fair to Holy, retributionary Eye's of Fire, Holy Majesty-King of Kings Jesus Christ, eternal Son of Yahweh Jehovah Father God & Heaven (itself) / 3 in 1 - 1 in 3 Holy Trinity what we're all daily allowing. And huh, DON'T even think to retaliate against me before HIM, for conveying truth that clearly must be said, even Jesus's 1st Crew 20 centuries - 2,000 year's ago would back me up on this!</p>	human
agenda item number 2C. 3AB	<p>Brown Lives Matter Black Lives Matter Brown Lives Matter Black Lives Matter!</p> <p>As long as your body does not take a stand on reforming or finding alternatives to policing this gang member deputy sheriff organization will continue to make unlawful traffic stops where we see countless of videos of violations committed by gang member deputies! There has to be a remedy for this type of abuse! civil rights abuse and constitutional right abuse! In addition to that it has been brought to our attention that some or most of the gang members deputy sheriffs are not turning their cameras on when they make contact with the general public! There is a video circulating on Intagram, facebook, and tik tok and these gang member deputies'</p>	Erick Jason Medal

sheriffs are seen not wanting to verbally identify themselves! We see and hear on the video that they are turning their cameras off! This exact video just made the news a day ago! Three African American young guys stopped, rushed, not explaining what the concern is! gang member deputy starts yelling like he is having a mental breakdown, when the black young man asked for their name and badge number, they all of the sudden become mute! The black gentleman also asks why you just turned your camera off and no answer! I know that we just did not come out of George Floyd not learning anything please say that's not true! people are tired of the same thing! you as a body need to recommend and make sure that what this organization puts out on the streets is actual public servants who will focus on public safety only! stop ignoring what is going on! because the next time around will not be good for anyone anymore! These gang members deputy sheriff must follow procedure and respect anyone that is asking questions for everyone's safety! As far as Taser's go1 stop using tasers people are not animals! respect humanity! people are tired of the same thing over and over again! stop using tasers unless you have insured and a way to assist people immediately in case of an emergency! if not you have to hold those accountable immediately. In addition, cops should not be in schools, they don't have any business being in schools! especially with the stand they pull landing a helicopter in the middle of La Brea! is this the new norm! I guess we are giving this organization to much money! where they impressing anyone? scaring anyone? intimidating anyone? No!!!! stop allowing this gang member organization with things they should not be doing and following procedures with everything that people are tired of asking for!

3a. Discussion and take appropriate action on the Technology Ad Hoc Committee's inquiry into LASD's use of tasers

Tasers are often NOT used as a last resort and department members are not disciplined for their misuse. LASD has supposedly utilized tasers for years, yet this use has done nothing to curb the frequency by which LASD kills community members. LASD killed 38 individuals in 2022 and has already taken the lives of at least four people in 2023. LASD reported 11 incidents involving Tasers that led to death or serious bodily injury. Out of these 11 incidents, 8 involved unarmed individuals. In more than 50% of these incidents, officers reported mental disability or impairment.

in 2020, LASD deputies killed Eric Briceno, who was suffering from a mental health crisis; Eric's parents had called 911 hoping for mental health intervention. Instead, deputies arrived at their Maywood home, barged in without permission, went to Eric's room where he was asleep, and proceeded to brutalize him — kneeling on his back, hitting him with batons, elbowing and tasing him — all the while Eric's mother was at the door yelling at the deputies to leave him alone. In a muffled voice, Eric repeated, "I can't breathe, I can't breathe." Id. According to the coroner's report, he died of cardiopulmonary arrest due to neck compression and restraint with a taser. (See article.) Eric's family has also faced retaliation and harassment from deputies.

We demand that the County:

Restrict the use of tasers. "Less lethal" does not mean non-lethal

Ensure accountability for deputies who kill with Tasers or use Tasers in dangerous and excessive ways

Do NOT provide more funding to LASD to purchase more Tasers for jail staff

Decarcerate and create alternatives to LASD functions, including:

Decarceration: Diverting people from jails to ATI-informed community-based services and mental health care

Increased investment in mental health treatment resources and crisis intervention professionals

Emphasis on deputy use of de-escalation skills already mandated by state law

Effective diversion to appropriate mental health / behavioral health crisis responders from LASD dispatch

The latest OIG report on LASD's rollout and implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) does not inspire confidence. For one, deputies have shot community members but conveniently never activated their BWCs. Sheriff Luna's administration has proposed amendments to former Sheriff Villanueva's horrendous BWC policy, but these proposed amendments were never vetted by the OIG and the public.

BWCs will never be a panacea for misconduct or for the crisis of confidence LASD. But if they are to be of any help at all — and they could be — they must be done right. In particular, the final policy on BWCs should be adopted only after a community process both informs and includes the public on how BWCs could be used to promote accountability and how we would limit potential negative impacts on civil rights and civil liberties.

The Board of Supervisors has a statutory duty to determine how County funds are allocated, and this power controls how County property purchased with those funds are used. The Board should not continue to grant LASD millions of dollars in precious County funds for the purchase and ongoing operation of BWCs without ensuring that BWCs are used in a manner that contributes to the public good.

In the context of the jails, the Board should oppose LASD's funding requests for new equipment, including BWCs; instead, the Board should move swiftly towards decarceration of the jail population through proven community diversion programs, such as those of the Office of Diversion and Reentry and community-based alternatives.

At a minimum, the County should ensure that BWC or other video footage is maintained outside of the custody and control of LASD — limiting access to LASD personnel so that footage is not inappropriately edited or reviewed to interfere with investigations. Appropriate access to video footage should also be granted not just to the OIG — but also to the COC, the Public Defender, the Alternate Public Defender, and the District Attorney. Given the need for multiple agencies to access body-worn camera footage and LASD's frequent recalcitrance at responding to requests for information, hosting body-worn camera footage in a central repository accessible to all those with legal access would ensure that LASD does not impede timely access.

In fact, the Board should ensure a policy regarding the use of BWCs (either by adopting its own policy or condition the receipt of funds for the purchase and operation of BWCs on LASD's adoption of a policy), that does the following:

- Requires deputies to fully record every interaction with a member of the public
- Requires deputies who are being investigated for a shooting or other potential misconduct to give initial statements before permitting them to view footage of the incident at issue
- Audits BWC video to search for policy violations and imposes discipline when such violations are found
- Provides public access to BWC video while balancing privacy with the public's right

to know

- Bars use of BWCs for surveillance

2.c	<p>Re: 2.c) OIG Report: Addressing Racial Disparities in Traffic Stops, March 23, 2023 According to a forthcoming report from the ACLU SoCal and Catalyst California that takes a deep-dive into 2019 stop data that LASD reported to the California Department of Justice, it's clear that LASD's primary function is a massive *racist* traffic enforcement enterprise.</p> <p>Most of deputy time in the field is spent on deputy-initiated stops (89%), NOT calls for service (11%). When community members have reached out to LASD stations for assistance, they have been told they could not provide help because they were "defunded" and under-staffed. In reality, not only do they have billions of dollars, but, if there actually is a lack of deputies to respond to people's requests, it is because deputies are too busy roaming the streets trying to find people to stop for minor violations or traffic infractions.</p> <p>The VAST majority of deputy-initiated stops are for traffic violations (84%), and traffic stops account for 79% of time spent conducting deputy-initiated stops. 35% for technical and non-moving violations; 97% of traffic stops recover NO contraband; and less than ½ of 1% of stops recover weapons.</p> <p>Most deputy-initiated stops are for non-serious reasons, i.e. pretextual stops. LASD's own command staff admits it is not out conducting these traffic and bike stops because they present a threat to public safety on the roads. Rather it is a tactic for trying to uncover evidence of other crime, when there is not any factual basis for believing that crime has occurred. In other words, pretext stops.</p> <p>LASD traffic stops have been a waste of precious county taxpayer resources. Out of the nearly \$4 billion LASD budget, over \$1.1 Billion goes to patrol, primarily salaries and benefits for deputies. A rough (low) estimate of how much money LASD's massive traffic enforcement program costs is approximately \$776.6 million (79% of time spent on traffic stops/Patrol Division budget). This, however, doesn't include the collateral costs within LASD, e.g., non-patrol unit admin, booking, investigation. This doesn't include the collateral county costs, incl. District Attorney, Public Defender time, jail related expenses (\$1.4B), and litigation (\$53m in judgments arising out of patrol + \$12.8m defense in 2019; \$73.2m total in FY22-23).</p> <p>This also doesn't account for the significant costs to individuals and communities, including non-economic costs. Even if not arrested, stopped individuals reported losing jobs because of the time spent detained, and an arrest imposes many additional costs, including potential bail. There is an immense amount of research on the physical and psychological harms experienced just by being stopped or living in a community where there are high frequency of stops, including PTSD, anxiety, increased levels of suicidal ideation, and insomnia—especially for children who are significantly impacted by lack of sleep in their mental health, school performance, and increased likelihood of risk-taking activities.</p> <p>So, while the County in part funds programs to address things like unemployment, mental health, at-risk youth behavior, it is also funding LASD to cause these harms.</p> <p>The reality of LASD policing is that it spends huge amount of time and manpower to</p>	Andres Kwon
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engage in stops for traffic and minor violations—often as a failed pretextual strategy for finding more serious crime, divorced from any actual concern for public safety.

Finally, the OIG’s report and its recommendations are inadequate. For one, our community partners believe LAPD’s traffic stop policy is not a model we should be looking to. For example, LAPD is still seeking consent searches from Black people at 6 times the rate of white people. There is a forthcoming report from a reimagining traffic safety taskforce set up by the LA City Council to address these issues and you should draw recommendations from this report instead.

3.a Re: 3.a) Discussion and take appropriate action on the Technology Ad Hoc Committee’s inquiry into LASD’s use of tasers Andres Kwon

Tasers are often NOT used as a last resort and department members are not disciplined for their misuse. LASD has supposedly utilized tasers for years, yet this use has done nothing to curb the frequency by which LASD kills community members. LASD killed 38 individuals in 2022 and has already taken the lives of at least four people in 2023. LASD reported 11 incidents involving Tasers that led to death or serious bodily injury. Out of THESE 11 incidents, 8 involved unarmed individuals. In more than 50% of these incidents, officers reported mental disability or impairment.

LASD argues that it will save money on civil liability if they have tasers in addition to their other weapons. Yet, it bears noting that among the highest settlements from last year for the County, was an incident where deputies killed someone using a taser, and another where they severely beat someone with their bare hands. So, changing weapons does not solve the problem of deep-seeded deputy violence; rather, it just provides more ways to cause harm.

A case in point is Eric Briceno’s. In 2020, LASD deputies killed Eric Briceno, who was suffering from a mental health crisis; Eric’s parents had called 911 hoping for mental health intervention. Instead, deputies arrived at their Maywood home, barged in without permission, went to Eric’s room where he was asleep, and proceeded to brutalize him — kneeling on his back, hitting him with batons, elbowing and tasing him — all the while Eric’s mother was at the door yelling at the deputies to leave him alone. In a muffled voice, Eric repeated, “I can’t breathe, I can’t breathe.” According to the coroner’s report, he died of cardiopulmonary arrest due to neck compression and restraint with a taser. Eric’s family has also faced retaliation and harassment from deputies.

We demand that the County:

- Restrict the use of tasers. “Less lethal” does not mean non-lethal.
- Amend the current LASD policy on the use of tasers after significant public input, including important input regarding Axon
- Ensure accountability for deputies who kill with Tasers or use Tasers in dangerous and excessive ways
- Do NOT provide more funding to LASD to purchase more Tasers for jail staff
- Decarcerate and create alternatives to LASD functions, including:
 - o Decarceration: Diverting people from jails to ATI-informed community-based services and mental health care
 - o Increased investment in mental health treatment resources and crisis intervention professionals
 - o Emphasis on deputy use of de-escalation skills already mandated by state law

	<p>o Effective diversion to appropriate mental health / behavioral health crisis responders from LASD dispatch</p>	
<p>3.b</p>	<p>Re: 3.b) Report on Deputies in Schools</p> <p>Cops, and especially sheriff’s deputies, have no business in schools.</p> <p>Criminalization of Student Behavior: Police officers criminalize students in school. Police officers are trained to enforce the law, which means that their presence in schools inevitably leads to minor disciplinary issues being treated as criminal offenses. This can lead to students being arrested or detained for behavior that would normally be handled by school officials.</p> <p>Increased School-to-Prison Pipeline: The presence of police officers in schools contributes to the school-to-prison pipeline. Research shows that students who have any contact with law enforcement are more likely to drop out of school and end up in the juvenile or criminal justice system. Students who interact with police often suffer trauma and have reduced future job prospects and opportunities.</p> <p>Racial Disparities: The use of police officers in schools has been consistently shown to disproportionately affect students of color. Black, Indigenous, Latine, and other students of color are more likely to be arrested, cited, and searched by police officers in schools than their white peers.</p> <p>Negative Impact on School Climate: The presence of police officers in schools creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, which undermines school climate. Students often feel uncomfortable or unsafe around police officers, and this can create a barrier to building positive relationships between students and school staff. It also results in schools being seen as and treated like prisons rather than safe places of learning.</p> <p>Wasteful Costs: Hiring and maintaining police officers in schools necessarily diverts resources away from other important areas, such as education, enrichment programs, and mental health services, to pay for ineffective and harmful police officers.</p>	<p>Andres Kwon</p>
<p>deputy gangs & LASD in schools</p>	<p>I’d like to remind this commission that the current Undersheriff wears a tattoo that she insists is a station tattoo which this commission has acknowledged that deputy gang members have DELIBERATELY used the same claim of station tattoos to obscure membership in gangs.</p> <p>I’m concerned whether Eileen Decker is qualified to investigate deputy gangs when she sat on the Police Commission, for how many years, rubber-stamping LAPD misconduct & finding 30+ murders a year at the hands of LAPD "in-policy". How much are taxpayers paying Eileen Decker and how do you expect to instill confidence in the community if you continue to shuffle the same cop apologizers around under the guise of oversight?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * sheriff’s deputies have no business in schools PERIOD * Did someone really ask if schools need deputies to intimidate children?! That’s disgusting. * Children are not criminals * If a student is experiencing behavioral issues, let’s look at the root of what is causing that. Ask students if they have a safe place to sleep, ask students if they 	<p>MJ King</p>

have access to 3 meals a day, ask students if they are being bullied or harmed at school or at home, provide students with counselors and mental health providers who can meet them where they're at

- * Let's ensure students have the tools they need to learn & thrive in school

- * Adolescence is a difficult time for everyone, but schools should be a safe place to learn and grow

- * Students should NOT be intimidated by police presence, students should NOT be pepper sprayed, students should NOT be handcuffed, students should NOT be body slammed, students should NOT have any use of force used on them, students should NOT be touched by cops PERIOD

- * Children are not criminals & we can not allow deputies to treat them as such

- * Students need resources, they need nurturing, they need support and healing

- * Parents should not have to come here & beg you to protect their children from violence

- * Ms. Vanessa Perez shouldn't have to travel to the next meeting to continue her story about how her child is brutalized at school. She is there now, give her the time

- * Take LASD out of schools PERIOD

Two simple questions:

- 1) What can be done by this commission to protect the families from harassment by LASD?

- 2) How do we disqualify gang members from working in law enforcement?