

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
GLORIA MOLINA**

September 17, 2013

Establishment of Sheriff’s Department Oversight Commission

An ongoing United States Department of Justice criminal investigation, coupled with the recent initiation of a civil investigation, highlight the need for constant incisive attention and focused scrutiny into the range of significant issues confronting the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD).

While the state constitution proscribes the scope of the authority of the Board of Supervisors (Board) over the elected Sheriff, and in turn, the Sheriff’s scope of authority over departmental personnel and operations, it is well settled that the Board has the authority to establish an independent advisory oversight commission to review, study, report and make recommendations on the operations of the LASD.

For example, the Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections, established in 1959, conducts inspections of all jails, lockups, probation and correctional facilities in the County and over the years several other advisory commissions have

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been established to assist the Board in identifying and resolving use of force issues.

However, structural reform and accountability necessitates more than a temporary approach to systemic issues. The dual federal investigations of the Sheriff's Department confirm that a higher level of scrutiny, inquiry, and public accountability is an imperative; one that the Board acting alone cannot in good faith provide. Continued allegations of excessive force, significant litigation costs, and a moral imperative to ensure constitutional policing in the County's jails and communities justifies the establishment of a permanent oversight entity without delay.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Create a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Oversight Commission.
One member shall be appointed by each Supervisor by October 15, 2013;
2. Direct the Executive Officer of the Board, County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer to recommend a staffing and funding plan for the Commission, including any recommendation on compensation for the Commission and provisions for office space and equipment within 30 days and require that the staffing be in place no later than November 15, 2013; and

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3. Direct County Counsel to draft an ordinance to include the Sheriff's Department Oversight Commission in Title 3 of the Los Angeles County Code and to propose language, consistent with existing law, formalizing the relationship between the Sheriff's Department Oversight Commission, the Office of Inspector General, and the Board.

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