



Written Public Comment

Provided for the March 16, 2023 Meeting
of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight
Commission as of 3/16/2023 at 5:00pm.

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Agenda item or topic	Provide your public comment below. Please do not share any sensitive personally identifiable information because this comment will be made public as part of the official meeting record.	Name
Deputy Gangs	I have reason to believe that there still "shot callers" in Compton. Because some citizens are known to deputies, when these citizens call for service, that service is often delayed, or sometimes, not even dispatched.	Robert Ray
3. Deputy Gangs	<p>It is not enough for the COC's recommendations to rely solely on the willingness of the current sheriff and his command staff in solving a crisis that has persisted one sheriff after another for more than five decades.</p> <p>Sheriff Robert Luna alone won't eradicate deputy gangs, and LASD will not deal with this decades-long crisis out of the goodness of their hearts</p> <p>Sheriffs have been part of the problem. In recent memory, neither McDonell (who was supposedly in favor of civilian oversight and accountability and portrayed himself as a reformer) nor Villanueva (who campaigned and was elected as a progressive candidate) took any steps to eliminate deputy gangs.</p> <p>While the last sheriff was exceedingly and openly hostile to the Board and any oversight or accountability, prior sheriffs who were not as openly hostile all delivered the same result: unchecked deputy violence, including by deputy gangs.</p> <p>We cannot depend on sheriffs stating they want to do the right thing, nor on their ability to transform a department with management and staff who at a minimum sat idly by as the department rotted from within.</p> <p>Even assuming the new Sheriff wants to do what he promised on the campaign trail, do the right thing, and eradicate deputy gangs, we can't just rely on one individual to resolve a crisis that has persisted for more than 5 decades. We have decades of deputy gang violence and abuse that prove that.</p> <p>What's more, the Sheriff's management, such as April Tardy, are LASD career folks who have been complicit either by actively enabling deputy gangs running amok or by simply looking the other way</p> <p>We must recognize that the real cancer is LASD's pervasive culture of abuse and violence that gives rise to deputy gangs in the first place; deputy gang members, while egregious, are certainly not the only deputies violating the law and the civil rights of residents.</p> <p>Moreover, other County agencies, including County Counsel and the Medical Examiner-Coroner, have played a role in enabling deputy gangs and misconduct</p>	Julie Mao
General public comment	<p>My name is Jessica McNeil. I'd like to comment that 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> <p>(1) fully investigate the devastating impact of deputy gangs on our communities, and</p> <p>(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.</p>	Jessica McNeil
2E, 3 & 4	<p>I'm skeptical about Sheriff Luna's ability to eradicate deputy gangs when his own undersheriff, April Tardy wears a gang tattoo. At today's commission meeting Luna shared that Undersheriff Tardy assured him that it was a station tattoo, not that of a deputy gang. The Sheriff also tried to deflect multiple times away from her tattoo. Thank you Chair Kennedy for reminding Sheriff Luna that members of MULTIPLE deputy gangs have DELIBERATELY used the same claim of station tattoos to obscure membership in gangs.</p> <p>You'll remember that April Tardy testified to this commission on 7/25/22 that she investigated</p>	MJ King

deputy gangs & was directed NOT to ask about gang involvement. Her excuse for not questioning that directive was because "...we're a paramilitary organization." How do you investigate deputy gangs without inquiring about gang involvement? Do you really want to get to the bottom of deputy gangs or are you "checking the box" so that you can close the investigation? Big shocker: We investigated ourselves & we found no wrongdoing. This isn't a game, these are people's lives. Deputies who coverup LASD misconduct by looking the other way, or closing perfunctory investigations are complicit with the murders, harassment, and other harm LASD deputy gang members inflict on our community.

Today Luna introduced "untreated trauma" as an excuse for deputy gang behavior. Are you suggesting that deputies are getting PTSD from experiencing the harm they are inflicting on our community members? Or are you suggesting a predisposition in the people you are recruiting to LASD? What about the PTSD LASD inflicts on the community?

Luna also suggested that one of the suggestions for rotating deputies out of their cities is problematic for the dept because the contract cities like the relationships they develop with specific deputies & they don't want those deputies to leave. Is this an excuse for not transferring gang members? 1) Gang members shouldn't be transferred, they should be terminated. 2) You should be more concerned about why a contract city insists on continuing a relationship with a deputy gang member who is inflicting harm on their community.

Lots of excuses since Sheriff Luna began attending COC meetings. Excuses do not build public trust. You chose this job, you campaigned on eradicating deputy gangs. We want action, not excuses.

What is this commission doing to protect the family members who are being harassed by the deputy gang members who murdered their loved ones? Showing up outside their house or place of work- easily excused by deputies as a wellness check or a fabricated call. THAT is the power they continue to abuse. You hear from them at every meeting. When will they be protected? When will the harassment end?

I'm also concerned about County Counsel's complicity in enabling deputy gang violence and abuse by defending civil rights lawsuits with deputy gang allegations. County Counsel has used our taxpayer dollars to defend deputy gang members. (approved the County paying outside counsel to defend the Banditos members re: Kennedy Hall incident) County Counsel has negotiated settlements in civil rights cases with the purpose to keep under wraps information about deputy gangs. County Counsel has also required (NDAs) as a condition of settling with plaintiffs who sue LASD in connection with deputy gang members' misconduct

This commission understands that adopting a stronger policy on deputy gangs directed only to the sheriff and LASD isn't enough to eradicate deputy gangs and address the multitude of misconduct. I urge this commission do do 2 things: 1) fully investigate the catastrophic impact of deputy gangs on our communities and not just that on LASD and other deputies, and 2) develop a holistic set of recommendations – not just to the sheriff and LASD – but to all stakeholders, especially the Board of Supervisors.

Resist the excuses of the Sheriff and LASD and demand accountability