



Written Public Comment

Provided for the LASD Budget Prioritization for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
(collected between 1/30/2023 through 3/2/2023 by the Los Angeles
County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission)

For any questions, please email cocnotify@coc.lacounty.gov or
call (213) 253-5678.

March 1, 2023

Sean Kennedy
Chair, Civilian Oversight Commission, County of Los Angeles

Via email

Re: LASD's Budget Priorities and Unmet Needs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Dear Commissioner Kennedy and the Civilian Oversight Commission,

Thank you to the Commission for welcoming community feedback on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (LASD) proposed budget priorities and unmet needs for fiscal year 2023-2024. We respectfully request that the Commission reject LASD's requests for additional funds and staffing for the following reasons:

1. Increasing LASD Positions will Not Bring the County Into Compliance with Department of Justice (DOJ) Consent Decrees

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care, not add budgeted positions to LASD. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has [decreased by 5%](#) during the same period. LASD asks for more staff to be able to meet the requirements of consent decrees in various lawsuits regarding the jails. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. The jails are operating at 20 percent above capacity. Staffing at that level (which is what LASD is asking for) will not bring the County into compliance with its responsibilities in lawsuits, and especially its responsibility to care for people with severe mental illness.

LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails. This ask is absurd on its face. LASD deputy gangs are born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). Violence against incarcerated persons is integral to the operations of LASD deputies responsible for jail supervision. Adding deputies to reduce liability is clearly not the answer to LASD use of force. A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails.

We recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

2. Increasing LASD Funding Will Not Solve LASD's Inability to Address Mental Health Crises

LASD is requesting additional funding for JMET assigned to Custody Compliance and Sustainability Bureau and additional staff for Moderate Observation Housing (MOH) units inside of MCJ to address the increased MOH population inside of L.A. County jails. LASD has proven time and time again that the department is neither qualified nor willing to provide the care and support for those

suffering from mental health issues inside of the jails. It would be safer to decarcerate the nearly 6,000 people (almost 40 percent of the jail's population) to community-based mental health care models. Further, Correctional Health Services (CHS) has consistently rejected the idea of housing MOH or High Observation Housing (HOH) individuals at MCJ. Continuing to fund any LASD supervision of MOH inside of MCJ would put those designated as MOH and HOH in dangerous and inhumane conditions. For this very reason, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and CHS oppose MOH and HOH within MCJ. While LASD states that these positions are necessary to comply with the DOJ consent decree, permitting MOH and HOH housing within MCJ would set compliance even farther back.

We recommend the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors that community-based services are needed here, not additional MOH and HOH staff.

3. Increasing LASD Funding Will Not Address L.A. County's Housing and Homelessness Crises

LASD is requesting \$10 million dollars for its Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) program. Each year, LASD requests more and more funding for HOST, and we see the same results: increases in use of force against unhoused populations, LASD's failure to connect individuals to meaningful service opportunities, and continued surveillance and harassment of unhoused communities. LASD must be removed entirely from any outreach to unhoused populations. Increasing funding to law enforcement as the solution to the issue of homelessness ignores all evidence that increasing exposure of unhoused people to law enforcement increases the likelihood of their criminalization and violence exposure, not the likelihood of accessing necessary support.

Effective outreach requires development of rapport and trust, as well as a trauma-informed approach. Deploying law enforcement is inconsistent with these basic outreach principles. Evidence shows that law enforcement homeless outreach teams are not effective, especially when compared with civilian-led outreach teams. For example, a [study of Los Angeles](#) homeless outreach efforts revealed that outreach teams led by a homeless services nonprofit were able to connect 27 percent of people they contacted with housing, while law enforcement outreach teams working in the same system placed only 1 percent of people they contacted in housing. Similarly, the civilian non-profit teams referred twice as many people to services as law enforcement outreach teams. It is also far more costly to increase police officer staffing than to fund staffing for more effective community-based outreach efforts. In short, law enforcement homeless outreach is neither cost-efficient nor effective.

We suggest that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members.

4. Increasing LASD Funding and Positions for Training Will Not Change the Culture of LASD Violence

No amount of funding or increased training will undo the deep-seeded culture of violence that underlies LASD. What the community needs is investment in a mental-health workforce to include clinicians, social workers, crisis-response teams, and long-term caregivers. This reinvestment is consistent with what advocates calling for a just transition [from law enforcement spending and into community spending](#) have recommended: stopping the pipeline into careers of punishment and instead investing in training and retraining those in need of employment into careers that are regenerative and care-based.

We recommend that the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors to reject an increase in funding and staffing for LASD training and instead invest in the training and retraining those in need of employment into careers that are regenerative and care-based. Rather than LASD continuing to enlarge itself with new recruits, reproducing a culture of bloat, liability, violence and deputy gangs, we urge this body to recommend that resources for career training be redirected into care-giving and non-violent crisis response professions.

5. Funds for More and Updated Equipment Will Not Address the Humanitarian Crisis in the Jails

In the request for \$3.6 million for body scanner replacement and staffing, LASD misrepresents the reason the Citizens Commission on Jail Violence (CCJV) recommended body scanner use in the jails. LASD states that the CCJV recommended the scanners to reduce the amount of contraband. Not so. The CCJV recommendation (3.12) states, “Body scanner machinery can substantially reduce (and even largely eliminate) the need for strip searches, which have been a significant source of tension in the jails. While this equipment is expensive, the Commission supports ongoing efforts by LASD to invest in the purchase of body scanners for its jails **and thereby reduce the need for strip searches . . .**” In the years since the CCJV recommendation, however, routine visual body cavity searches are employed in every jail facility and appear only to have increased since the deployment of body scanners. Visual body cavity searches are not only humiliating and demeaning but also the source of a significant number of complaints of sexual harassment and even assault. LASD must commit to and make progress toward “largely eliminat[ing]” visual body cavity and strip searches before a single penny more is allocated to body scanner technology and staffing.

Additionally, LASD is asking for \$38 million for an upgraded CCTV system, \$25 million for mobile radio replacement, and \$65 million for tasers and body worn cameras. That is a total of \$131.6 million dollars in new equipment requests! That is \$131.6 million dollars, none of which will address the tripartite humanitarian crises of obscene overcrowding in the jails, sexual misconduct by the department writ large, and law enforcement murders in our jails and streets. It would be irresponsible for the COC to pass on this request when members of this body know that the County must prioritize decarceration by putting millions of dollars toward community-based services in order to reduce the number of severely mentally ill people in our jails.

With respect to tasers, these will not bring LASD any closer to compliance with DOJ consent decrees. The only things that will move the needle are effective discipline when officers use force, and massive depopulation of the jails to remove the stress of overcrowding. Tasers are often not used as a last resort and department members are not disciplined for their misuse. Further, 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 four people in 2023.

We recommend the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors to oppose the funding requests for new equipment in light of the widespread evidence that CCTV, tasers, and other equipment have no meaningful impact on LASD misconduct or effective decarceration.

6. Rather than funding LASD to host “youth activities,” the County should invest in families, end LASD’s exploitation of families impacted by incarceration and law enforcement violence, and keep families connected.

LASD's budget should not be funded through exploitation of families. LASD needs to stop soliciting and entering into contracts that generate "revenue" for its budget by charging incarcerated people and their loved ones burdensome fees to stay connected and mark-ups on commissary. The Board of Supervisors already passed a motion in 2021 to remove these financial burdens from families, so LASD's budget should not continue to rely on them.

The County budget should provide for free phone calls in L.A. County jails; this would require a miniscule portion – less than half of a percent – of LASD's budget. The cost of phone calls from incarcerated people to their loved ones costs less than a third of the amount that LASD is demanding for additional tasers, and less than the amount budgeted for counterproductive law enforcement responses to homelessness and community mental health needs (that should be led by service providers instead). Research shows that the inability to maintain robust communication with parents harms the physical and mental health of children of incarcerated people, and that [maintaining family connections is crucial for successful reentry](#). It is offensive that LASD is requesting millions for its deputies to host "youth activities," while placing financial strain on parents and caregivers and refusing to fund the means for youth and their own families to stay connected.

We suggest that the Commission reject LASD's presentation of "youth activities" funding as an unmet need and recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County budget reflect a shift away from exploiting families impacted by incarceration for profit.

To conclude, with LASD's annual budget of more than \$3.4 billion dollars, it is difficult to imagine that LASD has "unmet" budget needs. Every other County department operates with drastically smaller budgets and does not solicit the Board of Supervisors for hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funding year after year. The Commission is well aware of the dominance of deputy gangs in LASD, LASD's failures to abide by the DOJ consent decree and maintain adequate jail conditions, and LASD's continued brutalization and harassment of community members. It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Sincerely,

JusticeLA Coalition

ACLU of Southern California

LASD Civilian Oversight Commission
LASD Budget Prioritization Comments (FY 2023-2024)

*Submitted on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Policing & Human Relations of the
Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations*

1. Please provide your public comment on LASD's Public Safety Budget Priorities & Unmet Needs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Policing & Human Relations (Committee) of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) reviewed the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (LASD) Recommended Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The Ad Hoc Committee analyzed the budget priorities and unmet needs therein through the lens of the LACCHR's report, [Redefining Policing With Our Community](#), a three-year effort to glean best practices in police-community relations through hearings and interviews with community members and law enforcement experts from every corner of Los Angeles County.

To align budget priorities with community needs, the Committee recommends that LASD should consider the report's recommendations which were aimed at advancing equity in policing practices, policies, and procedures. The Committee recommends inclusion of budget priorities and unmet needs that are in alignment with report recommendations, and exclusion of budget priorities and unmet needs that are not in alignment with report recommendations. Certain budget priorities and unmet needs were labeled as "neutral" to identify that the Committee does not have sufficient information to assess the viability of the budget item, and/or a different budget item may already be requested that would impact the need for these additional resources. This especially applies to requests for increases in overtime budgets which should be addressed via recruitment and hiring of deputies assigned to these duties, as opposed to backfilling overtime.

Furthermore, the Committee recommends that LASD's budget request be further analyzed through the lens of the Catalyst California and ACLU SoCal report, [Reimagining Community Safety in California](#), which articulates an analysis of LASD spending, law enforcement interactions, and budget recommendations for public safety efforts. Additionally, the Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board's [Annual Report for 2023](#) further details the impact of LASD law enforcement interactions on vulnerable communities and recommendations for reform. Currently, LASD's budget accounts for 1/10th of the entire County budget. However, based on these report findings the harms of law enforcement interactions with LASD far outweigh the benefits. The vast majority of law enforcement interactions initiated by LASD are reportedly traffic stops and minor violations which yield abysmal results and cost the County over \$776.6 million annually. The Committee aligns with funding recommendations in these reports that call for an increased investment in non-law enforcement interventions to improve community safety, focus on decarceration, and ultimately a reduction in the number of justice-impacted people throughout the County.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

1) Increase in Budgeted Overtime to Support Current Overtime Obligations in Adherence to Custody-Related Agreements (Phase 1 of 3-Year Plan) – Partial Alignment

The Committee believes that information and progress on the Rosas and DOJ agreements should be made publicly available to better inform the public regarding this budget priority. While most of the items listed under this priority seem to advance recommendations from these agreements to improve

custody conditions, it remains unclear if these are meant to serve as stopgaps or long-term solutions. Nevertheless, the Committee agreed with the overtime increases related to Jail Mental Health Evaluation Teams (JMET) and the DMH Expansion – Phase I & Phase II as these requests align with Recommendation 26 which calls for the expansion of co-response models that prioritize trauma-informed responses to mental health challenges. Furthermore, the Committee recommends a cost-benefit analysis of reassigning and/or hiring deputies to fill these vacancies as opposed to backfilling these positions using overtime.

2) Executive Administration Organizational Priorities & Enhancements – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 23 – Create and implement policies, protocols, and performance evaluation metrics that incentivize the transformation of law enforcement from a “guardian of public order” mentality to an “officer of peace” orientation. The Committee agrees with the establishment of the Office of Constitutional Policing as it will advance equity in law enforcement interactions and overall governance of LASD. Moreover, the Committee believes that the creation of a Chief Financial and Administrative Officer will facilitate the department’s ongoing mitigation efforts to ensure a balanced budget and provide direct support to the Sheriff in his administrative duties. Both proposed positions strengthen departmental oversight mechanisms and provide avenues for institutional oversight bodies like the Civilian Oversight Commission and the Office of Inspector General to undertake their responsibilities more effectively. This budget priority will help catalyze LASD’s transformation from “guardians of public order” to “officers of peace” because it underlies a commitment to transparency and accountability, which includes proper fiscal management.

3) Additional Academy Classes and Recruitment Funding – Alignment

The Committee agrees with this budget priority to the extent that it fills personnel gaps leading to the need for increases in overtime budgeting (as described in budget priority #1). While the Committee remains committed to advocating for a reduction in the jail population and eventual closure of certain jail facilities, the Committee recognizes the need for appropriate staffing in custody settings to meet the needs of people in custody and ensure compliance with regulatory and legislative mandates. Additionally, the recruitment and hiring of new deputies would reduce the need for increases in overtime budgets which cost the County far more and comprise a significant amount of LASD’s budget request. Moreover, the Committee believes that new recruits should be assigned to patrol duty and more seasoned deputies should be reassigned to custody duty to ensure that incoming personnel are not negatively conditioned by custody settings as described in Recommendation 17 – LASD must end the practice of assigning new deputies only to custody duty in jails.

4) Patrol/Countywide Operations Equipment – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 4 – Change State law to require law enforcement agencies to implement policies to exhaust all other acceptable measures, including self-identification, de-escalation techniques, and non-lethal tactics, before resorting to use-of-force. It is imperative that deputies are provided appropriate equipment to employ less-than-lethal and non-lethal options during incidents involving the use of force. A faulty outdated taser can lead to severe injuries which beyond causing personal harm, degrades public trust and increases the County’s liability. To this end, the Committee recommends an assessment of the tasers procured to replace current technologies to ensure that they are in fact less-lethal force options to avoid repeating incidents like the death of Keenan Anderson. Moreover, this budget priority is also in alignment with Recommendation 31 – Adopt and implement protocols to ensure timely release of footage to the public domain from body worn cameras and other surveillance technologies potentially used in

prosecution. By securing body worn cameras for all department personnel involved in patrol, custody, and special operations, LASD will ensure greater transparency of all law enforcement interactions. The synchronization of tasers and body worn cameras will also ensure appropriate use and documentation of incidents involving the use of force and reduce overall expenditures related to managing these technologies.

5) Technology Assessment – Alignment

The Committee agrees with this budget priority as this assessment is critical to ensure that future improvements to LASD's technology infrastructure are appropriate, effective, and capable of integration with current systems. The Committee recommends that the County's Chief Information Officer or designee also assess the use of any technology for surveillance purposes, and the capacity for current and future technologies to be used for surveillance purposes to ensure alignment with the LACCHR's report recommendations. Unregulated policing technologies and algorithmic artificial intelligence, especially when utilized for predictive surveillance, promote totalitarian methods for controlling populations which disrupt the fundamental relationship of trust between law enforcement and the people they serve. To this end, the Chief Information Officer should ensure alignment with Recommendation 29 – Eliminate the use of predictive surveillance technologies because they infringe upon County residents' privacy rights and expand law enforcement surveillance capabilities in violation of fundamental constitutional rights, and Recommendation 30 – Local governments should adopt ordinances to limit law enforcement surveillance by mandating community collaboration prior to the adoption of public safety technologies and producing a surveillance impact report to ensure they are not used for predictive surveillance purposes; if a law enforcement agency unilaterally adopts new technologies without public input, the respective local government should halt use of the technology and follow the aforementioned guidelines.

6) Custody Equipment (Multi-Year Plan) – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 4 – Change State law to require law enforcement agencies to implement policies to exhaust all other acceptable measures, including self-identification, de-escalation techniques, and non-lethal tactics, before resorting to use-of-force. It is imperative that deputies are provided appropriate equipment to employ less-than-lethal and non-lethal options during incidents involving the use of force. A faulty outdated taser can lead to severe injuries which beyond causing personal harm, degrades public trust and increases the County's liability. To this end, the Committee recommends an assessment of the tasers procured to replace current technologies to ensure that they are in fact less-lethal force options to avoid repeating incidents like the death of Keenan Anderson. Moreover, this budget priority is also in alignment with Recommendation 31 – Adopt and implement protocols to ensure timely release of footage to the public domain from body worn cameras and other surveillance technologies potentially used in prosecution. By securing body worn cameras for all department personnel involved in patrol, custody, and special operations, LASD will ensure greater transparency of all law enforcement interactions. The synchronization of tasers and body worn cameras will also ensure appropriate use and documentation of incidents involving the use of force and reduce overall expenditures related to managing these technologies.

7) Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Replacement Project – Alignment

The Committee agrees with this budget priority because replacement of Computer Aided Dispatch systems will ensure that LASD has the tools necessary to effectively coordinate law enforcement responses across the County. Considering the increase in natural disasters and mass shooting scenarios which require reliable communication between dispatchers and agents of public safety, it is

imperative that LASD has access to functional computer systems to efficiently deploy and coordinate resources in the field.

8) Mobile Radio Replacement – Alignment

The Committee agrees with this budget priority because an overhaul of mobile radio systems will ensure that LASD has the tools necessary to effectively coordinate law enforcement responses across the County. Considering the increase in natural disasters and mass shooting scenarios which require reliable communication between agents of public safety, it is imperative that LASD has access to functional radio systems to efficiently deploy and coordinate resources in the field.

9) Ongoing Structural Deficit in Employee Benefits (Phase 1 of 3-Year Plan) – Neutral

10) Station Custody Assistants (Phase 1 of 3-Year Plan) – Alignment

The Committee agrees with this budget priority to the extent that it fills personnel gaps leading to the need for increases in overtime budgeting (as described in budget priority #1). While the Committee remains committed to advocating for a reduction in the jail population and eventual closure of certain jail facilities, the Committee recognizes the need for appropriate staffing in custody settings to meet the needs of people in custody and ensure compliance with regulatory and legislative mandates.

11) Homeless Outreach Service Team (HOST) Expansion – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 26 – Increase capacity and number of co-response teams for responding to calls involving persons experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders, and mental health challenges. The Committee applauds LASD’s commitment to prioritizing co-responder models in addressing social challenges such as homelessness. While this budget priority aligns with the LACCHR’s report, the Committee recommends that the investments of funding to these co-response teams be increased significantly to support adequate personnel levels and resources for both law enforcement and non-law enforcement responders to ensure that the County’s public safety priorities with regards to alternatives to incarceration and diversion initiatives are met. Moreover, the Committee recommends that the Homeless Outreach Services Team should focus on achieving non-criminal justice-related outcomes such as linkages to housing and systems of care. To further curtail criminalization of the homeless community the lead agencies should include the Department of Public Health, Department of Health Services, and Department of Mental Health, with LASD serving in a supportive capacity. While the absence of encampments in high-visibility areas is often touted as an accomplishment, this does not correlate to people receiving the services they need to be housed and/or maintain their housing to truly address the challenge of homelessness in LA County.

12) Mental Evaluation Team (MET) Expansion – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 26 – Increase capacity and number of co-response teams for responding to calls involving persons experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders, and mental health challenges. The Committee applauds LASD’s commitment to prioritizing co-responder models in addressing social challenges such as mental health. While this budget priority aligns with the LACCHR’s report, the Committee recommends that the investments of funding to these co-response teams be increased significantly to support adequate personnel levels and resources for both law enforcement and non-law enforcement responders to ensure that the County’s public safety priorities with regards to alternatives to incarceration and diversion initiatives are met. Moreover, the Committee recommends that Mental Evaluation Teams should focus on achieving non-criminal justice-related outcomes such as linkages to supportive services and systems of care. To further curtail criminalization of people with mental health challenges the lead agencies should include the

Department of Public Health, Department of Health Services, and Department of Mental Health, with LASD serving in a supportive capacity.

UNMET NEEDS

1) Custody's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) System/Network Refresh – Alignment

The Committee agrees with the prioritization of this unmet need which would provide greater transparency of custody operations. Current CCTV systems in County jail facilities are considered obsolete as they provide low quality images and video recordings. By replacing these systems, LASD can more readily identify the distribution of contraband and law enforcement misconduct, and in turn close public trust deficits in custody operations.

2) Senate Bill 2 (SB2) Unit Staffing – Alignment

This unmet need aligns with Recommendation 2 – Change federal and state laws, in addition to local law enforcement policies, to end qualified immunity and provide public access to information about police officers involved in both complaint and misconduct investigations, including their prior history and the results of investigations. Transparency and accountability are cornerstones of 21st Century Policing, and as such by ensuring that LASD has the personnel capacity needed to comply with Senate Bill 2, the County can more readily work with CA POST to investigate and address law enforcement misconduct and abuse of power.

3) Unfunded Leaves of Absence Vacancy Overtime (IODs and RODs) – Neutral

4) Facilities Services Bureau (FSB) Maintenance, Replacement & Emergency Repairs – Neutral

5) Custody Body Scanners – Neutral

6) Enhancing Illegal Drug Detection in the Jails – Additional Overtime for K9 Handlers – Neutral

7) Youth Activity League (YAL) Programs – Partial Alignment

This unmet need is in alignment with Recommendation 13 – Increase police engagement in activities unrelated to enforcement that promote ongoing dialogue to humanize all public safety stakeholders; activities can include community events, urban gardens, recreational programming, and facilitated discussions which allow for the most vulnerable populations to safely speak directly to those with policing power. However, in recent years public opinion in impacted communities has shifted away from increasing police engagement with community members in activities unrelated to enforcement. The Committee recognizes that YAL programs exist in historically underserved communities in LA County, and that disruptions in these programs will negatively impact those communities, namely the lives of young people who rely on these programs for afterschool and extracurricular activities. The Committee recommends continued funding support for YAL programs as the County develops a plan of action to invest in supplanting these programs with community-based alternatives to youth programs. The County can leverage Youth Justice Reimagined, the Care First Community Investment Initiative, and the Youth Development Department to meet the needs of young people in underserved communities where YAL programs are the sole service providers. Further, the Committee recommends that the County work with LASD to implement appropriate data tracking systems and evaluation metrics to identify the social impact and quality of programming offered through YAL programs. This information should be made available to the public and leveraged to further investments in community-based alternatives. Whereas positive youth engagement with law enforcement supports recruitment efforts and trust building, it is far more beneficial to engage young

people in peer-led, community-based programs that are trauma-informed and grounded in a positive youth development framework.

8) Summer Crime Enforcement Program – Neutral

9) Ten (10) Diesel Powered Transportation Buses – No Alignment

The Committee does not agree with the prioritization of this unmet need. Considering County departments are advised to work towards implementation of the Countywide Sustainability Plan's goal for zero emissions by 2045, the Committee recommends that LASD procure zero emission buses instead of diesel-powered buses. LASD currently has 43 diesel powered buses in operable condition and can supplement these with a fleet of zero emission buses to begin working towards sustainability goals. While an investment in zero emission buses may lead to the procurement of less buses due to their cost, the County has committed to reducing the jail population thus reducing the need for the transportation of incarcerated people.

OPTIONAL

1. What is your name?

Isabelle Gunning

2. What is your email address?

parreola@hrc.lacounty.gov

3. Would you like to receive emails with meeting agendas, news releases & other Commission information?

Yes.

4. What is your phone number?

(213) 304-5480

5. What is your home zip code?

90020

6. Are you affiliated with an organization?

Yes.

7. Please list your organization.

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

8. What is your title or role with the organization?

Commissioner & Chair of Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations

What is your name?	Please provide your public comment on LASD's Public Safety Budget Priorities and Unmet Needs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (https://bit.ly/3JqCCcz).
Robert Ra	What is the COS doing to prevent a Tyre Nichols event from happening in Compton, or any LASD station? When I was a volunteer at LASD Compton in 2008-2010, 'some', and I emphasize, 'some' deputies would come to work with the attitude "today we're going to get em". It is a fact that the majority of calls for service do not need a bunch of deputies with guns to respond. Does Compton need an OSS unit? Yes, but what is the attitude of the members of that unit? LASD needs to promote more "COMMUNITY POLICING", and do away with their aggressive approach attitude. As a volunteer I spent a lot of time in community relations, interacting with the community, and it was very effective. I do not see that interaction today. Let's demand some changes, and, accountability for bad actors.
NICO NAPO	DEFUND..... GESTAPO KILLERS! Please allocate the funds to deescalate dangerous situations in communities of color as done in white communities.
Robert Ray	I would like to see less funding for programs like OSS and more funding for Community Policing. The Community Relations departments need to be increased with more involvement from VOP's and Explorers. The majority of calls for service do not require a bunch of deputies with guns to respond.
LESLIE WARREN	YES I DO THINK WE NEED TO GIVE MORE TO THE LASD. WE DONT GIVE THEM ENOUGH CONSIDERING WHAT THE HAVE TO DEAL WITH ON THE STREETS AND ALL THESES POLICY AND EQUITY THEY PUT ON THEM
Del	You should have psychologist on-call 24/7.
	I would like to see 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 funded by re-prioritizing and streamlining the budget, rather than enlarging the budget. I wonder about 3, 6, 8, and 9 as priorities.
	I support funding for mental and human services as a priority; such as the MET and HOST programs. But I do not support more funding for LASD.
tim mellin	I don't have any specific comments; rather, general ones. I am a retired L.A. County DHS employee off 34 yrs; ditto SEIU member. I suggest you get w/ the County / City Unions / on this process, because they're the ones whose feet are on the ground / in the trenches. Just before retiring, I got on the eligible list for L.A. County Sheriff's Dept job spec: Community Services Asst, also lists for Public Info. Officer for County Fire Dept. and Dept. of Parks / Rec. I currently am on a Citizens' Oversight Committee for utilization / needs / of available funds from defunct 710 Fwy. project: now allocated to abutting communities. I was appointed to same by my City Councilman's office. That having been said, feel free to contact me and / or my contacts if you want my / our / input into anything you are working on. Thanks.....Tim Mellin...../ timconsultme@hotmail.com
Jess Mendoza	Instead of increasing the OT budget, hire fresh bodies. Your putting mentally, physically, unhealthy deputies to work as they are working 12,14,16 hours ultimately leading to OIS and incidents in the jail and in the community. Secondly, if deputies cannot meet the height and weight standards release them of duty since they are unfit. If a deputy cannot pass a mental evaluation or random drug test "relieve them of duty." All these approaches help with the overall budget.
Myesha Lopez	Funding need to be redirected from law enforcement, including weapon, new technology and hiring police and applied to mental health and social services. Housing and community services and healing needs to prioritize. Racial justice and equity must be first on the list.
Valentin Gomez	To me adding cadets and recruiting is the most important priority that the LASD needs to resolve. This will affect LA County for decades as the last few years low hiring will affect tomorrows LASD administrators, trainers, etc.
Ms Crayon	Youth programs are in high demand at the police level. Why are there NOT collaborations with organizations that can partner with the sheriff's department to implement behavioral intervention courses to address youth deviance?
Ted Trembinski	I'd like to see a reduction across all funds, specifically in recruitment funding, a total reduction in purchasing tasers, a complete cutting of the technology assessment, a reduction of funding for BWC (which according to this study from the National Institute of Justice, which states "A comprehensive review of 70 studies of body-worn cameras use found that the larger body of research on body-worn

cameras showed no consistent or no statistically significant effects.”

<https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/research-body-worn-cameras-and-law-enforcement>), a reduction in employee benefits, the complete cutting of HOST (LASD has no place in homeless outreach services), a complete cutting of MET (similarly LASD should not be interacting with people suffering mental health crises), a reduction of CCTV network refresh (the further criminalization of those already incarcerated re: drug offenses should not be a \$38M priority), the cutting of K9 handlers overtime (same reason), and the complete cutting of YAL programs - LASD should not be in direct contact with youths in the community.

LASD has no business working with individuals experiencing houselessness or mental health crises or any one else in a possibly vulnerable state. Funds need to be pulled from LASD to unarmed mental health and crisis responders. LASD also has no business working with youth. LASD is a harmful agency whose budget needs to be severely reduced to keep them from further harming communities and to reinvest money in unarmed departments and services that really help people and prevent crime: employment assistance, affordable housing, health clinics, mental health services, and other community resources.

Trudy

11. Homeless Outreach Service Team. Could we copy Finland homeless policy ? No one sleep in the street of Helsinki. Their policy : Housing first, is in you tube, google. No Hotel, is a waste of \$. Then they send social worker and mental health worker. Overtime they work and contribute paying rent partially. I am willing to volunteer on this.

The County of Los Angeles and the Civilian Oversight Commission (CoC) should NOT increase the budget of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). The LASD should divert its funding internally rather than seek additional funding from the County's General Fund Reserves or any other source of funding. The LASD should look into reducing its salaries and benefits for its employees so that it can address other areas of the department that are 'underfunded'. The LASD should practice better financial management and not keep wasting tax-payers money.

1. Decrease all overtime.
2. No “enhancements” in Administration.
3. No additional training; need to review all training to see where the deficiency or changes need to Be.
4. No increased patrolling. Will actively practice new forms of patrolling.
5. County will use its tech department to assess technology in the Sheriff's department.
- 6., 7., & 8. This is an internal issue and the SD can find the money else where. Not a priority. As Strong Mayor, I would personally want to see what the issues are and why it's needs to be funded for upgrades.
9. Not a priority!
10. Not a priority!
11. & 12. May not Be a priority. As Strong mayor I'd want to see and know why the expansion, but it would not Be a priority!

As a voting citizen, I would need more details on 1-12, however, from what I have read, this budget priorities, if I was the Strong Mayor of Los Angeles County I would not approve this nor would I want voting citizens to approve this Budget.

I'd rather not have a budget than pass this one. The county has an issue with department infrastructure, i. e. fixing or replacing outdated equipment, paying for extended contractual obligations, etc.

This budget priorities tells me a lot about the strength of LAC budget as well. LAC engages in wasteful spending, because of a lack of technological advanced equipment for example. Most of this budget is about fixing and replacing equipment.

I have 20 years exp managing contracts and budgets.

Farren

	LAC needs a strong mayor to stop the waste across county departments.
	Farren Oglesby, DM, MBA, GW, LSSOB
Erick Jason Medal	I am in favor of optimizing 11. (Host) Team and the 12. (MET) Team everything else is irrelevant. We continue to see that money resources training and reforming does not assist in the building of a public safety environment for our Brown and Black communities! These LASD gang deputies continue to use any money we give them for targeting harassing and violating our constitutional right!!! Example: Rapper Feezy Lebron 50 million lawsuit against LASD. LASD just killed a mentally ill amputee human being who was going through mental issues and killed him in Huntington Park! and LASD continues to pull people over pulls them out of their car and searches their cars without any consent! why should we continue to focus on any other budget priority items on the list when LASD and everyone around this nation we continue how targeting, harassment and violation of constitutional rights continues to be a slowly built up of an outcome no one will like! start being creative and come up with alternatives where LASD gang deputies will not be a part of an everyday routine that is becoming more and more dangerous for everyone! if you are going approve and allocate money, use it for public safety purposes only not to target, harass, violate and kill human beings! STOP KILLING HUMAN BEINGS! people are slowly building up that rage that will boil to a real civil war confrontation! stop doing/using the same old tactics that everyone in this country knows! and listen to what the people are saying! one year a half passed after the murder of George Floyd by police, and we are back again and further back with the killing of Tyre Nichols by police! stop mis using our tax dollars! find alternatives and focus solemnly on public safety! I see LASD gang deputies sitting in their SUV all over L.A, County I see LASD gang deputies pull youngsters over pulls them out and search their property! stop that! public safety is what we need not over policing!!! I don't know if you or LASD will never learn from Rodney King, George Floyd, and now Tyre Nichols! people are tired of the same old same old! Expand money only for item 11 and 12.
Jayme	DIVEST FROM POLICING AND INCARCERATION.
	Vehicle computers need to be upgraded. Work with local Cities for more Sub-station(s) in the Antelope Valley. More Deputies. MORE DEPUTIES. More Deputies in the Antelope Valley. There are many deputies that are being overworked and their physical and mental health are at risk.
	Take a look at the fleet of vehicles for the deputies and replace the old ones out!
Elvisfile	The LASD needs to be properly funded to be able to staff its contracts and provide a safe citizen to cop ratio. And unarmed Public Safety Ambassadors (Civilians) are not the answer. We need more sworn cops on transit and responding to the increase in crime in our cities the LASD patrols.
	Please more law enforcement support for large unincorporated areas Hacienda heights. Increase in vehicle burglaries and theft and residential burglaries. Sheriff Response times in unincorporated are increasing.
Robert Ray	LASD needs to increase "Community Relations". I was a volunteer at Compton 2008-2010 and volunteers did a lot. DUI checkpoints, gun buy backs, I worked in traffic filing citations, and in property & evidence logging in guns after a buy back. Volunteers and Explorers did a lot back then, and WE DID NOT COST THE COUNTY ANY MONEY! Volunteers on Patrol would do residential vacation checks, and, I was authorized to issue parking citations to cars parked in handicap spaces without proper plates or placards. And, I repeat, I DID NOT GET PAID!
Daphne Bradford	We need to approve Senate Bill 2 Unit Staffing. District 2, Ladera Heights and Marina del Rey residents and businesses need 2-3 additional patrol units/cars.
I prefer not to give my name but I will give you my email address.	First, I would like to thank you for a very important and detailed work that you do. My questions/comments are based on a review of budget documents available on your website. I think more time needs to be spent evaluating HOST and MET to make sure they are operating efficiently. In the 23-24 budget, it appears you are increasing the HOST budget by a very large amount and giving MET (the 24-hour operation) only a small budget increase. Homeless Outreach Teams

During the previous election, I listened to most of the community presentations, made by then Sheriff Alex Villanueva. He and his staff stated many times that they had expanded the Homeless Teams by over 20 teams even though he stated it was not budgeted. I assume this means staff was transferred from other assignments (patrol, etc) so that he could accomplish his homeless cleanup promises in places like Venice Beach and Olivera Street (non-LA County). It is my understanding that HOST is not a 24-hour operation.

1. In the 22-23 proposed budget the Sheriff requested 25 positions to expand the Homeless Teams at a cost of \$6,772,000. It appears this request was not approved and that in the final budget funding for only one additional team was approved and funded by intra fund transfers and revenue adjustments.
2. In the 23-24 proposed budget the new Sheriff requested the addition of 2 positions at a cost of \$10.2 million dollars. The description states this is an addition of 28 positions but does not discuss what positions are being added (other than the 2 non-sworn) (rank, etc). Exactly what positions are being added? Previous documents stated that HOST teams are staffed with one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, and four Deputies. If this is correct, it seems like over-staffing to have a Lieutenant on each team. Also, what equipment is required for these positions, do they share vehicles, or do they have take home cars? If they are not a 24-hour response team, it seems like they should be able to share vehicles.
3. Lastly, given the shortage of sworn positions, why not explore creating an alternate response model that requires fewer sworn positions and therefore a lower cost. The core mission of LASD is to protect and serve all residents of Los Angeles County. Deputies should not be cleaning homeless encampments – that is not what they are trained to do. The current Sheriff has stated many times that patrol staff are working mandatory overtime and to me that put the public and the deputies at risk. I believe there should be a in depth review of what work the Homeless teams are doing to determine it could be reorganized to be more efficient and save money.

Mental Evaluation Team

The 2023-24 request from the Sheriff's department states MET is a 24-hour operation (3 shifts) that covers the entire County with 34 teams with only one Lieutenant and 3 Sergeants for field responses. Is this staffing adequate to cover the entire county? In the past the COC has supported increasing MET staffing to improve response time. Has that increase in staff happened? From a risk management standpoint, it makes sense to increase these teams who have special training in de-escalation and who can be a valuable resource in preventing unnecessary uses of force. Another idea would be to expand MET and have them respond to special cleanups that are probably scheduled ahead of time. When they are not doing that, they could respond to regular MET calls for service.

LASD's budget should not be funded through exploitation of families. LASD needs to stop soliciting and entering into contracts that generate "revenue" for its budget by charging incarcerated people and their loved ones burdensome fees to stay connected and by price-gouging on commissary. The Board already passed a motion in 2021 to remove these financial burdens from families, so LASD should not continue to impose them. The County budget should provide for free phone calls in LA County jails; this would require a miniscule portion – less than half of a percent -- of LASD's budget: less than a third of the amount LASD is demanding for additional Tasers, less than the amount budgeted for counterproductive law enforcement responses to homelessness and community mental health needs that should be led by service providers instead. Research shows that the inability to maintain robust communication with parents harms the physical and mental health of children of incarcerated people, and that maintaining family connections is crucial for successful reentry. It is offensive that LASD is requesting millions for its deputies to host "youth activities" while placing financial strain on parents and caregivers and refusing to fund the means for youth and their own families to stay connected.

Hassen Bashir

...Marina del Rey Sportfishing, with Millions of dollars worth of boats and equipment located on Fiji Way literally next door to MdR Sheriff's Station Requests and Suggests the addition of MORE DEPUTIES to the MdR Station.

Rick Oefinger

In just the past year, we've experienced at least two break-ins with the loss of several thousands of dollars worth of equipment, have had vehicles, both employees and Customers vandalized.

We will annually take up wards of 40,000 people from the world around out on our excursions, and incidents of passengers being approached and bothered at Dock 52 by vagrants are becoming more and more common.

The addition of More Deputies, hence more Aggressive Patrols and Enforcement cannot help but Decrease the Crime that's flourishing here in The Marina.

...Remember, Everyone, regardless of where they're from, will go home and share their experience here in Marina del Rey and the Last thing we need is for that story to be one of having been Accosted, Vandalized,..or worse.

Rick Oefinger, President

Marina del Rey Sportfishing,Inc

BROWN LIVES MATTER BLACK LIVES MATTER! Wedo not need to fund the LASD gang organization, why do continue to do this! This gang member organization continues to harass, target, violate constitutional rights, kill, lie, cover up, and pyritizes only their needs not the needs of what the communities need! I continue to say that every day after work I see these deputy gang members sitting on their SUV while I am working all day long! I see them driving around our streets for no reason at all! people are not afraid of their presence anywhere! why because they LASD GANGS have decided to continue to wage war on the communities they work for! Money should be explicitly only for public safety issues only! Just last month in Huntington Park LASD Gang deputies shot a black man who was a double amputee with a knife! how brave is that? how patriotic is that? how honorable is that? Is not those F! deputies just condemn their lives here on earth and after they pass it will continue and get worst! This F! organization does not believe in humanity so why should we continue to support their ways! Anthony Lowe was his name a mentally ill man. LASD gang deputies lied saying that he was launching at them with a knife COWARDS!!! the video always shows the truth! because time and time again this LASD gang member organization continues to lie. We civilians encounter a mentally ill guy during our marches and protest after George Floyd murder! did we kill him? no! they bear mased the guy took the knife away, the guy started crying and they even gave him aid by supplying water! that bravery! that's humanity! So once again why do we continue to try and support this LASD gang member organization when they have not learned anything! lawsuits lost, murders by LASD, cover ups! lies and more lies! ITs time to only give them enough and the necessary tools! If LASD gang member organization continues to mis use money from the asked or proposed items needed, we need to slash and live it at that! People are tired of the same abuse, war tactics, lies, scariness, and overaction of anything and everything! I propose that this body starts working on alternatives to policing and do not allow this organization to apart of homelessness outreach that is for an honest humanitarian group to be involve in that process! In addition, Mental evaluation teams should only be handled with everyday civilians not killer, liars, corrupt kkkops! Item 7, 8, and 9 should not be funded at all! The money should come out of their budget because every time this organization messes up, they have to be held responsible for their actions! We cannot continue to support a failed organization! I feel safer walking in Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua than here in Compton, South Gate, and Lynwood because every hour there is a f! kkkop car driving around for what!? I said it many times use drones' cameras and other means where you are not paying rogue condemn kkkops who will destroy our communities by committing crimes against our humanity! stop funding this LASD GANG ORGANIZATION! Brown Lives matter Black Lives Matter!

Erick Jason
Medal

As a property manager overseeing 597 rental units in Marina del Rey (Pearl Apartments), I receive consistent feedback from our tenants wanting increased police patrol in the area.

We have had countless instances of theft over the last few years, the majority of which goes unreported to the police. Just in the last several weeks, we have had car break-ins, vandalism of vehicles, along with near daily trespassing and package theft issues.

Our tenants are familiar with the laws surrounding theft and feel reporting each incident is a waste of their time. Those committing theft also know there is little to no penalty associated with the crime.

Joel Shannon

These offenders most often have more serious criminal records, leaving them with little to nothing to

	<p>lose by stealing anything they access. They also often have an abundance of time to monitor residential areas, looking for vulnerabilities.</p> <p>While the laws surrounding theft do need to be revised, in the immediate future, increased police patrol will allow law enforcement to monitor more ground and deter those seeking to commit theft against law abiding citizens.</p>
Shaunessey Kissen	<p>I oversee Breakwater apartments in Marina del Rey. In the last 6 months we have received 22 reports of theft and 21 reports of trespassing at our community. This is only what was reported to our leasing office.</p> <p>The majority of this goes unreported to the police. Our tenants are familiar with the laws surrounding theft and feel reporting each incident is a waste of their time. Those committing theft also know there is little to no penalty associated with the crime. These offenders most often have more serious criminal records, leaving them with little to nothing to lose by stealing anything they access. They also often have an abundance of time to monitor residential areas, looking for vulnerabilities.</p> <p>While the laws surrounding theft do need to be revised, in the immediate future, increased police patrol will allow law enforcement to monitor more ground and deter those seeking to commit theft against law abiding citizens.</p>
Alex	<p>As a property manager overseeing 725 rental units in Marina del Rey, I receive consistent feedback from our tenants wanting increased police patrol in the area.</p> <p>Based on direct feedback from our tenants, we have experienced over 40 cases of theft in the last 90 days. These cases include theft of motorcycles, bicycles, delivered packages and automotive break ins.</p> <p>We have had countless instances of theft over the last few years, the majority of which goes unreported to the police. Our tenants are familiar with the laws surrounding theft and feel reporting each incident is a waste of their time. Those committing theft also know there is little to no penalty associated with the crime. These offenders most often have more serious criminal records, leaving them with little to nothing to lose by stealing anything they access. They also often have an abundance of time to monitor residential areas, looking for vulnerabilities.</p> <p>While the laws surrounding theft do need to be revised, in the immediate future, increased police patrol will allow law enforcement to monitor more ground and deter those seeking to commit theft against law abiding citizens.</p>
Janet Zaldua	<p>February 28, 2023</p> <p>County of Los Angeles, Civilian Oversight Commission World Trade Center 350 S. Figueroa St. Suite 288 Los Angeles, CA 90071</p> <p>RE: L.A. County Sheriff Department's FY 2023-24 Recommended Budget Request, submitted electronically</p> <p>Dear Honorable Commissioners,</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of Marina del Rey's tourism and hospitality sector located in District 2. We respectfully request that you approve the LASD's FY 2023-24 recommended budget request, especially as this budget impacts the Marina del Rey Sheriff station's need for additional deputies.</p> <p>The Marina del Rey Tourism Board is the official destination marketing organization for Marina del Rey. We represent the visitor and tourism industries in the unincorporated area of Marina del Rey and</p>

promote the Marina as a destination for travel through advertising, promotion, and outreach. Each year, Marina del Rey welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors, including local Los Angeles County residents as well as in-state, out-of-state and international visitors to enjoy water recreation, waterfront dining, hotel accommodations, and free access to the Los Angeles coast.

The Marina del Rey Sheriffs' station is critical in ensuring the safety and well-being of our hospitality workers, local visitors, overnight tourists, residents, and business owners in the Marina. Regrettably, our community has seen an increase in violent crime over the past two years. Our hotel and restaurant staff encounter regular occurrences involving unhoused individuals suffering from mental health or substance abuse issues. The Marina del Rey Sheriff's station previously had Care-First deputies assigned to address these situations. These deputies were assigned specifically to occurrences requiring crisis-intervention and provided referrals to mental health and other supportive services. We hope funding for these specially trained deputies will return and will be included in the next annual budget.

Our tourism community relies heavily on the assistance and support of our local Sheriff's team to address and respond to emergencies, crime and quality-of-life disturbances. Decreased patrol units are negatively impacting not only the Marina, but also Ladera Heights, View Park, and Windsor Hills—all communities served by the Marina del Rey Sheriff's station.

Marina del Rey's tourism sector sincerely values the Marina del Rey Sheriff's Station and the leadership of Captain Keith C. Harrison and his dedicated team who serve the Marina. We respectfully request the Commission approve LASD's FY 2023-24 recommended budget so that additional deputies are assigned to support public safety for our small but thriving tourism community.

Sincerely,

Janet Zaldua
CEO, Marina del Rey Tourism Board

The County previously approved 38 deputy positions that have not yet been budgeted. Of those 38 positions, two deputies were specifically allotted for the Marina del Rey Sheriff's Station. Our office/medical property has experienced an increase in criminal acts that include a break-in into the building and into a tenant's office, and we've had an increase in trespassing by homeless persons/transients. Many incidents on our property have not been reported to the authorities and as a result, crime statistics of the Sheriff's Department most likely do not fully reflect what is happening in our community.

We urge the Commission to advocate for the Board of Supervisors to adhere to previous commitments and approve the funding in the budget for the additional patrol deputies. The two deputies assigned to the Marina station will serve all neighborhoods within the station's jurisdiction, not just Marina del Rey.

Susan Laury Thank you for your consideration.

Anthony Arenas Hello, my name is Anthony Arenas in SD 3. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

Anthony Arenas I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on closing MCJ!!!

Jeremy Hartman Hello, my name is Jeremy Hartman with JusticeLA Now in the city of LA. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on...just about anything. We should be prioritizing education, mental health, and housing over policing. Policing doesn't work to stop crime, and without addressing the root causes of crime and homelessness, we'll never be out of the mess we're in. By moving money from LASD to early education, we can keep kids out of the schools to prisons pipeline. By prioritizing mental health care, we can be sure that people who are having mental health events or need help aren't being attacked and killed by police, but are getting the help they need to be productive and healthy members of society. By prioritizing housing, unhoused folks can have a permanent address and a roof over their heads so they can focus on working on their root causes of their houslessness.

There is no need for more police or more police budget. Police don't protect the public.

Thank you

Hello, my name is Dylan, and I'm with Justice LA. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

Dylan

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on closing MCJ to redistribute funds toward rehabilitation services for at risk youth.

Hello, my name is Axeen James with JusticeLA, Los Angeles, District 2. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on affordable housing for our unhoused residents; mental health services that focus on healing, not institutionalization & certainly not prison environments; schools and libraries and parks; public transportation; and public health in general. The LASD budget is so large, this money could go a long way to getting at the root of the struggles the people of LA county have.

Axeen James

Hello, my name is J.Stephen Brantley with Justice LA. I live in Burbank, in District 5. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on things that actually prevent crime, minimize exposure to law enforcement, and keep people out of jail - housing, healthcare, harm reduction including safe consumption sites, access to mental health services including expansion of the ODR and MIST programs, restorative justice, vocational training and jobs, and community investment.

Coninuing to invest in our failed carceral system is not only a colossal waste of taxpayer money, it perpetuates the very cycles of violence it is meant to interrupt. IT DOESN'T WORK. It is time to begin to dismantle this framework and invest in something new that might actually keep communities safe instead of tearing them apart.

J.Stephen
Brantley

Sincerely,
J.Stephen Brantley

Hello, my name is Axeen James with in county district 2. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

Axeen James

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men’s Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD’s proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

LASD is requesting additional funding for JMET assigned to Custody Compliance and Sustainability Bureau and additional staff for Moderate Observation Housing (MOH) units inside of MCJ to address the increased MOH population inside of L.A. County jails. LASD has proven time and time again that the department is neither qualified nor willing to provide the care and support for those suffering from mental health issues inside of the jails. It would be safer to decarcerate the nearly 6,000 people to community-based mental health care models. Further, Correctional Health Services (CHS) has consistently rejected the idea of housing MOH or High Observation Housing (HOH) individuals at MCJ. I recommend the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors that community-based services are needed here, not additional MOH and HOH staff.

LASD is requesting \$10 million dollars for its Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) program. Each year, LASD requests more and more funding for HOST, and we see the same results: increases in use of force against unhoused populations, LASD’s failure to connect individuals to meaningful service opportunities, and continued surveillance and harassment of unhoused communities. I suggest that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD’s HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA’s unhoused community members.

LASD needs to stop soliciting and entering into contracts that generate “revenue” for its budget by charging incarcerated people and their loved ones burdensome fees to stay connected and mark-ups on commissary. The Board of Supervisors already passed a motion in 2021 to remove these financial burdens from families, so LASD’s budget should not continue to rely on them. I suggest that the Commission reject LASD’s presentation of “youth activities” funding as an unmet need and recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County budget reflect a shift away from exploiting families impacted by incarceration for profit.

It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department’s budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD’s funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Danielle Carne from District 1. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD’s budget priorities and unmet needs.

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Sherry Varon

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Ruby Condon with Los Angeles. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on systems of community care, such as affordable housing, mental health care, jobs creation, public schooling, etc.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

Ruby condon

LASD is requesting additional funding for JMET assigned to Custody Compliance and Sustainability Bureau and additional staff for Moderate Observation Housing (MOH) units inside of MCJ to address the increased MOH population inside of L.A. County jails. LASD has proven time and time again that the department is neither qualified nor willing to provide the care and support for those suffering from mental health issues inside of the jails. It would be safer to decarcerate the nearly 6,000 people to community-based mental health care models. Further, Correctional Health Services (CHS) has consistently rejected the idea of housing MOH or High Observation Housing (HOH) individuals at MCJ. I recommend the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors that community-based services are needed here, not additional MOH and HOH staff.

LASD is requesting \$10 million dollars for its Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) program. Each year, LASD requests more and more funding for HOST, and we see the same results: increases in use of force against unhoused populations, LASD's failure to connect individuals to meaningful service opportunities, and continued surveillance and harassment of unhoused communities. I suggest that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members.

LASD needs to stop soliciting and entering into contracts that generate "revenue" for its budget by charging incarcerated people and their loved ones burdensome fees to stay connected and mark-ups on commissary. The Board of Supervisors already passed a motion in 2021 to remove these financial burdens from families, so LASD's budget should not continue to rely on them. I suggest that the Commission reject LASD's presentation of "youth activities" funding as an unmet need and recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County budget reflect a shift away from exploiting families impacted by incarceration for profit.

It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Mya Hendrix with Reimagine L.A. and I'm a resident of District 2. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

LASD's budget could be better spent on reducing the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Mya Hendrix

community-based mental health care models. Further, Correctional Health Services (CHS) has consistently rejected the idea of housing MOH or High Observation Housing (HOH) individuals at MCJ. I recommend the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors that community-based services are needed here, not additional MOH and HOH staff.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives

Hello, my name is Jessica Erker (Los Angeles, District 1). I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since the fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension, the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Hannah Kazim and I live in Long Beach, district Four . I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on mental health care, actual health care, and alternatives to incarceration.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Hannah

opportunities, and continued surveillance and harassment of unhoused communities. I suggest that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Bri Price with Justice LA. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on community services such as permanent supportive housing and reentry services to assist with job and housing acquisition.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives

Hello, my name is Diana Arterian and I live in Atwater Village, Los Angeles. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on almost anything other than where the money is going now. Considering the circumstances, setting up programs to aid those most harmed by representatives of LASD and helping to foster a sense of safety (not policing) would be ideal.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Hello, my name is Gillian Zwick, district 1 (90065). I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department’s budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD’s funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Urzulo Glaviano and I am a resident of CD1. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD’s budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD’s budget could be better spent on public services and the infrastructure to implement said services.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men’s Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD’s proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Glaviano

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Ashley Locke. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Ashley Locke

Hello, my name is Amélie Cherlin in Los Angeles County District 3. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of the Thursday, March 2, Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

The County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support these recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Kelly Young, I live in Los Angeles, and I'm writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on programs and services that actually keep our communities safe, such as: pretrial diversion, permanent supportive housing, mental health treatment, employment and youth development programs, and substance use treatment programs.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County

Kelly Young

jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

LASD is requesting additional funding for JMET assigned to Custody Compliance and Sustainability Bureau and additional staff for Moderate Observation Housing (MOH) units inside of MCJ to address the increased MOH population inside of L.A. County jails. LASD has proven time and time again that the department is neither qualified nor willing to provide the care and support for those suffering from mental health issues inside of the jails. It would be safer to decarcerate the nearly 6,000 people to community-based mental health care models. Further, Correctional Health Services (CHS) has consistently rejected the idea of housing MOH or High Observation Housing (HOH) individuals at MCJ. I recommend the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors that community-based services are needed here, not additional MOH and HOH staff.

LASD is requesting \$10 million dollars for its Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) program. Each year, LASD requests more and more funding for HOST, and we see the same results: increases in use of force against unhoused populations, LASD's failure to connect individuals to meaningful service opportunities, and continued surveillance and harassment of unhoused communities. I suggest that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members.

LASD needs to stop soliciting and entering into contracts that generate "revenue" for its budget by charging incarcerated people and their loved ones burdensome fees to stay connected and mark-ups on commissary. The Board of Supervisors already passed a motion in 2021 to remove these financial burdens from families, so LASD's budget should not continue to rely on them. I suggest that the Commission reject LASD's presentation of "youth activities" funding as an unmet need and recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County budget reflect a shift away from exploiting families impacted by incarceration for profit.

It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Victoria Friesen, and I live in South Pasadena. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on youth programs, services for unhoused residents that do not involve police, and improving public transit.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to move swiftly towards decarceration of the jail population through proven community diversion programs, such as those of the Office of Diversion and

Victoria
Friesen

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Hello, my name is Jayme Kusyk with JusticeLA. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Jayme Kusyk

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Zoe and I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

The money we waste on LASD could be better spent on free food programs, permanent supportive housing, harm reduction services, community healthcare, freedom schools and so much more. This money belongs to the community and services that actually keep us safe.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Hello, my name is Susan Anderson with supervisorial district 1 and JusticeLA. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on providing community resources to those who are on need of housing, mental and medical health services, caseworkers and job training. Currently our tax dollars are not meeting human needs. Let's provide our community members with the best care. To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Susan
Anderson

year, LASD requests more and more funding for HOST, and we see the same results: increases in use of force against unhoused populations, LASD's failure to connect individuals to meaningful service opportunities, and continued surveillance and harassment of unhoused communities. I suggest that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Christy Lambertson, and I live in County District 3 and City Council District 11. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Since 2011, the jail budget and number of LASD employees has increased, while the jail population has decreased by 5%, and yet the conditions at Men's Central Jail remain atrocious. The Board promised to close MCJ in 2020, and it is clear that LASD is completely incapable of addressing the issues there, so now is the time for the Board to follow through on community-based alternatives, instead of giving a perennially corrupt and scandal-plagued department even more money.

Now, LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). Instead, I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding and encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Lani
Engstrom Hello, my name is Lani. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs. I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on health care, job opportunities, and housing. To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget

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Katie
Edgerton

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I am a resident of West Torrance, and I am against a budget increase for LASD. I would like my taxpayer dollars to go towards services and programs that actually keep the community safe. LASD does not keep us safe—they spend a lot of money every year to terrorize marginalized communities and only cause violence which begets more violence. Rather than throwing money away on the purely violent and unhelpful response system of LASD, I would like to invest those dollars in things like better funded public education throughout the county, non-carceral rehabilitation programs, unarmed mental health crisis responders, and so much more. If your vision is for a safer LA County, let's look for alternatives to throwing away more money on LASD.

Hello, my name is Theo Zucker with Justice LA. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of the Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

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Theo Zucker

opportunities, and continued surveillance and harassment of unhoused communities. I suggest that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion of affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members.

LASD needs to stop soliciting and entering into contracts that generate "revenue" for its budget by marking up commissary prices and charging incarcerated people and their loved ones burdensome fees to stay connected. The Board of Supervisors already passed a motion in 2021 to remove these financial burdens from families, so LASD's budget should not continue to rely on them. I suggest that the Commission reject LASD's presentation of "youth activities" funding as an unmet need and recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County budget reflect a shift away from exploiting families impacted by incarceration for profit.

It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Thank you,
Theo Zucker

Hello, my name is Nick and I'm a resident of District 1. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on...

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LASD is requesting additional funding for JMET assigned to Custody Compliance and Sustainability Bureau and additional staff for Moderate Observation Housing (MOH) units inside of MCJ to address the increased MOH population inside of L.A. County jails. LASD has proven time and time again that the department is neither qualified nor willing to provide the care and support for those suffering from mental health issues inside of the jails. It would be safer to decarcerate the nearly 6,000 people to community-based mental health care models. Further, Correctional Health Services (CHS) has consistently rejected the idea of housing MOH or High Observation Housing (HOH) individuals at MCJ. I recommend the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors that community-based services are needed here, not additional MOH and HOH staff.

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Nick Gauger

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Liz Logsdon and I'm a citizen of Los Angeles County. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department’s budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD’s funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Kindly,
Liz Logsdon

Hello, my name is Jessamy Gloor in Pasadena. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD’s budget priorities and unmet needs.

LASD has proved time and again that they cannot be trusted with this money.

I believe LASD’s budget could be better spent on programs that actually help our communities, like food, housing, healthcare, education, the arts, infrastructure--you name it.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men’s Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD’s proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Jessamy
Gloor

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department’s budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD’s funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Melissa Butts, resident of Los Angeles, 90004. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD’s budget priorities and unmet needs.

I strongly feel that to reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since the fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension, the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men’s Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD’s use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD’s proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Melissa Butts

Commission reject LASD's presentation of "youth activities" funding as an unmet need and recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County budget reflect a shift away from exploiting families impacted by incarceration for profit.

It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Lizabeth Belli with Justice LA, LA County. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on mental health care and community based services.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Tara with Justice LA. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

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Tara

I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

I recommend the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors that community-based services are needed

here, not additional MOH and HOH staff.

I would like the Commission to recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members before any more money is approved for the HOST program.

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A concerned citizen from District 5

You have all the evidence at your fingertips of LASD waste and misuse of taxpayer dollars. There should be zero budget increases until there is accountability for the widespread misconduct in the department. LASD should pay for their own misconduct (all court costs, settlements, etc) until LASD is financially responsible they will not stop killing and harming our community members. LASD out of homeless outreach, they only cause more trauma to our most vulnerable neighbors. LASD out of mental health response. There should be zero LASD response without MET on the scene. LASD needs to be removed from all mental health response.

LASD's budget would be better spent investing in systems that truly keep us safe. Invest in universal needs (such as housing, jobs, & childcare) pandemic recovery, & built environment. Reinvesting in communities OVER police isn't radical: social scientists and public health experts have proven that investment in the community decreases crime and the need for police.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Lynne Moses with Justice LA Now. I live in Studio City, County District 3. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on mental health services in healthcare settings, housing and services for the homeless provided by specialists in the field, investment in the courts to speed trials and reduce the number of people waiting in jails, on education and economic opportunity in disadvantaged neighborhoods, on rehab and other substance abuse recovery programs, on re-entry programs to reduce recidivism, and other programs designed to reduce crime before it happens. The benefits will be fewer crime victims, more would-be criminals who are productive members of society, fewer incarcerated people for the county's taxpayers to support and fewer taxpayer dollars wasted on costly settlements over LASD's misdeeds.

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Lynne Moses

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Knowing that the Civilian Oversight Committee has confirmed that Deputy Gangs and Gang-like behaviour dominate training and Overtime would it be best to implement a form of oversight over funding for hiring, training and Overtime before giving more power to the Deputy Gangs? Wouldn't adding more overtime and deputies add to the current deputy ganglike behaviour and empower it so it stays forever?

What is the plan to get rid of Deputy Gangs and Gang-like behaviour? Can you limit Overtime and adding new deputies till you curb the influence of Deputy Gangs and Gang-like behaviour?

Seeing deputy gangs and gang like behavior regularly schedule Senior deputies to make more than a captain's salary by adding over \$10,000 a month in easy overtime averaging over \$200,000 per year in salary isn't it a good use of county funds to curb the deputy gangs before adding any more funding

Hello, my name is Caroline Lacy and I am a constituent of District 2 in LA County. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on programs working to prepare people for their time after being locked up. Resources and education have shown to help actually rehabilitate people instead of the current incarceration system. Violence doesn't stop violence.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Caroline Lacy

mental health issues inside of the jails. It would be safer to decarcerate the nearly 6,000 people to community-based mental health care models. Further, Correctional Health Services (CHS) has consistently rejected the idea of housing MOH or High Observation Housing (HOH) individuals at MCJ. I recommend the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors that community-based services are needed here, not additional MOH and HOH staff.

LASD is requesting \$10 million dollars for its Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) program. Each year, LASD requests more and more funding for HOST, and we see the same results: increases in use of force against unhoused populations, LASD's failure to connect individuals to meaningful service opportunities, and continued surveillance and harassment of unhoused communities. I suggest that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members.

LASD needs to stop soliciting and entering into contracts that generate "revenue" for its budget by charging incarcerated people and their loved ones burdensome fees to stay connected and mark-ups on commissary. The Board of Supervisors already passed a motion in 2021 to remove these financial burdens from families, so LASD's budget should not continue to rely on them. I suggest that the Commission reject LASD's presentation of "youth activities" funding as an unmet need and recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County budget reflect a shift away from exploiting families impacted by incarceration for profit.

It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Stephanie Cupp with Justice LA. I'm from the unincorporated LA County area of Malibu. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on care of families affected by incarceration, reintroduction to society, job training and placement, mental health care and affordable housing.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

LASD is requesting additional funding for JMET assigned to Custody Compliance and Sustainability Bureau and additional staff for Moderate Observation Housing (MOH) units inside of MCJ to address the increased MOH population inside of L.A. County jails. LASD has proven time and time again that the department is neither qualified nor willing to provide the care and support for those suffering from mental health issues inside of the jails. It would be safer to decarcerate the nearly 6,000 people to community-based mental health care models. Further, Correctional Health Services (CHS) has consistently rejected the idea of housing MOH or High Observation Housing (HOH) individuals at MCJ. I

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Cupp

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Thank you,
Stephanie Cupp

Hello, my name is James Takamatsu with Dignity and Power Now and am a resident of district 5. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on literally anything else.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Los Brad Kaiserman and I am a Los Angeles resident, zip code 90026. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on investing in low-income communities. The safest communities are the communities with the most resources, not the most police.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Brad
Kaiserman

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Jane Affonso, a resident in County District #2. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on caring for our community with programs for people who are unhoused and mental health, reentry, afterschool and conflict resolution programs, instead of jails and police. First responders rarely need to be armed. Please reduce the LASD's budget!

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Jane Affonso

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Thank you!

Hello, my name is Geoffrey Golden and I live in county district 2. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on services that truly help keep our community safe, like education, public housing, drug treatment facilities, and job placement organizations. Underinvesting in these critical categories to invest more in the punishment bureaucracy is a missed opportunity.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Golden

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Richard, a resident of Echo Park. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Richard

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Mara Fisher with District 1 in Los Angeles. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

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Hello, my name is Erica Hendry from Los Angeles. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

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support our recommended alternatives.

Grace Doyle

We deserve a CARE FIRST budget. That's divestment in the practices that have been harming people and wasting resources and an investment in decarceration NOW.

Hello, my name is Page Marsella with County District 2. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on literally anything else. Youth programs, unhoused programs, mental health programs - literally anything else.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Page Marsella

Hello, my name is Nicholas Cazares from West Los Angeles. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on drug overdose prevention and civil services, like mental health assistance provided by unarmed responders.

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LASD needs to stop soliciting and entering into contracts that generate “revenue” for its budget by charging incarcerated people and their loved ones burdensome fees to stay connected and mark-ups on commissary. The Board of Supervisors already passed a motion in 2021 to remove these financial burdens from families, so LASD's budget should not continue to rely on them. I suggest that the Commission reject LASD's presentation of “youth activities” funding as an unmet need and recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County budget reflect a shift away from exploiting families impacted by incarceration for profit.

Nicholas Cazares	It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.
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Nick ScottRussell	LASD's budget should follow the Care First report and recommendations. The budget has grown hugely in the last decade while the prison population has fallen. Jails should be the ABSOLUTE last resort. This budget does not reflect care. It reflects more tasers, more deputies, and recruitment? This is not some
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corporation that should have a recruitment arm. LA jails are an ethical blight. People in prisons need care. They need rehabilitation, and resources to stay out of prison. This budget proposal does not reflect meaningful change.

When Los Angeles County voted overwhelmingly for Measure J, we voted for more funding for Care First initiatives, NOT more policing. However, the proposed budget for the upcoming year doesn't reflect our residents' wishes. LASD's proposed budget would be 17x more than the Care First Budget Unit, despite LASD's consistently gruesome incompetence and cruelty that garners national news and cost the county an additional 75 Million in litigation costs last year alone. These lawsuits persist through increases to the budget year after year.

The jail budget has increased 44% since fiscal year 2011 despite a 5% decrease in jail population during the same period. The LA County Board of Supervisors know about IRC conditions and even conceded in court that the horrors we recounted were true.

LASD wants to hire 14 new staff, meanwhile Care First Budget Unit only has 3 staff.

None of this makes sense. Why continue to fund a failed methodology, even after the people of Los Angeles have voted for a better path?

A Care First Jails Last vision cannot be realized if we do not divest from policing and incarceration and reinvest into community-based care and support services. We need to bolster departments OUTSIDE of LASD, not programs that are spawned by the same mentality that costs us so much money and suffering to begin with. Fund Care First, not LASD.

Alexandra
Abdel-Malek

Hello, my name is Dawy Rkasnuam and I am a constituent of LA County District 4. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on initiatives that make housing, healthcare, food assistance, and counseling more accessible to everyone in our county. These are the services that help people heal and connect with their communities--not carceral systems that only traumatize and harm.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Dawy
Rkasnuam

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Hello, my name is Amanda Horowitz with JusticeLA. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Amanda
Horowitz

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Dear Sheriff Civilian Oversight Committee,

I have listened to you all talk endlessly, understanding the corruption, waste, and harm of the LASD and its most populated jails in the world, but achieving very little positive change. I worked tirelessly to get Measure R, and Measure J passed and voted for Measure A.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since the fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension, the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD's use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding and instead encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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. You have heard countless first-hand testimonies of effective and cost-saving ODR and community-based alternatives. To remain with the status quo is to intentionally turn away from data and science and willingly comply with the wasteful status quo.

LASD is requesting additional funding for JMET assigned to the Custody Compliance and Sustainability Bureau and additional staff for Moderate Observation Housing (MOH) units inside of MCJ to address the increased MOH population inside L.A. County jails. LASD has proven that the department is neither qualified nor willing to provide care and support for those suffering from mental health issues inside of the jails. It would be safer to decarcerate the nearly 6,000 people to community-based mental health care models. Further, Correctional Health Services (CHS) has consistently rejected the idea of housing MOH or High Observation Housing (HOH) individuals at MCJ. I recommend the Commission tell the Board of Supervisors that community-based services are needed here, not additional MOH and HOH staff.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. Reject waste, champion wise data-driven effective solutions for service and protection. -Michele, Dist. 3

Jessica
Craven

I'm frustrated. I want to see a reduction in the budget for Sheriff and Probation Departments, full continued funding for Care First Community Investment in line with the outline community provided to the County, additional funding for ODR, and other increases in the budgets for mental health, public health, emergency management, children and family services and other community-based systems of care. Continuing to throw more and more money at a broken law enforcement system is just in raging and resulting in heartbreaking losses over and over again. Please please do something different.

Hello, my name is Marin Plut. I am writing to submit written public comments for Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on any of the priorities outlines in the Care First, Jails Last report, which are evidence-based solutions that take less money and with higher rates of success than what the Sheriff's department is currently doing.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Marin Plut

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force against unhoused populations, LASD's failure to connect individuals to meaningful service opportunities, and continued surveillance and harassment of unhoused communities. I suggest that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members.

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

My name is Sarah Bowers and I live in Los Angeles city and county. I'm writing to submit public comments for the 3/2/2023 Civilian Oversight Commission meeting that occurred today.

First, it is sad and undemocratic that the COC met and took no live public comments.

Secondly, I am so tired of demanding the same thing over and over again for the past few years. The horrible, disgusting conditions of MCJ have been the same for so many years. SO many community members continue to demand accountability for those who have let it remain in such a state and have let individuals living there endure such gross neglect and abuse. So many community members continue to demand MCJ be closed, but you continue to not heed the voice of the public and instead allow the disgusting MCJ conditions continue. So many community members demand accountability for all the LASD personnel who abuse those living in the jail. But you continue to do nothing and only give lip service. What are your meetings even doing besides giving a light tap on the wrist of LASD?

A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

I currently intern and volunteer at one of ODR's partnering community-based alternatives. It is amazing. I have seen first hand in its success rehabilitating those exiting incarceration and re-linking them back to the community for healing.

MCJ needs to be closed down. The Commission and Board needs to take money from LASD to give to ODR. You need to ask the Board of Supervisors to (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members.

LASD needs to be held accountable. You owe the people of LA County, those incarcerated and those who aren't, better.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bowers Sarah Bowers

Hello, my name is Stephanie with JusticeLA and am a resident in Los Angeles, District 1. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on permanent housing solutions, mental health and substance department services, investing fully in Youth Justice Reimagined and Department of Youth Development, and investing fully and continuously in independent pretrial services agency.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Stephanee
Alcantar

It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Mari

Treatment to those in need instead of continued incarceration is needed. Inmates come out of jail with post traumatic stress disorder and addicted to drugs. No help is provided prior letting them out

Hello, my name is Kevin Kearney from district 13. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on services that support the community as a partner and work to change behavior.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Kevin Kearney	It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.
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Jacob Roberts	I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.
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I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on permanent supportive housing, mental health and substance dependence services, reform programs with proven results to decrease recidivism, free meal and nutrition programs, increased funding to public education, and Whole Person Care and pretrial release population reduction and funding streams like AB 109.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ).

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Thank you
Jacob Roberts

Hello, my name is Laina Pauker and I live in Glendale CA, District 5. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on mental health care and public housing. Specifically, I think more resources need to be allocated to services (groups, financial subsidies, education/legal/housing programs) that support adults who have aged out of foster care.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County

Laina Pauker

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It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Thank you.

Hello, my name is Lucas O'Connor with Justice LA. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Hello, my name is Samantha with JusticeLA in LA district 3. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on direct care for the people of LA. Basic necessities like housing and food are scarce and we need solutions and access to those, not more consequences.

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Hello, my name is Selina Ho, resident of supervisorial district five. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on alternatives to incarceration, diversion programs, community based mental health care, affordable housing, etc.

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Hello, my name is Molly Ortiz, resident of Los Angeles. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on...

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Molly Ortiz

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We, at Worth Rises, were excited to see the LA County Board of Supervisors promote communication for incarcerated people and their loved ones by unanimously passing a bipartisan ordinance to make communication free back in 2021. This policy is the most cost-effective policy that the jail could implement to improve the correctional environment for incarcerated people and officers alike, protect and strengthen families on the outside, and increase public safety for us all. For all these reasons, California, Connecticut, New York City, San Francisco, San Diego, Miami, Louisville, and others have already taken this step.

We are disappointed, however, to see that nothing has come of the Board of Supervisors ordinance. Nearly two years later families are still going into debt trying to stay connected to their loved ones incarcerated in LA's county jails. The city's failure to appropriate funding and implement this policy makes a mockery of the Board and its lawmaking power, and it's unacceptable. Further, LA is falling behind its peers in California, like San Francisco and San Diego, which have already had this policy implemented for 18 months or longer with incredible outcomes.

It is way passed due for the county to make jail communication free and it starts with ending the jail's reliance on call commissions and ensuring there is a line item in the Sheriff Department's budget for the provision of jail communication. Families are astoundingly spending over \$26 million to stay connected to their loved one's in the LA county jail system. As a result, 1 in 3 are going into debt. To make matters worse, the county takes \$15 million of that in commission to pay for programs and maintenance, which should be covered by the general budget and not struggling families who have already paid for these county functions as taxpayers. Based on our work across the country implementing similar policies, we estimate that providing entirely free jail calls will cost the county less than just \$2 million. In other words, the Sheriff's Department could continue all its same programming, fulfill its maintenance needs, and provide completely free jail calls with a \$17 million appropriation from the general fund. This figure represents just 0.5% of the department's 2022-2023 budget.

Given all the benefits of communication to incarcerated people, correctional officers, families, and public safety, it is critical that the Commission honor the intentions of the Board of Supervisors and ensure the Sheriff's Department makes jail communication free in the next fiscal year by earmarking funds for it to do so.

Bianca Tylek
Executive Director
Worth Rises

Hello, my name is Jacqueline Combs, a concerned citizen, writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on community health, housing and mental health resources that have been agreed upon, but not put into action! More money thrown at the LASD, maintaining the status quo is outrageous and insane!... A vicious circle as it continues to degenerate our population of youth.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD – and by extension the County – cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to “mitigate liability arising from the use of force” inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail (MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff and a reduction in the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding, and instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors to 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.

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Jacqueline Combs
It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Julie Alley
Hello, my name is Julie Alley with Santa Monica Coalition for Police Reform and I live in Santa Monica. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight

Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on following the Care First, Jails Last report recommendations.

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I support the 114 recommendations from the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Workgroup. However, four years after the LA County Board of Supervisors adopted ATI, most of the work group's recommendations have yet to be fully implemented. This lack of progress has hindered the County's Care First agenda and contributed to the ongoing failure to close Men's Central Jail.

This county needs to reduce the money it habitually, reflexively funnels to Sheriff and Probation Departments, implement ATI, and invest in full continued funding for Care First Community Investment in line with the outline community provided to the County, additional funding for ODR, and other increases in the budgets for housing, mental health, public health, emergency management, and children and family services.

This will create social and physical environments that promote good jobs and good health for all community members. As we have seen with the ODR efforts, scaling up services and decarceration can happen safely, quickly, and effectively.

This is the most cost-effective move considering it is 60-100% more expensive to jail people who have health, mental health, or substance use disorders, rather than caring for them through ODR or another alternative. On the humanitarian side, it's also the move supported by health experts and the option that helps people get well rather than creating long-lasting, damaging effects on people and communities.

Specific action measures:

Invest in permanent supportive housing: Compared to those with relative economic stability, houseless people are 17 times more likely to be criminalized and funneled into the criminal justice system.

Thousands of people who do not have a place to live are warehoused in the LA County jail system.

Invest in mental health and substance dependence services: Thousands of people with mental health and addiction issues are incarcerated because of historical disinvestment in services that could have allowed for safe and sustained decarceration of our most vulnerable populations.

Invest fully in Youth Justice Reimagined and Department of Youth Development: The population of youth who are incarcerated and on supervision has plummeted in the last decade, yet Probation's budget has only grown. We need to build a STRONG and lasting Department of Youth Development to provide youth with support and healing rather than punishment and incarceration.

Invest fully and continuously in independent pretrial services agency to help decrease the nearly 50% of people inside LA County jails who are incarcerated before they've even had a trial.

Evaluate and track savings from Prop 47, Measure HHH/H, Whole Person Care and pretrial release population reduction and funding streams like AB 109 and ensure those dollars are sent to ODR and to building and sustaining community-based systems of care.

With proper, community-led budgeting and investments in community-based resources, diversion from arrest and jailing, decriminalization efforts, and pretrial reform, LA County can vastly decrease the amount of suffering and the lives and families torn apart by incarceration each year. The County can only fully implement the needed plan to decarcerate if it makes cuts to law enforcement budgets and surely stops increasing them, to free those dollars for the preventative, reentry, and supportive programs the County needs.

Thank you,

Liliana Lettieri Liliana Lettieri PhD

11. Homeless Outreach Service Team (HOST) Expansion
3. Unfunded Leaves of Absence Vacancy Overtime

Police present has lacked over the last 5 months. While there are quick response times to calls, we do not see general patrol vehicles as often as the inner city neighborhoods.

Catherine Safley Hello, my name is Catherine Safley, a resident of L.A. County District 3. I am submitting written public comments for the Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's

budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget would be better spent on diversion and reentry programs, along with resources that meet community needs and are not tied to policing and incarceration, such as quality permanent housing, healthcare and mental healthcare for all residents, and UBI, just to name a few.

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As a rural resident of the Antelope Valley, I have several comments on the proposed Los Angeles County Sheriff's Budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024. I and other rural residents support the expenditure for the narcotics detection proposal for not only jails, but also additional drug enforcement actions to include funding for eradication of illegal marijuana growing operations. These illegal

operations, as you might know, proliferate in rural areas of the Antelope Valley, exhibiting blatant abuse of land owner rights through squatting; water theft; desecration of delicate desert and mountain environments via unpermitted grading; use of dangerous pollutants threatening health of residents and wildlife; unpermitted disposal of human waste; unpermitted well drilling, and perhaps most disturbing—threats to nearby residents from armed cartel grow operations workers. Furthermore, illegal growers are purchasing homes in our neighborhoods, performing unpermitted construction and electrical wiring activities—posing extreme fire danger, often in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. During growing operations, homes’ interiors are destroyed, driving down home values. During June of 2021, there were over 500 illegal marijuana growing operations in the Antelope Valley. Residents were told, at that time, the budget for acting on such complaints was depleted. Fortunately, action from Congressman Garcia, 5th District Supervisor Barger, and Sheriff Villanueva, federal and adjoining San Bernardino county agencies found funding to address such activity, for which I am grateful (<https://abc7.com/marijuana-raids-antelope-valley-illegal-grows/11865451/>).

North County rural communities are served by deputies each patrolling hundreds of square miles. Often, because of staffing shortages, deputies are assigned to other areas, and cannot always respond to issues like Tap Tap gambling, prostitution (human trafficking), theft, gang activity, trespass, etc., in areas outside of Santa Clarita, Palmdale, or Lancaster. Often, each of these crimes involves a network of other crimes, including murder. Moreover, Los Angeles County’s approval of commercial Marijuana dispensaries and indoor growing in specified zones will open another avenue of illegal activity in rural communities with commercially zoned properties. I predict additional proliferation of unlicensed growing in our communities and outlying areas in homes, barns, hoop greenhouses, and other accessory buildings.

For reasons stated above, rural residents support funding of Sheriff Academies that have been awaiting funding, which will fill vacancies and provide additional deputies to all areas of the county. Because residents already suffer a lack of county enforcement for a variety of public health and Title 22 violations, it is, without question, essential that adequate funding be allocated for additional detectives and deputies and other needed personnel, because public safety is absolutely essential and foremost in sustaining peace, prosperity, health, and welfare of our rural communities.

Hello, my name is Tess Gibbs with Claremont Colleges Prison Abolition Collective from Claremont. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD’s budget priorities and unmet needs.

I believe LASD’s budget could be better spent on low-cost housing, mental health resources, harm reduction resources, and elderly and youth community programming.

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LASD is requesting \$10 million dollars for its Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) program. Each year, LASD requests more and more funding for HOST, and we see the same results: increases in use of force against unhoused populations, LASD's failure to connect individuals to meaningful service opportunities, and continued surveillance and harassment of unhoused communities. I suggest that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors (1) commission an audit of LASD's HOST program and (2) redirect the funding requested for HOST to support the expansion affordable housing, voluntary supportive services, and non-law enforcement outreach for LA's unhoused community members.

LASD needs to stop soliciting and entering into contracts that generate "revenue" for its budget by charging incarcerated people and their loved ones burdensome fees to stay connected and mark-ups on commissary. The Board of Supervisors already passed a motion in 2021 to remove these financial burdens from families, so LASD's budget should not continue to rely on them. I suggest that the Commission reject LASD's presentation of "youth activities" funding as an unmet need and recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County budget reflect a shift away from exploiting families impacted by incarceration for profit.

It is the job of this Commission to bring accountability to LASD, and this includes oversight over the department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

Thank you,
Tess Gibbs

Hello, my name is Mina Mahmood from West Hollywood. I am a graduate of Stanford University, where I studied Public Policy. I'm writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2 Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities & unmet needs.

I believe LASD's budget could be better spent on programs that actually reduce & prevent harm & facilitate the healing of victims. Mental health services, more affordable housing, & rehabilitation programs are just a few examples. Community safety & care are so much more than the carceral, punitive, & violent methods that LASD employs. Accountability is essential. The most effective forms of accountability are meeting people's unmet needs, addressing victims' needs, & treating perpetrators humanely to make sure they grow & stop causing harm.

To reduce the jail population, the County must invest in community care. In L.A. County, the jail budget has increased 44 percent since fiscal year 2011. The number of LASD employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD-& by extension the County-cannot staff its way into compliance. LASD is requesting additional positions to "mitigate liability arising from the use of force" inside the jails despite LASD deputy gangs being born from the units responsible for oversight in Men's Central Jail(MCJ). A reduction in LASD staff & the jail population is the only way to mitigate liability arising from LASD use of force inside L.A. County jails. I recommend the Commission reject LASD's proposal for increases in staff-related funding-instead, encourage the Board of Supervisors(BoS) to move swiftly towards decarceration of the jail population through proven diversion programs, such as those of the Office of Diversion & Reentry & community-based alternatives.

Mina
Mahmood

LASD is requesting additional funding for JMET assigned to Custody Compliance & Sustainability Bureau & additional staff for Moderate Observation Housing(MOH) units inside of MCJ to address the increased MOH population inside of L.A. County jails. LASD has proven repeatedly that the department is neither qualified nor willing to provide the care & support for those suffering from mental health issues inside of the jails. It would be safer to decarcerate the ~6,000 people to community-based mental health care models. Further, Correctional Health Services (CHS) has consistently rejected the idea of housing MOH or High Observation Housing (HOH) individuals at MCJ. I recommend the Commission tell the BoS that community-based services are needed here, not additional MOH & HOH staff.

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LASD must stop soliciting/entering contracts that generate "revenue" for its budget by charging incarcerated people & their loved ones burdensome fees to stay connected & mark-ups on commissary. The BoS already passed a motion in 2021 to remove these financial burdens from families, so LASD's budget shouldn't continue to rely on them. I recommend to the BoS that the County budget reflect a shift away from exploiting families impacted by incarceration for profit.

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The San Francisco Financial Justice Project in the Treasurer's Office was excited to see the LA County Board of Supervisors promote communication for incarcerated people and their loved ones by unanimously passing a bipartisan ordinance to make communication free back in 2021. In this year's budget, we encourage Los Angeles County to provide for free phone calls in LA County jails; this would require a small portion, less than 0.5 percent of LASD's budget.

In San Francisco, we began looking into the high price of jail phone calls and commissary items a few years ago. At the time, we were extracting \$1.7 million from local low-income communities. These high costs disproportionately drained resources from communities of color, particularly women of color who support their loved ones on the inside. Research shows that the more people stay in touch with their families while inside, the better they do when they get out. When we cut people off from their lifelines because they can't afford pricy phone calls, we end up paying a steeper bigger price down the line when people cycle back into custody.

In partnership with our Mayor and Sheriff's Office, we made all phone calls free; eliminated commissary markups and committed to never again generate revenue off of incarcerated people and their families. Our Sheriff's Office negotiated a fixed-rate contract to ensure the lowest possible cost to the City and taxpayers. Our experience in San Francisco shows that is doable and LA can and should do the same. Since phone calls became in 2020: there was a 41 percent increase overnight in the number of calls per person, incarcerated people are now spending 81 percent more time in communication with their support networks, and incarcerated people and their families are saving more than one million dollars annually. Our Sheriff's Office has said this change has been positive for everyone, including incarcerated people, their families, and staff, and has reported that access to free phone calls has created a calming effect in the jails.

Anne
Stuhldreher

We have reached out to the Los Angeles Chief Executive's Office to share our experience, as well as our RFP and fixed-rate contract. We would be happy to continue this conversation. Thank you for your consideration.

Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME] with [ORG NAME / CITY / COUNTY DISTRICT]. I am writing to submit written public comments ahead of Thursday, March 2nd Civilian Oversight Commission meeting regarding LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs.

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department's budget. We encourage the Commission to push back on LASD's funding requests and support our recommended alternatives.

The amount of money being spent on law enforcement during a time of FALLING CRIME RATES and historically low rates of crime is a mistake. Los Angeles needs investment in the human and physical infrastructure, not in unproven technologies and poorly trained, uneducated vigilantes with badges. As a long-time resident of LA County, I want more investment in the Care First and Community Investment Budget and less in law enforcement. Your pandering to the police "unions" and their lobbyist might help you in the short term, but its killing our communities and damaging our city.

In Los Angeles County, the jail budget has increased 44% since fiscal year 2011. The number of sheriff employees has also increased. The jail population, however, has decreased by 5% during the same period. LASD's proposed budget is larger than last year, and the LASD is proposing to add 14 more staff—which increases personnel budget by 10.5M. In contrast, LA County is proposing to spend \$200 million on the Care First and Community Investment budget unit—so 17 times less than on LASD. LA County is proposing to spend \$633 per resident on “law and justice” departments next year. In contrast, LA County is only proposing to spend \$20 per resident on the Care First and Community Investment budget unit. (

Dr. Beth F.
Baker

I want to see a reduction in the budget for Sheriff and Probation Departments, full continued funding for Care First Community Investment in line with the outline community provided to the County, additional funding for ODR, and other increases in the budgets for mental health, public health, emergency management, children and family services and other community-based systems of care.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Policing & Human Relations (Committee) of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) reviewed the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (LASD) Recommended Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The Ad Hoc Committee analyzed the budget priorities and unmet needs therein through the lens of the LACCHR's report, Redefining Policing With Our Community, a three-year effort to glean best practices in police-community relations through hearings and interviews with community members and law enforcement experts from every corner of Los Angeles County.

To align budget priorities with community needs, the Committee recommends that LASD should consider the report's recommendations which were aimed at advancing equity in policing practices, policies, and procedures. The Committee recommends inclusion of budget priorities and unmet needs that are in alignment with report recommendations, and exclusion of budget priorities and unmet needs that are not in alignment with report recommendations. Certain budget priorities and unmet needs were labeled as “neutral” to identify that the Committee does not have sufficient information to assess the viability of the budget item, and/or a different budget item may already be requested that would impact the need for these additional resources. This especially applies to requests for increases in overtime budgets which should be addressed via recruitment and hiring of deputies assigned to these duties, as opposed to backfilling overtime.

Furthermore, the Committee recommends that LASD's budget request be further analyzed through the lens of the Catalyst California and ACLU SoCal report, Reimagining Community Safety in California, which articulates an analysis of LASD spending, law enforcement interactions, and budget recommendations for public safety efforts. Additionally, the Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board's Annual Report for 2023 further details the impact of LASD law enforcement interactions on vulnerable communities and recommendations for reform. Currently, LASD's budget accounts for 1/10th of the entire County budget. However, based on these report findings the harms of law enforcement interactions with LASD far outweigh the benefits. The vast majority of law enforcement interactions initiated by LASD are reportedly traffic stops and minor violations which yield abysmal results and cost the County over \$776.6 million annually. The Committee aligns with funding recommendations in these reports that call for an increased investment in non-law enforcement

Isabelle
Gunning

interventions to improve community safety, focus on decarceration, and ultimately a reduction in the number of justice-impacted people throughout the County.

For the Committee's complete comments on budget priorities and unmet needs please refer to the document shared with Principal Staff Analyst, Tracy Jordan.

On behalf of the Marina del Rey Lessees Association, the Commission should be aware that the County agreed several years ago to add over 100 patrol deputies to the Sheriff's Department patrol service, and 38 deputy positions previously approved have not yet been budgeted. Of these remaining 38 positions, two deputies were specifically allotted for the Marina del Rey Sheriff's Station. Property owners of the residential, commercial, hotel and boat repair and anchorage developments in our community have experienced an increase in criminal acts that include property theft, vandalism, trespass and nuisance, and not all of these incidents apparently are either reported or considered in crime statistics.

We urge the County to approve the budget for the additional 38 patrol deputies that have been anticipated, and the two deputies assigned to the Marina del Rey station will serve not only our community but the neighborhoods of Ladera Heights, View Park and Windsor Hills that are part of the station's jurisdiction. Our understanding is that the Marina station will request not only the two deputies that were already part of the prior agreement, but one additional deputy to increase the personnel to three deputies on patrol. In conversations with our neighbors to the east, we are aware they share the same desire of funding these deputy positions.

Tim Riley

Thank you for your consideration