



Written Public Comment

Provided for the January 18, 2024,

Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.

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TOPIC	PUBLIC COMMENTS	NAME
Sheriff's Department Gangs	<p>Alex Villanueva is a liar and racist if you aren't Hispanic. I worked with Alex for many years and hoped he would become a better person when he became Sheriff. I have witnessed him lying under oath in court. He knows there are and have been Deputy Gangs for decades. However, he will do anything to protect what he thinks are his "homies" at ELA Station. It's ironic because Alex has never been respected by any of his coworkers or colleagues from the time he first joined the Department.</p> <p>Don't believe anything he says, especially under oath</p>	
Deputy Gang avoidance strategies	<p>1) Will the sheriff's union allow annual physical examinations for tattoos? If not, why not?</p> <p>2) Will the leaders consider utilizing secret informants and detectives within the department to notify superiors of sheriffs involved with a deputy gang or mentally unfit to be sheriffs?</p>	Scott Rushing
items 5, 8, & general public comment	<p>5) It's frustrating that the Sheriff leaves before public comment; if you're going to adjust the agenda so he can speak first, please include public comment right afterward & implore him to stay. He's not listening to public feedback & there are not that many community members who give comment at each meeting... less than a handful. It should be worth his time.</p> <p>There has been a history of drinking related problems in LASD. Baca tried to instate a ban to carry while drinking in 2008 & 2010 but ALADS shot it down twice. The problems haven't changed with drunk driving, fights and most recently a deputy gang member shooting off another's tattoo. The sheriff must stand up to ALADS & update LASD policies to protect the public (& his own staff) from LASD deputies. It's the least you can do.</p> <p>Does this commission notice how often the Sheriff says in theory that he agrees with a policy.. but then quickly claims an uncited story that suggests he will use it to excuse why he won't implement that policy when held accountable later?</p> <p>8) 2023 In-custody deaths: 42 deaths in 48 weeks is unacceptable. In-custody deaths have steadily increased from 19 in 2016. We listen to a report annually about in-custody deaths without acknowledging this crises.</p> <p>The majority of these folks were pre-trial & awaiting resolution of their case. That's inhumane.</p> <p>According to LASD's own website on in-custody deaths: - The majority of folks listed as dying at LAGMC were due to sepsis - the medical care that folks receive inside is so bad that their health issues are not being addressed. These</p>	MJ King

deaths were preventable.

- Look at all the deaths that occurred at MCJ on the 2000 & 3000 floors- the floors run by deputy gangs. According to the special council report we know there are other floors run by deputy gangs. How are your investigations of deputy gangs intersecting with jail deaths?

- Why does someone whose manner of death listed as suicide have their means of death listed as multiple blunt force injuries? That doesn't add up.

- What 31 yr old dies of natural causes? 32yr old? 46yr old? Even 50 & 60yr olds don't die of natural causes. Where's the oversight on the autopsies? Deputies are present at the coroner's office during autopsies while families are not permitted. Seems like a huge conflict of interest. Where's the oversight of the coroners office on the categorization of these deaths?

- Finally, stop with the lies about how drugs are making it inside- deputies do not go through the body scanners- the deputies are bringing it in.

2023 in-custody deaths were unfathomable, this year already 3 deaths in the first 2 weeks looks like nothing has changed. This is an emergency- the Board of Supervisors has done nothing. I urge this commission to use your power to urge the BoS to do act NOW.

On the pregnancy conversation. Pregnant people shouldn't be incarcerated, period. They are many other options. It's alarming to hear you talk about pregnant people needing bottled water without acknowledging that otherwise their drinking water comes out of the back of their toilet. No one should have to drink out of that dirty little sink. As Commissioner Johnson acknowledged the conditions in our jails, especially the drinking water, are life threatening. Did the report mention whether these folks were pregnant before they came to these facilities? With well documented reports of abuse especially at CRDF, that would be useful information for this commission to have, wouldn't it?

Please ensure all impacted families are given more than 2 minutes to speak, even if they arrive after the family impact remarks on the agenda. The community supports adjusting the agenda to ensure they are heard.