



## Written Public Comment

Provided for the May 18, 2023, Commission Meeting  
of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.

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Name	Agenda item or topic	Public comment
Brian Cameron	2(e) Drone pilot program.	<p>I am a Public Safety Commissioner for Calabasas, a contract city. Ours is a beautiful city mainly nestled in the Santa Monica Mountains. This beauty, however, comes with challenges. Many of our roads are curvy and traverse next to steep drop-offs into canyons. We are also blessed by several hiking trails that attract residents and visitors to wilderness areas. Some of these visitors are ill-prepared for the rigors portions of these trails present.</p> <p>Our local station - Lost Hills Station 22 - is the base for most of our first responder calls. Automobile accidents happen, sometimes resulting in vehicles going off the road into a canyon. Hikers get injured and lost and are often not able to accurately describe their location. Deputies responding to these calls are too often delayed because without an accurate location, the fastest route to the victims is unclear.</p> <p>This problem could be ameliorated by the use of a drone which can reduce the time to rescue immensely. I recognize that improper use of drones could create privacy issues but by narrowing the purpose to search and rescue operations - as is done in many other jurisdictions - introducing drones to the Lost Hills Station would be a significant improvement and will materially enhance the station's ability to protect the public.</p> <p>Recent home burglaries resulting from access through open space are a public safety crime threat in Calabasas. Patrolling large geographic areas with high vegetation growth in topographically challenging locations would be greatly improved with the addition of aerial vantage points.</p> <p>I strongly endorse equipping the Lost Hills Station with drones for search and rescue and crime prevention.</p>
Laura McCorkindale	LASD DRONES	<p>My name is Laura McCorkindale and I am a Council Member for the City of Hidden Hills and the LA County Cal Cities director for the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Malibu and Westlake Village. I am writing, personally, in support of the Sherriff's Department Drone Pilot program.</p> <p>The Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's station which serves the City of Hidden Hills, has a vast jurisdiction covering nearly 187 square miles. Much of this land is in the Santa Monica Mountains region and is uninhabited. The use of drones would greatly improve finding lost hikers, assessing injuries following a vehicle accident in a hard to reach area, and provide critical assessments during natural disasters such as wildfires. Effectively used, drones would increase response time, provide for Deputy safety, and free up precious staff time for both Law Enforcement and Fire personnel. I am fully in support of this pilot program and encourage the Civilian Oversight Committee to lend its support as well. Many thanks!</p>
Matthew Hing	Deputies in Health Facilities	<p>I am a fourth year medical student at UCLA writing to express my concern about the continued presence of the sheriffs and other police in county health facilities. Although minor institutional changes were made after the murder of Mr. Burgos in 2020, the fundamental issue remains that the sheriffs are consistently integrated into clinical care and pose a health and safety risk to our patients and staff.</p> <p>Police in the hospital, including the sheriffs, routinely interfere with care, violate patient privacy, and intimidate patients who are medically vulnerable. Their presence is a</p>

deterrent to our patients who are already criminalized in their communities and delay seeking care out of fear of further criminalization.

As someone who has worked and cared directly for patients at Harbor-UCLA, Olive View, and other county health settings over the last several years, I can state from personal experience how the presence of law enforcement in places of care intimidates patients and health workers, erodes community trust and faith in our health systems, and inhibits health providers from performing the duties and responsibilities that we hold most dear: helping our patients heal and protecting them from present and future harm. I have had patients and their family members directly tell them that they feel on edge and reluctant to come to the hospital knowing how many deputies are present; it's also common conversation among my medical colleagues - especially those who are on the frontlines providing care in the emergency room - how law enforcement will pressure them for patients' protected health information, and how these unlawful requests distract from their patient care.

Our patients deserve care and dignity and should not be cast as threats to staff safety. The true threat to staff and patient safety is police with guns in health facilities and inadequate staffing and working conditions for health workers. Spending \$38 million per year to police our patients rather than treat them is an abdication of our responsibility to care. There are so many alternatives that we know work to keep patients and health workers safe that do not appear in this report presented today: de-escalation training, higher healthcare worker staffing ratios, and more community investment in supportive services outside the hospital.

I urge you to follow the recommendations of the family, clinicians, and other experts who have testified to the dangers of police in healthcare spaces. LASD will always demand more—more funding, more deputies—but we want them out. This is an opportunity for LA to move from an unsafe "security" model rooted in policing to a safety model grounded in care.

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Deputies in health facilities

I am a fourth year medical student at UCLA writing to express my concern about the continued presence of the sheriffs and other police in county health facilities. Although minor institutional changes were made after the murder of Mr. Burgos in 2020, the fundamental issue remains that the sheriffs are consistently integrated into clinical care and pose a health and safety risk to our patients and staff.

Police in the hospital, including the sheriffs, routinely interfere with care, violate patient privacy, and intimidate patients who are medically vulnerable. Their presence is a deterrent to our patients who are already criminalized in their communities and delay seeking care out of fear of further criminalization.

As someone who works and cares directly for patients at Harbor-UCLA and Olive View-UCLA, I have witnessed multiple instances where the presence of a sheriff in the room obstructed the care of vulnerable patients, including trauma patients, and prevented them from being able to share freely about what had happened to them, how they were feeling, and what they needed. The normalized presence of deputies in the emergency department noticeably alters the care environment in these spaces, from one of safety and vulnerability, to one where patients need to be on their guard. Imagine trying to talk to your doctor with the sheriff in view behind the doctor, knowing that you were going to be booked as soon as you were discharged from the hospital. This is what too many of my patients in county health centers have to deal with.

The presence of law enforcement in care spaces is especially noticeable in psychiatric emergencies, where I have repeatedly seen the presence of law enforcement escalate an acute crisis to one of force and violence, instead of providing the patience, care, and verbal de-escalation that patients deserve. The narrative of "violent" or "dangerous" patients, especially in the context of people with mental illness and histories of incarceration, has ironically been weaponized to create an environment where armed deputies are a normal fixture of care spaces - which makes me feel less safe as a provider, and more importantly, makes patients less safe. The tragic death of Mr. Burgos is just one horrifying example of why this is true.

Our patients deserve care and dignity and should not be cast as threats to staff safety. The true threat to staff and patient safety is police with guns and inadequate staffing and working conditions. Spending \$38 million per year to police our patients rather than treat them is an abdication of our responsibility to care.

I urge you to follow the recommendations of the family, clinicians, and other experts who have testified to the dangers of police in healthcare spaces. LASD will always demand more—more funding, more deputies—but we want them out. This is an opportunity for LA to move from an unsafe "security" model rooted in policing to a safety model grounded in care." Thank you for your attention this comment.

Hugo Soto-Martinez	Item 2 A	<p>As councilmember for District 13 in the City of Los Angeles, I am writing about the death of Andres Guardado at the hands of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. At the time of his death, Andres Guardado was a resident of my district, Council District 13. Beyond that, this killing is extremely personal for me because Andres was the son of my friend and longtime co-worker, Cristobal Guardado.</p> <p>The Guardado family came to Los Angeles in pursuit of the American dream, fleeing violence and political instability in their home country of El Salvador. At the time of his death, Andres had just graduated high school. He worked multiple jobs to help support his family, he was kind, and he had big dreams that he was never able to fulfill because he was shot and killed at the young age of 18.</p> <p>Merely adopting a stronger policy on deputy gangs and other recommendations directed only to the sheriff and LASD — while worthwhile and even necessary — will not be sufficient to eradicate deputy gangs and address the manifold associated problems. And besides understanding the impact of deputy gangs on LASD and its deputies, we must also have a full grasp of their devastating impact on local communities. Therefore, the Commission should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) fully investigate the devastating impact of deputy gangs on our communities, and</li> <li>(2) develop a holistic set of recommendations – not just to the sheriff and LASD – but to all relevant stakeholders, especially the Board of Supervisors; the Board should do everything in its power to overhaul the entire Sheriff’s Department, its culture and footprint, and advance solutions that transform the relationship between the County, the sheriff and LASD, and the public, once and for all.</li> </ol> <p>Lastly, I want to express my support for the demands of the Check the Sheriff Coalition. Sincerely, Hugo Soto-Martinez</p>
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Deputies in Health Facilities	I am a medical student at UCLA writing to express my concern about the continued presence of Sheriffs and other police in county health facilities. Although minor institutional changes were made after the murder of Mr. Burgos in 2020, the fundamental issue remains that the sheriffs are consistently integrated into clinical care
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and pose a health and safety risk to our patients and staff.  
Police in the hospital, including the sheriffs, routinely interfere with care, violate patient privacy, and interview patients who are medically vulnerable and sedated from pain medication. Their presence is a deterrent to our patients who are already criminalized in their communities and delay seeking care out of fear of further criminalization.

Our patients deserve care and dignity and should not be cast as threats to staff safety. The true threat to staff and patient safety is police with guns and inadequate staffing and working conditions. Spending \$36 million per year to police our patients rather than treat them is an abdication of our responsibility to care. I urge you to follow the recommendations of the family, clinicians, and other experts who have testified to the dangers of police in healthcare spaces. LASD will always demand more—more funding, more deputies—but we want them out.

Adriana  
Quinones

Drone pilot  
program,  
Deputies in  
Health  
Facilities  
/schools,  
Deputy  
gangs.  
Sheriff  
Luna etc

Good afternoon Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission,

First, I would like to thank you for thinking outside the box and actually going out to our communities to listen to people's concerns. The monthly meetings need to be held on Saturdays throughout Los Angeles County. I would like to see one meeting held at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. Secondly, why not work in partnership with actual residents, businesses, churches, elected officials and law enforcement. We need to stop the negativity around LASD.

The Industry Sheriff station works closely with our community in addressing many issues. Sheriff Luna should learn from Deputy Ruano, Lieutenant Gomez and former Captain Rector. They actually make the time to meet with us, listen to our concerns, work with County Depts like LAHSA DPW etc for a solution. We are also working on neighborhood watch, Short Term Ordinance etc. The allegations of Deputy gangs need to stop if there is no evidence and prosecution. Politics that sell like this issue has hurt our communities. Let's work together and address the many issues. In La Puente, Boyle Heights, South L A we continue to have issues with gang violence. Unfortunately, we don't make this a priority.

Drone Pilot Program— we have another tool, why not make good use of it. Specially during fireworks season? This can prevent fires in our hills. Deputies in hospitals/schools— it is necessary for residents to feel safe when going to hospitals and children at schools. I know in Boyle Heights at White Memorial hospital where victims of violence (stabbing, shooting etc) were taken. There were drive by shootings, fights etc. some schools are in dangerous areas and children need to know they are safe while in school. Not to mention staff.

The reality is that some members of society do not take accountability for their actions and blame everything on law enforcement and others. If your son /daughter did something wrong /dangerous stop making excuses. My cousin is as murdered in an initiation drive by, he was visiting a friend. In court, the criminal's mothers were saying how unjust the system is.. really?

Most of us can do the work out law enforcement does. Most are decent, honest human beings. Like any profession, there are a few bad apples that tarnished the reputation of the great members of law enforcement. Let's hope that the Civilian Oversight Commission changes and not play political games with Board of Supervisors. That has only hurt our communities.

Presented to the LAC Sheriff's Oversight Commission by Isaac Asberry and Ron L. Dowell,  
Lifetime Members of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Southwest Region,  
Compton Chapter  
May 18, 2023

**Compton's deteriorating infrastructure and inattentiveness to sheriff performance present health and safety risks to the public and is emblematic of the city's overall troubles. In October 2022, the state auditor reported that half of Compton's streets are in poor condition, its water wells and related infrastructure are decaying, and it has not yet completed overdue sewer system upgrades, despite numerous overflows of sewage that have threatened public health and the environment.**

**Last Tuesday, the Water Manager reported to the council that half of the operable wells have volatile organic compounds (VOC) and per-fluoro-octane-sulfonic (PFOS) contamination. Unprepared as usual, not one member questioned this finding. No member asked about the source of this contamination. Not one member asked about the Health Advisory level or the Hazard Quotient. What is the cleanup goal? Is the water contamination related to broken sewer lines? What is the remediation order between contaminated water, compromised sewers, and the need for street repair and replacement?**

**We support the effort of the OIG to get to the bottom of the deputy gang problem, as Compton appears to be ground zero for their existence. No one will confirm that the problem no longer exists at Compton station. It may be a good idea for the City of Compton representatives to participate in the interviews for no other reason than to weed out Executioners, Proud Boys, and Oath Keepers. We've asked and will continue to demand that Compton:**

- **Require all incoming sheriff contract personnel to appear and introduce themselves to the public during city council meetings and tell their reasons for choosing to work in Compton and what benefits the city will receive from their presence.**
- **Include contract language that prohibits deputies from participating in deputy gangs, as defined in Penal Code Section 13670**
- **Include contract language prohibiting deputies from joining, participating in, and soliciting others to join deputy cliques, Proud Boys, 3 Percenters, or Oath Keepers.**