

County of Los Angeles
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Moderator: I'm going to ask everyone to find a seat. Okay. Good afternoon, I am calling to order this public hearing in the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. It's a public hearing on our policing and human relations in the Third Supervisory of District and I want to welcome you all. My name is Isabelle Gunning. I'm a professor of law at Southwestern Law School. And it is my honor and privilege to preside over today's meeting. I appreciate all of you all for being here, for taking the time to be here. I want to introduce the other commissions who are here with me. I'm going to let them do a brief introduction at this time.

Respondent: Yes, well, Melina Abdullah. I'm the chair of the Human Relations at * these hearings. I represent the Second Supervisory South Los Angeles.

Moderator: And you get a chance to hear a few more words from commissioner *.

Respondent: Good afternoon. My name is Preeti Kulkarni. I represent the Third District. Professionally, I'm the financial officer of the Women's Foundation of California. I look forward to hearing from all of you today. Thank you for being here.

Respondent: Hi, my name is *. I also represent the Third District. I live here in the San Fernando Valley. I really thank you all for being here and being willing to share your stories with us.

Moderator: At this time, if we could ask the senior minister of this beautiful church that's hosting us. I'm so grateful for their willingness to have us, Doctor Dewayne Winrow who is going to say a few words as well.

Respondent: Well, let me just – let me welcome all of you who have come to this meeting today. This meeting has been well anticipated. It is the product of some particular concerns of myself and this congregation as well as a coalition of

leaders, African American leaders, that we brought together having to do with these concerns that we've encountered not only with members of this church having to do with more recent circumstance of Christian Eaddy. But, you know, in our community at large. We conducted a town hall meeting that was well publicized not long ago immediately things that took place in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where we were implementing what we call a "high level dialogue" between African American community leaders, clergymen, and those who we would consider to be policy makers. So when Josh walked into my office and talked about what the commission, this particular commission, was doing we welcomed this right off. And so we welcome the commissioners who have come. We welcome the community. And we want you to feel free to have freedom of expression here although this may be called a sanctuary, but right now, it is for public hearing. We welcome you wholehearted. Thank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you so much. Let me just say, I want to be real brief this morning that we've been holding hearings about policing in part because of course that is as Doctor Winrow mentioned something that is prevalent nationally as well as in the community. The Human Relations Commission has been working on policing issues since the * of riots and backing the * we should report. When the 50th Anniversary of it came up, we decided that we needed to re-exam policing issues and human relations issues in every single district in Los Angeles County.

This is what this hearing is about. This is our fourth hearing. We've been to many of the other districts as this will be the last one. Although, we will have two more that will involve women and LGBT as well as one that is exclusively for law enforcement. We came here today, for all of you to hear from you about your personal experiences with law enforcement, officers, and agencies. We want to hear what your suggestions may be for increasing fairness and equity in policing. We want to hear your ideas for building and/or maintaining positive relations between the police and the community.

Before I actually talk about the structure, let me as I promised you, have you hear from Commission Melina Abdullah. She is as she told you the chair of the community that was the driving force behind this.

Respondent: So again, welcome everyone and thank you to the pastor for opening up the church. Thank you all for being here. I know that that Third District is sprawling. Many of you had to travel from quite a long ways from * areas so thank you for coming and realize that it's an * so thank you for doing that. I did want to just give some background on why we're doing these hearings. This is the fifth hearing, the Fifth District Hearing. We will have as Commissioner Gunning mentioned we will have a sixth hearing for women and * trans folks. To document their particular experiences with police, as well as, it's not an exclusive hearing but it's a hearing for law enforcement. We have asked that law enforcement not be present for the community hearings. The reason that we made that act is because we recognized that there was some mention of maintaining trust with law enforcement. We need to recognize that we've heard so far from these hearings as well as what many studies say that this is not trust between communities and law enforcement and there are reason for that.

We wanted to open up space so that you could feel free to offer your actual experiences with law enforcement so that you won't feel inhibited at all by having law enforcement present as you tell your stories. I do want to say that we don't the ability to prohibit law enforcement from being here but we've asked not to come and we've also not reached out to them to encourage them to come. And so that's the way the hearings are structured. The goal here is for you to be objective for you to devout truthful in the telling of your experience and experiences of people around you. As well as the imaginative in what you think solution should be. What will happen from here is we will generate a report and in that report will be list of best practices and suggestions that come from you as community members.

Our hope in partnering with organizations is to allow the support to be something that you can advocate from let it be an official report that comes from a county body, human relations commission that you can use to advocate from, and so we don't see ourselves as having all the solutions. Let me be very clear, this commission has very little authority cannot make law enforcement by the recommendations that you come up with. But we can publish those recommendations and allow that to be a tool for you. So we want to be very clear on this especially during these times and one of the reasons again, that we did

not invite law enforcement into the room – another reason that we did not invite law enforcement room. Remember what’s happening in terms ICE raids. What’s happening in terms of officer-involved shootings where we know at least for LAPD the rate of officer involved shooting is 30 percent over what it was last year.

We also want to remember what’s happened in the Third District. Mainly, we want to look at the name Brendon Glenn and remember what happened with the killing of Brendon Glenn in Venice. And so we want to make it as open as possible so that you can really be honest about what your experiences are. So again, we thank you for coming. We look forward to your testimony and we look forward to your recommendations.

Moderator: Thank you Commissioner Abdullah. So the structure is that what we’d like to have everyone do is if you want to speak and you have two choices in terms of where you get to stand in speaking. You can stand I believe – do we excuse me. Josh, do we have a microphone for the –

Respondent: It’s over there.

Respondent: It’s up there.

Moderator: Yeah, one is up here. But if you –

Respondent: It’s over there on the left – over there on the left.

Moderator: Okay, I’m sorry. So you have a choice. You can either – if want to come up steps you can talk to us from there. But if you are challenged by steps or want to be down there, you can speak from there. We do need you to speak – fill out – excuse me, speaker forms which you can get out in the hallway there before you come into the sanctuary to my right. It would be to your left. I should say since I’m pointing in that direction that the bathrooms are also there so you probably saw those when you came in here.

You can testify anonymously which is to say you’ve got a couple of choices. You can use only your first name. You can use a synonym, a fake name if you wish. You can also always email us and you can speak to staff who is

outside about emailing us anonymously. You can also if you don't want to speak here there is the quiet room right over there in the corner. If you turn back, there you see a hand being raised. And there you can be videotaped in the quiet room because you don't want to be speaking here or if because I'm only going to give you two minutes so that we can allow for everybody to speak.

If you want to speak, more than two minutes and we don't have an opportunity to come back to you towards the end because we're going to allow that as well. You can in fact do additional testimony in the quiet room today.

Let me see, oh, oh, yeah, you're going to say. Okay. Okay. So it sounds like there was some kind of a shooting outside of the church or near the church. So if you see police, coming by, it's not for this at all. Apparently, it might be because they'll be having to handle something that is outside. But if I get any more information what that is I'll let you know. But for right now, we're okay, here.

As I mentioned, you're going to have two minutes. You'll be able to see how much time you've got there. All of this is in fact being recorded and would have simultaneous interpretation – Spanish and English. I want to stop everything that I just said and actually ask someone who I should of introduced he's going think I don't even like him. He's our executive director. There's nothing that the commission can do without Robin Toma.

Respondent: Thank you Isabelle Gunning, our Chair. I wanted to say that *[Speaking Spanish]*

Moderator: I should mention is that there is food. You can't leave the sanctuary, but the kitchen is as you come out the door, to the left, so that there are some sandwiches and some water. I think maybe some coffee there as well. But again, eat in the kitchen and then come back to the room. I just want to encourage all of you. I know you have a lot of important things to say. There may be a lot of passion, but of course, we want to respect each other as we talk about these difficult issues and speak straight from the heart. I

want to start out now with actual testimony. But we're going to – Pat here from * organizations which are * central, central and cultural, the Venice Justice Committee, the Santa Monica Coalition for Police Reform, South *, and of course, the Church of Christ. So I want to thank those groups right away. We'll hear from them for about three to five minutes, folks. We do have a timer it only goes up to three, but for those who are from these organizations just know we still do want you to stay in the five minutes. So do we have Louise Rodriguez here [ph]?

Respondent: Not yet.

Moderator: Not yet.

Respondent: Peggy Kennedy is here.

Moderator: Peggy Kennedy.

Respondent: Yeah.

Moderator: Please, all right.

Respondent: Do you mind if I speak from that *.

Moderator: Absolutely, you know what that's *.

Respondent: Hello? Hello, can you hear me?

Moderator: Yes.

Respondent: Hi, I'm Peggy Lee Kennedy with the Venice Justice Committee. Thank you very much commissioners and staff of this commission and the church. Thank you so much for holding the hearing here. I thought it would be good just to give you a story of a few hours in Venice just a few hours because there's a problem. Law enforcement is the primary answer and responder to homelessness. It's a problem because that makes it a crime. On March 7, I was driving I was

going north on Lincoln. I was going to turn left on Rose Avenue. Right before that, on the street before I looked over and I saw this clean-up crew with a lot of LAPD and all the trucks involved throwing away an entire tent into a front loading garbage truck; a green one. I took a picture with my phone while I was driving. Sorry. I brought a presentation but it doesn't exist here right now. So I parked on Rose. I got my more professional camera and walked over the scene. And I initially saw very neat packed items of homeless – un-housed people away from the clean-up area and a lot of police. In Venice, they have a new program, whatever, called Venice C3. It's supposed to be community, county, and city. But really, what it is, is cops to the third power. That's what it really is because for any one so-called community, county, person whatever, C2. There's going to be cops at least three, cops to the third power or cops Q'd if you want. This is new. They've been doing these sanitation things with the police, massive amounts of police. And oh, you wouldn't believe hazmat its wild. It's very expensive, very costly. And they are very white hazmat suits like the people are the plague.

So I get there. There's at least eight cops that I can identify. They see me. One-person pulls up in a red SUV that's from I guess LAHSA and she's in a red SUV with Arizona plates. She spent most of her time talking to the police. In fact, there were three of the C2s that's supposed to be community. And they spent most of the time talking to the police. One woman was handcuffed and * woman was handcuffed down the street. They took the police tape down.

I walked down there to take pictures of what was going on with this incident because if you go to photograph there's a better chance the person will be not arrested. They did release her but then they came after me. They grabbed me and there was a police or yellow caution tape down the block. And one of the cops grabbed me, pushed me, and made me to on the other side of the caution tape that was up, still up down the street. I turned on the movie feature of my phone and I'm providing it to the commission.

This is not unusual what's happening here. The woman who was detained in handcuffs for an extended period of time had a dog. And I had multiple conversations with the C2 woman that came in the red SUV, the LAHSA woman with the Arizona plates. I said, "What's happening with this woman." And

she said, "Well, I offered her shelter." And I said, "Well, she's got a dog." And she goes, "Well, if that woman just got that dog service certified the shelter would take him." You know that's not going to happen anytime soon and even if she did get certified.

Just so happens that this last Friday I was at the Venice Library and they did a huge violation of the ADA with an un-housed person with a service dog. They surrounded him with police are waiting out in front of the library. The librarian lied and said that the dog barked at a child and I was the witness. I was the only witness willing to get up and say something at that library about this poor un-housed man that was surrounded by the police at a library. Everybody else was looking down because they're afraid of being kicked out of the library the only day place they can be and use the bathroom and the internet and get out of the elements. You know, I don't blame them. And then after they made this man leave the premises I mean, not just the inside but the whole property, which has a park outside. Then a security guard kept coming around me.

This is expensive stuff, you know, when people are criminalized, it goes to the county. They go to jail. They end up in court. We have a clinic and last month we had to move our clinic location because it's free in the rain at a new location. We had 21 people show up with tickets who are being criminalized. We get volunteer lawyers to show up in court. The court they initially have to go to because the West LA one was closed is in Beverly Hills. You know, so we appear in Beverly Hills on their behalf. And then we try to get them to trial in Santa Monica and we fight these tickets every single one because they're bogus, they're bogus tickets.

The clinic was initiated in 2014, as a response to the City Councilman, Mike Bonin going in front of the police commissioner and asking for more police in Venice because all these neighborhood watch people got up there and said they were afraid of the homeless in Venice. They got metro and the horse cops out there consistently issuing ticket after ticket after ticket, they're mostly bogus, and it costs everybody.

Moderator: Thank you so much.

Respondent: Can we ask a group of questions? I don't know if other commissioners have questions.

Respondent: And I brought everything on this flash drive. I mean, you can have it.

Moderator: Oh, excellent.

Moderator: That's great. I know you just email it and we'll upload it to –

Respondent: I'm going to give it to Ray and I can email it but part of it is video so I didn't know *.

Moderator: That's great. So I have a couple of questions just for the record. So you mentioned, LAHSA can you just say what that acronym is?

Respondent: The Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority, which is a partnership between the City of LA and the county and you know, the county funds efforts, homeless efforts, not just LAHSA but other efforts like these whatever clean streets or whatever it is helps funds these homeless efforts which are primarily cops Q'd. They really are. So there's so many police. It's outrageous. It's a situation that's very hostile. No wonder Brendon Glenn was shot, you know, because they've just brought in the police to go after the homeless people and that was in 2014. He was murdered in 2015, but he wasn't the only one killed that year. There were three homeless people killed in Venice that year. I mean, the police are not social service agents. I don't care what training you give them they're trained to shoot people and enforce the law.

Moderator: So just two more, quick questions. One you mentioned tickets.

Respondent: Yes.

Moderator: I know other health services – other health was organizing groups are also doing ticket clinics like LA *.

Respondent: Right, ours it's the same. It's the same basic clinic.

Moderator: Right. So can you just share what these tickets are for and then this last question I have for you is what recommendations do you have? You were saying that the police shouldn't be the ones to be responding to houselessness. So what recommendations do you have or how to address *?

Respondent: Okay. The tickets are what I call quality of life tickets. Many cities across the country have created these tickets to go after people of color, poor people, and unhoused people. It's nothing new, but it is at an all-time high I Venice because we're experiencing what I would call extreme justification. It's sitting on a sidewalk – LA and C41 ATD [ph]; okay. Like, if you are a hipster and you sit on the sidewalk in Venice you're definitely not going to get one of those tickets. But any unhoused person sitting on a sidewalk could easily get one of those tickets. That's just a sample of how it goes or smoking on the boardwalk. Anybody else can smoke on the boardwalk but an unhoused person is definitely going to get – because the police are there to ticket the homeless. There's really a special situation going on after unhoused people. Just like a gang, taskforce is going after children abuse. It's the same thing. So what was the other question? Oh, a solution. Well, definitely we have to stop criminalizing people as if it's some kind of a solution. We have to put – it's so expensive. If the county is funding something that is cops Q'd. Why? We have to question that you're giving your money for police efforts that's not a solution. Okay. That's the service providers out there saying they're giving services but they're mostly talking to the cops. What service are you really providing if we don't have the housing for these people to go into? I mean, it's a dilemma so housing first, maybe.

Respondent: Housing.

Moderator: Maybe first, yeah.

Respondent: Might be a concept that the city could actually adopt.

Moderator: * palace.

Respondent: Yeah, that might actually be the solution for homelessness is homes. Most people who live outside want a home, so that's just a fact.

Moderator: Thank you. Thank you so much – Michelle Wig and Sharon Walker.

Respondent: Good afternoon, my name is Michelle Wig. I'm Sharon Walker. We're with the Coalition for Police Reform in Santa Monica. Many of you probably have * Santa Monica as being a very progressive, relatively wealthy city. Yes, to both of those. Do we have problems with policing? Yes, we do. If there's nothing else that you remember from our remarks today, I would like you to remember these two words – policing needs to be democratized. It needs to be under the control of, we, the citizens of these cities in the State of California.

Policing is one of the few agencies that is not under the control of citizens. Unlike, our boards of education, which have citizen control policing is rouge compared to that agency. We don't need to get into how it got that way. But the fact is, that's the way it is and it should not be. We need to democratize our police departments. Bring them under the control of those of us whom they serve.

We at Santa Monica formed a coalition for police reform in the aftermath of some high profile incidents. We did a survey during one of the days of dialogue at a Church in Ocean Park. And 75 percent of those in attendance said that they felt that police treat people differently on the basis of race. One hundred percent of the people said they would take action to counteract that belief.

The Coalition for Police Reform was founded with the idea that we, the residents of Santa Monica need to take control over our police department. We have a group of about a dozen of us who are here today and you will hear from them about the various incidents that people have experienced. The coalition was founded in the aftermath of those incidents and we had some very specific suggestions for change. They are structural in nature. We feel that the police department needs structural change not just after the fact repair of justice after incidents have occurred.

The other thing I would like to say is that coalition in the last 18 months, has collected stories from residents of our city on a video and we have been showing that video to various organizations in our town and spurring discussion among the people who watched the video. We specifically went to three of those individuals and we asked them if they would give permission for us to give their testimony anonymously and two of three cases to the commission. So I would like at this time to present the DVD of their stories to the commissioners because they're not able to be here today. I'd like to then see the time over to Sherry. We'll tell you about one of our initiatives.

Respondent: Well, I see here on the time chart is that –

Moderator: No, two more minutes. Two more minutes.

Respondent: Okay. All right. I just wanted to speak a little bit about an organization that derives on the CPR the Coalition Police Reform and that's the African America Community Academy on Policing. In the City of Santa Monica, the police department has * where they invite the community and your children after you fill out an application and they teach you about the police department not only from their history to the weapons that they use, to the incidents that have happened in Santa Monica. We decided there's the ACAP Group to reverse that, have the police come out to us, and we teach them about the community. We start off with the Black American City Tour that they take and learn about the history of black Santa Monica.

Respondent: So we'd like to present this video to your Chair, on behalf of those who were courageous enough to tell their stories.

Moderator: Thank you so much. I appreciate their courage and I appreciate *. Thank you.

Respondent: Good afternoon. Since we don't have the screen, what I brought was something that we use in our organizing out on the street. Thank you very much. My name is Hamid Khan. I'm with the group called Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, which came into existence about six years ago to research,

understand, identify, expose, organize, and raise awareness in our communities about the massive surveillance and infiltration and information gathering that is happening in our communities.

What is going on is that particularly since 9/11 the technologies that are being used on the back and front in Iraq and Afghanistan. The tactics that are being used which are known as counter-terrorism or counter-insurgency are very much being incorporated and codified into local policing. You may have heard about body cameras. You may have heard about predictive policing. You may have heard about various other technologies. And all of these technologies comes from the back and front of Afghanistan and Iraq. Predictive policing was built in Afghanistan to identify and predict when the next act of insurgency may happen.

So now, what is happening is that these programs being incorporated into daily policing in the same communities that historically have been brutalized and their rights have been violated continue to be the targets of police violence. Because it's based upon the concept that previous, data can help us understand and predict future criminal activity. If the previous data is gathered because of racist policing so it's going to garbage-in, garbage-out.

So what that does is this is a circle that if you're walking on the street, if you're in a park, if you're on your phone, if you're driving your car, all of these technologies are constantly tracing, tracking, and monitoring you. All of these technologies are using to build database and data which is then put into these massive data bases in these warehouses where information is being collected they are called fusion centers.

Drones are becoming active. Drones which in a very benign way the sheriff likes to that well, there are unmanned aerial vehicles. Well, no. They are weapon delivery platforms. They are used for massive surveillance of various communities around the country. One of the things that we have been asking – and I really appreciate this process that the commission has taken of holding these hearings, but I think besides the hearings there has to be an urgent action that needs to be taken as well. We appreciate that the effort is being made to come up with a report.

But besides a report, we have to stop the police from getting more tools that is going to cause harm to our communities. One of those tools is this increase use of drones. We've been able to keep the Los Angeles Police Department drones grounded for the last three years. But now, the sheriff has announced the use of drones as well. We were hoping that the Los Angeles Human Relations Commission would take action and reject the use of drones because what is happening is that North Dakota has already passed a law that police drones can be equipped with weapons – Tasers, rubber bullets, tear gas. Tasers are not non-lethal. Every year on an average Tasers, kill about 46 people in the country.

So we are really hoping that this body takes an urgent action because we believe that there was something, that there was a motion last meeting, and we're hoping that this body takes an action and passes a motion to reject the use of drones.

The FDA has come out with report. In one month, 700 close calls with airliners with drones. *Washington Post* did a detailed study and you should look it up and Google it, it's called When Drones Fall Out of the Sky. They said that 400 US military drones have literally fallen out of the sky. They've just fallen out of the sky. Right here, in the city of Pasadena, a drone fell on a stroller and a 10-month baby was severely injured. So what we are doing is, that it's not just about surveillance or weapon delivery it's also about the trauma and safety of our communities as well because many of times we get caught up and do policies and programs and we forget the human impact. We forget the trauma and the emotional trauma that it causes our communities. So I really, really, really appeal to this body to take imitate action. Please, take immediate action and stop the sheriffs from using the drones. Thank you, if you have any questions I'll be happy to answer those.

Moderator: Any questions, Commissioner? Thank you so much I appreciate it.

Respondent: By the way, we also have and just signed a petition 3,200 people have already signed they said that we don't want the cops to get drones.

Moderator: Okay. Thank you again, I appreciate you, Hamad appreciate it. Louise Rodriquez?

Respondent: So I'm with the * Culture Center in *. We've been here 16 years. We've been very active in the community in all issues even though we're a culture space. We're a space that also provides safe space for talking about issues including policing, including what's happening with the ICE raids which as you know has gone on even more recently. We really want to share the work that everybody is trying to do to protect our community. I really am grateful for the African American churches who decided to be sanctuaries for migrants. And also that we as the Latino community play a role in helping in the extra policing and extra harassing or whatever might happen in African American community.

The thing for me is that we have to work together and * is a space in which we have both black and brown. We try to * share that we really have a common interest and a common needs and to me this is what's important that we look at what we do as a commonality of all of us in this community. I know there's a lot of division. And I know a lot of people have concerns about all that. I'm not saying there's not differences that need to be extended and brought out. But I do think that whatever we do in this community especially around policing that it be a united effort. Do we need to have a relationship with police that is acrimonious? I don't think so. But I do think that that means if we work with police that somebody has to be the leader and I think the leadership has to be the community. You understand what I'm saying, that the leadership comes from the community, that the police being part of the community are part of it. They're part of a bigger package driven by community not the police themselves driving all the decisions and all the things.

There are things being decided with police that community has no say that we're not part of it. I think that has to change. Not only do we have to have say we have to be the driving force. Then I think we can work much better with police. The issue is whether the police can agree to that. I have been to many meetings where the police have showed up and I'm not talking about individual but general, where they say they're pretty much running the meeting. You have to stop their meeting.

You know what I'm saying, where they are pretty much dictating the terms. I think as community we have to say these are our terms.

One thing is what's hurting our community is the fact that we don't have a lot of resources. We need resources for gang prevention, gang intervention. There is a lot of gang problems. I understand there was incidents here. We can change it. We know how to do it. We have the experts, but we have to be brought in. If we're not brought in and supported then it becomes just an issue for the police and I don't think it is. I think it's an issue for the whole community and the police could be part of this package that the whole community grades and sustains and makes sure that everybody is involved. So that's my contribution. Thank you all very much.

Moderator: Thank you so much. Thank you.

[Part 2]

Moderator: So I just want to re-iterate that the goal of these hearings I know that a lot of folks are interested in bettering relationships with police. And if that's your position, we definitely want you to say that. We also want you to feel free enough to be creative in your recommendations. Right, it doesn't just have to be confined to creating strong relationships with police. And I'm saying that in response to Mr. Rodriguez that if you think there's other things that need to be done then that can go into the best practices, it can go into the community recommendations. It doesn't have to be confined to how could we be friends, right. But where you think resources need to be advocated, what kinds of things you think we need to be investing in. All of that is part of the testimony that we're soliciting here today.

Moderator: Dr. Winrow, we're going to come back and do some *?

Respondent: Yeah.

Moderator: Please, come on down. Let me invite you to your own church.

Respondent: Okay. * to put before but let's just say that I do represent a coalition of community, African American community leaders that came together to address issues of policing in black and brown communities especially in the Northeast Valley. This of course, you know, * current and current event we had a young man in our congregation who was 26 years old due an accident he had at the age of four he was mentally delayed. He was * considered to be about 10 years old in his mind. And whenever he acted out his mother who was wheelchair bound * mother would call *. But due to policy change, they were told to call 911. On this particular occasion they called the 911 * and that the niece or Melanie what is relationship.

Respondent: Cousin.

Respondent: Cousin.

Respondent: Cousin, you know, who was on the phone trying to give them as much information as possible so that they would not harm her cousin. She said that, stated over and over on the 911 call. But within 40 seconds of the police arrival, they shot and killed in the presence of his mother, his grandmother, and other siblings.

That police shooting was supposedly investigated and deemed after investigations as being within policy. It was proven in the city trial, you know, the lawyer who is here today, a member of this congregation litigated that case. I attended and along with the NAAC president who's also a member of this congregation we attended, every day witnessed the trial.

These are certain findings that came out as matters of fact in the trial. First of all, police on the witness stand was forced to admit that they had falsified police – their police reports. Secondly, critical evidence of the trial that was booked into evidence came up missing so they're denying they claim the young man had in his hand came up missing. Police investigators found and was pushed to admit on the stand that they falsified their reports in support of the officers.

Thirdly, the shooting of Eden was declared within policy but proven not to be so. The police interview that took place by a black police officer came up missing. And that interview occurred immediately following the shooting. The timeline of the shooting was enhanced in the police reports. The * was proven to be – took place within 40 seconds of the police officers arriving. The Hispanic officer used non-lethal force. The white officer at the same time used deadly force. In other words, one officer shot a Taser while the other officer shot his weapon. Jury declared that the police department was 65 percent responsible for Eden's death. And so that was a financial reward to them on admitting it.

Well, let me tell you what our coalition members want to propose. We've been attending these so-called dialogues with the police department, which is nothing more than police manipulating community organization to advocate police propaganda regarding policing and what the Los Angeles Police Department is presently doing and promoting in terms of policing what is called Community Relational Policing.

It is my agenda to point out to the community that this is not community-based policing. There's a difference between community-based policing and community relational policing. When you have an occupying forcer of police, policing that is basically that unifies the community as an occupying force. It depends on how much relational stuff that you do. You know, you're still putting citizens as well as security officers in danger. That is – the example is when you're occupying Afghanistan it doesn't matter how much you try to relate to the citizens you are considered outsiders. And each time you approach a native, you know, there's a danger involved. You got to make a decision whether this * you know * right decision is made.

And so we're suggesting is Number One, what we call community-based policing that the same officers patrol and work the same area on more less a permanent basis from a decentralized place. What we mean is we want more localized precinct that is community-based precincts. When you look at what is going on at the corner it may be very scary over you have a community that's * black and brown communities. And look at the police * policing incident in that area. I

literally counted the police officers. There were 15 officers there, 12 of them was white. Now, this is an 85 percent black and brown community, you know.

When you have been with community – when we talk about community we’re talking about a snitches of the south identity, the south hood of people. A community represents people who have some sense of shared since of dignity, shared experiences. That’s why for example, in Los Angeles we * but, you know, what makes us * opposed to sacramental *, you know, this type of thing. That’s a shared identity in this type of thing.

We want more localized precincts, community-based precincts. We want community-based police commissions that will prove and screen police applicants that are sent to police our communities. We want working in a proactive partnership – working in a proactive partnership with citizens to identify and solve problems in this model of policing. Police are recruited and hired from the community in which they police. Police officers are regarded as citizens in uniform. You talk about diversity training, you don’t have to talk about diversity training when police officers are policing their own communities. You know, white police officers policing out in * don’t have to go through diversity training. Why is it necessary for any officer? You know, when they’re extensions of other people, they’re extensions of a community, and you know, needs to have that kind of training. They simply could be members of the community. And know the community. Know the families in the community because they’re there long enough.

Yes, my time is up. I’m going to get out it is my church remember this.

Moderator: So think of ideas *.

Respondent: Okay. Okay. So police officer recruited from the community, hired from the community. They exercised their power to police their fellow citizens in the implicit consent of those valid citizens, community-based policing embodies this incentive. Thank you very much.

Moderator: Yeah.

Moderator: *.

Moderator: So pastor thank you. I just wanted to make that we go the three recommendations that you've given. I have community-based policing rather a community relations policing.

Respondent: Yes. Yes.

Moderator: I have a community-based police commission which I think is the first time we've heard that recommendation. And that commission would also contribute to the screening of officer applicants?

Respondent: Yes.

Moderator: And then the third one that I have is community should be citizens in uniform. They have to live and be a part of the community that they're policing.

Respondent: Yes. We're not necessarily suggesting that a police officer live in the community. And of course, there are some on our coalition who fights for that as well. But we're saying they should at least be recruited from the community.

Moderator: Be recruited from the community.

Respondent: They must be recruits from the community and that the commission when they're sent back to community the commission will approve their applicants, their applications.

Moderator: Okay. So Jeff, did you have more or were those the three recommendations?

Respondent: No, that's basically the core of it local precincts that, Corona would have their precinct. * could have their own precinct who would know the officers that are assigned to that precinct. And those officers would be approved by the police commission of that community.

Moderator: Right.

Respondent: You know, instead of their – so what has happened in the past for example. They would always say, “Well, send us applicants.”

Moderator: Right.

Respondent: You know send us people and they’ll find a way to disqualify them.

Moderator: So I think that we have those. And then two quick responses, can you re-state the name of the person that you were given there?

Respondent: Christian Eaddy.

Moderator: Christian Eaddy.

Respondent: Eaddy.

Moderator: And was he killed by LAPD?

Respondent: He was killed by LAP.

Moderator: Thank you.

Moderator: I’m sorry, what was the date of that?

Respondent: Attorney Robert, could you give us that?

Respondent: May 16, 2013.

Moderator: And you’re the attorney.

Respondent: He was the attorney that litigated that.

Moderator: Yeah. Thank you.

Respondent: He did a great job. He did a tremendous job.

Moderator: He did a great job. Excellent.

Moderator: Thank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you so much *.

Respondent: Thank you.

Moderator: So at this time, we're going to have the folks who have actually signed up to testify. Let me just remind everybody that we asking you if you want to speak there are forms that are in the back foyer right as you come in so that we can actually time it and make sure how many folk we've got. Everybody has got two minutes. We might cut it down if there are too many. But if there are enough of you if you have more than two minutes then you can come back around at the end. So I want to announce again, please fill out the forms. You can also either testify more privately in the quiet room or additionally on video as well.

Respondent: *[Speaking in Spanish]* If anyone needs translation in Spanish. Okay.

Moderator: Who's the first person?

Moderator: Martha Cherish [ph].

Moderator: Martha Cherish. And *, okay. Yes. So she'll get – she'll get * two minutes. Please go ahead.

Respondent: Yes, hi, good afternoon.

Moderator: Good afternoon.

Respondent: Yes, thank you for having me. This seems like I start to get really sensitive issue that's going in life and world. You know, while I hadn't any personal experience there's been many police incidences around the world that are so violently based. It seems like the true meditation of it all is to understand our multi-cultural yet commonality of humanity to use any force other than violence even when it is circumstances where * resistance behaviors it's just so taken out of context. And it seems like materialism is really the root of it. I have a lot of pictures. One of these is a character with the handcuff as a dollar sign. It's something that seems to be really relevant and ashamed it's a physiological ill it seems.

I have pictures of an incident – the police have helped me become unhoused through an illegal eviction. I had to – I rented a covered garage with a yard. The landlady with the help of the police as they suggested had every right to, you know, slaughter the garden in other words because she was the landlady. You know, they made suggestion I take her to court because obviously it looks like it would be – it is a violation * stop her.

So that incident even though she failed the first time she tried to sue me, evict me but I had to face three years of further incidents of harassment and very material based, you know, as the * went on. But I had another incident in the street where about six or seven police officers surrounded me for riding my bicycle off the sidewalk *. And they're especially – in these recordings that I took shots of there's so much I think in the south. I'd like to pass it around and see, you know, ultimately there's a lot of bulling for the sake of helping *.

I would suggest community centers and just ways where we can practice kindness and compassion and share our multi-culturalism because it seems like so much of the policing that is so violently produced and it's so based on ignorance and fear as a combination with money and material illusion. I just wish that we could share our multi-culturalism where money wasn't the absolute factor. * sent in my eyes was opened and we can't serve two masters. If we're living in * society ultimately it might be really just a police * but nothing was, so and that's a shame it really causes for all of our destructions.

It's such a beautiful family we have with all the colors, you know. Multiculturalism is a celebration. It's a reason we should have more kindness to spread because we have so much to share in our unique ways. It's such a shame that there's all these ridiculous you know, just rumors and lies and bad media this education that's corrupting our lives, you know, whether it's the earth or it's the food or it's the air or relationships, and schooling. There's so much corruption going on based on this violence that coming in so many ways and shapes and forms. It's a shame. I just wish we could create a space to share more with each other and have that spirit of kindness taking away the spirit of fear and violence god, willing, you know. * thank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you so much.

Respondent: I have these pictures if anybody would want to see them.

Moderator: Yes, please. Thank you so much. Is Stephan Shapan Roberts [ph] – yes? No.

Moderator: Yeah, he's coming back. He's coming back.

Moderator: Oh, is it Steven or –

Moderator: Shapan.

Moderator: Shapan. Shapan

Respondent: Shapan, yes. *. No, it's totally cool. It's fine.

Moderator: I apologize. I just want to call you by your right name not *.

Respondent: No, I appreciate it. So yeah, my name is Shapan Roberts. I'm currently the director for the city attorney's * program in Los Angeles. First, I want to kind of make all of aware that we do have a program where we mediate disputes between LAPD and the community. When I say the community feels like half * cause I'm black or brown or green whatever it is. They can register a

complaint with Internal Affairs and offices set the space up a mediator to trans and facilitate that conversation between LAPD and the officer. And we have that conversation try to get some understanding. Information that comes back from those mediations are then fed back to LAPD and often times we look at policy changes. So I just wanted to kind of put that out there.

I want to make three suggestions about what could be done with LAPD or law enforcement generally countywide. One, is EQ testing which is emotional intelligence testing should be done with the officers. Because I think often, times what happens is they just deploy officers randomly throughout the community. People that are insensitive and often times those are the people that are maybe new to the force. They're going into places of high intensity intention and they don't know how to handle it. So I believe there should be testing, some emotional testing, and training. And those with higher * EQ should be deployed to the areas that have the greatest *.

The second is I think we should have – I think Mr. Rodriguez was speaking to it. But I think we should have community * with law enforcement as to how the community itself is policed. Because right now, it's kind of like, the police are sorry I over stepped my – I'll wrap it up quickly. Right now, the police are policing kind of just doing what they think is best. I think ultimately, the community and the LAP police have the same outcome. We all want a safe community essentially. And so I believe it's about finding agreement as to how we want or let's say we, the community, wants to get there with * law enforcement *.

And last thing I want to say to look at metrics, the performance metrics, of law enforcement because look if you are incentivized by people to write more tickets and that's how you measure performance they're going to write more tickets. But if you said hey, look on the incentives to link them between people with services then you'll have people being linked to services and acting as though they care. So metrics, should be aligned to the culture that you're asking, that you're moving * that you believe which is to protect and serve. And serve being a word that we should focus on. Okay, that's all I have to say.

Moderator: Can you tell us what agency you're with? You said *.

Respondent: Yeah, the city attorney, LAPD Attorney's Office.

Moderator: Thank you.

Respondent: Thank you.

Moderator: Thanks so much. Craig Asaci, A-S-A-C-I. Did I – no, is that you? Okay. Is it Craig anyway?

Respondent: Yes.

Moderator: Okay.

Respondent: My name is ASACI. I'll submit to you if you didn't see *Vice* the other night there was I guess you could say a segment on the St. Louis Police Department and how it's divided in terms of black cops and white cops. One of the officer's said essentially within that they communicated to him one of his supervisors communicated to him, that there was a predisposition among black folks to be violent and criminal. He more or less approached his policing based on that and his interactions with cops before you become a cop based on that. And that's pretty much the way – that pain is pretty much my pain. Because within that structure I had, a gun pulled on me at the age of seven by a store detective.

Now, you know, I say that to say what the Reverend Winrow said essentially is what I was going to say because we didn't create this us versus them mentality as African Americas. Specifically, if they don't see me as a human being, if they don't grow up with me, they don't know anything about me. So therefore, they'll be rough with – consistent with that when comes back to recommendations. The only thing I would really add as a person who worked with kids I could see sugar and some of that same behavior once they come out of the candy store. I see police officers with, you know, in terms of sugar effect that was a running joke about policemen and donuts. So my only other suggestion is when you have abuse cases, look at the person's diet. Thank you.

Moderator: Audrey George [ph]? Audrey George? Yeah, and after Audrey George will be Joann Burland [ph] and Derick Forchin [ph].

Respondent: Yes, hi, so I wanted to talk about LAPD which is the most murderous police force in the whole country for many years of the past five years. I think at least three of those years. Otherwise, it comes in number two. In cases like that of Brendon Glenn who was killed in Venice. You have just one example of how black and brown men, women, and children are killed with impunity. The reason there is such a lack of accountability is because that the police commissioners who are supposed to oversee the LAPD, are political appointees and supporters of the mayors that have appointed them. What we need is for the commissioners to step down so that we can have a bonafide civilian oversight body.

Some of the changes that need to be made also include the venue. No civilian oversight committee commission should be conducted within LAPD headquarters where when we go to those meetings there are as many as 30 or more police in the room, armed police surrounding, and intimidating the people that are there to attend. They need to change the time so that they're having meeting when people can actually go instead at 9:30 in the morning on Tuesdays. There need to be no cops in that room. Commissioners must also have disciplinary authority and subpoena power. Otherwise, they're just figurehead which they are at the time.

The only other thing that I want say is that they need to fire Officer Ken Ferguson who lives in Anaheim and shot and discharged his gun while he was off-duty in the presence and because of his anger at 13-year-old children who had crossed lawn. Thank you.

Moderator: Joann Burland.

Respondent: Yeah.

Moderator: And then Derick Forchin.

Respondent: Hi, I'm Joann Burland. I work with the Committee for Racial Justice in Santa Monica, which is part of the coalition the Police Reform Act. We started thinking about what kind of racial profile was going on in Santa Monica after the Trayvon Martin incident. So we started back then thinking about some of those issues. We found out that people in Santa Monica didn't believe there was white people in Santa Monica they didn't believe there was racial profile in Santa Monica. Probably the reason we made this video as an educational tool. Our experience, Santa Monica it's a small town sort of speak. So we can actually talk with the police chief and with the city manager and we can have meetings. We've tried to talk with them about changes in some of the policy because we asked for all the policy and it went good. And mentioned to them that there's nothing in the policy about de-escalation. There is no policy that your first choice in trying to relate to someone is to keep in mind to de-escalate the situation.

We sat through the whole trial many of us of Justin Palmer and I know some of you have heard out it. He's the fellow, black fellow, that was trying to charge his electric car in one of the parks in Santa Monica and was told that he had to leave because the park was going to close. And he made the mistake of trying to talk to them. He made the mistake of trying to ask, you know, what is the problem here and I still have some time. It's important for me to charge my car because I have to take my daughters.

So well, we also discovered in trying to talk with police is that they don't – when they give an order they don't want to hear anything from whoever they're dealing with. They just want you to do immediately what they say to do when they say to do it. If you try to talk to them like a regular human being, you can get into trouble fast. Justin was severely injured. And one of the police involved in that interaction was found liable for use of excessive force. Even in a so-called aggressive community like Santa Monica there is racial profiling, there is use of excessive force.

I think the biggest barrier for doing something about it is that the police will just not admit that it is happening. They just will not acknowledge. I affirm what everyone else has said about needing civilian oversight. We need to have some kind of way to get regular people from the community to have some say over

who's hiring and some say over some of these incidents. Because even though they were found – this one policeman was found liable. The police department in Santa Monica thinks the only reason that that case was lost sort of speak was because the jury just didn't like him as a person.

Moderator: Who said that the police department or –

Moderator: Santa Monica.

Respondent: Yes.

Moderator: You know the name of the officer who *?

Respondent: Fogeau [ph].

Moderator: Fogeau.

Respondent: Fogeau. He's still on patrol and he's still on patrol in that same area.

Moderator: Wow.

Respondent: It's over a million-dollar settlement and he still is –

Moderator: And he's still on patrol. Okay, thank you very much. And after him will be Robert Miller [ph], and Wendy Winston [ph].

Respondent: Good afternoon everybody.

Moderator: Good afternoon.

Respondent: I just wanted to talk a little bit about what has to happened to me my personal experience dealing with the police. It's been over 20 years, you know, thank god I haven't had any encounter with the police in 20 years. In the result of these altercations the police was called out and basically just for what they had explained to me at the very beginning – a disturbance call. And that was about

the size of it, you know. They had – I was talking to somebody through a car window and the police was called right here at the Northridge Mall. The police came and they blocked the car off. One police officer ran around the other side. Before they even started to try see what was going on they had attempted to mace me. The cop that shot the mace had missed me and it hit the other cop because they were on both sides of me.

After that the one cop he just took me and, you know, slammed from the hood of the car to the passenger window of the car, the driver side window of the car, into the trunk of the car, and down the on the asphalt with 102 degree weather outside and maced me while I was apprehended. And then on top of that they charged me for attempted bodily harm not on just one of them but both of them.

Those were like two of the worse charges that I have had in my time. It really affect my career and my job opportunities. Right now, I work in Hales Care I do a lot of work with substance abuse and domestic violence in the past. Every time that I, you know, on the behalf of a client or something * police and they run my name they don't ever see that I could be on the same side as they are. It's just it's been rough and it definitely affected my career opportunities.

What do I recommend that they have more training to learn how to de-escalate situations? And not to mention real quick, I had it all on video. I had – The Northridge Mall I have a video and I still couldn't beat my case when it into the courtrooms. They switched attorneys on me and next thing you know my disturbing the peace charge turned into a felony, intent to do bodily harm to the police officers. And without proper representation, I ended up having to take the charges.

Moderator: Thank you so much for sharing your story I appreciate it.

[Part 3]

Moderator: Robert Miller.

Respondent: I just want to briefly have a little * context. This of the history of police violence toward African Americans in particular. It goes back – to write that history you would have to write a very, very long book multi-volume. It would go back to the origin of police departments in the south. They came out in slave patrols. Later on, the police in the south collaborated with the KKK. We had the * policing system whereby people were arrested for trivial things like loitering and ended up being slaves for a year or two.

Well, on into modern times murdering black panthers, torching and murdering people at Attica Prison. The Ferguson thing, it goes on, and on, and on. In light of all that, how can we possibly trust police to police themselves? It's ridiculous. Yet, that's the situation. They have autonomy. We need commissions that have as Audrey said, powering power, subpoena power, and disciplinary power. But in general, I think we need to not so much improve the police as to get rid of them. Replace as many as we can instead of having police come and deal with mentally ill people, have mental health professionals doing that. Instead of having, police deal with the homeless have social workers work with them. The more we can – if I were a black person the main impress I would have of police is stay as far away from me as possible.

Moderator: Thank you. Thank you very much. Wendy Winston. And then after her would be Donna Perkins [ph], Theo Gale [ph], and Arena Martin [ph].

Respondent: When my daughter was 14 years old, a couple days before Christmas. We went to Hollywood Boulevard to go shopping for Dr. Martin boots – her, and her white punk rock looking boyfriend. We got out of the car. I didn't notice that the cops had already cruised around the corner from us. But he went up – it turned out that he was older than I thought. He was 19. And he went up against the wall and kind of crotched down and lit a cigarette. And then we kept walking.

Next thing I know, the police pull up on the curb. They throw him against the wall. They put his arm back here and his arm was injured and screamed out in pain. And my daughter, you know, my tiny little daughter at 14, just saw this

injustice and freaked out and started yelling at the police and cussing them out. They threw her down all 90 pounds. Handcuffed her and threw her in the police car and told me to get his ID out of the car.

So I'm walking back to the police car and I kind of heard something but I wasn't sure what it was. I got his backpack. And as I'm walking, I see like, sparkly stuff on the street. And I get back there and my daughter had kicked out the back window. She had a panic attack and she was crying and screaming. The police ended up, you know, taking her away. I had to go to the police station and get her out. They gave her a resisting arrest and vandalism of a police – it went on for two years. She ended up being in residential placement for two years. Then she went to community – juvenile hall for six months and finally go out. I mean, it was like from 16 – 14 to 16 and a half in the system because we were shopping for Dr. Martin boots on Hollywood Boulevard.

There was another time – I'm a recovery drug addict. I got clean in 1988. But I had incidents in Santa Monica me and her, my oldest daughter's' father were kind of known. So we would get pulled over our arms check and car searched just on like periodic basis like, just driving down the street.

Another time I was raped in West Hollywood. This was when I was about 19. I was like, I was kind of like into Bowie, and I was married to gay man. I was * male and female both together. And so you couldn't kind of tell what was going on with me as far as sexually. But I was raped and I called the police and I was crying. They came up to me and laughed because they couldn't tell if I was a boy or a girl.

And then another time, what was the other time – oh, I was married to a gay man and we wanted to all go to this bathhouse, a gay men's bathhouse in Beverly Hills. And so they had like painted me up, and put a dildo down my pants. You know, it's kind of fun if you – they didn't let me into the bathhouse cause I wasn't a man, didn't have a man's ID. So I was leaving the bathhouse to go back to my dad's house in *. These guys are cruising around and cruising around they offered me a ride. I'm like, well, okay and I get in the car. Then they're like driving down Wilshire Boulevard get to around Normandie. I mean, 20 minutes has gone

by. They start like hitting on me and trying to get me to have sex with them. I'm sitting in the middle of them. They pull into this vacant lot on Wilshire Boulevard around Normandie and then they offer me money. So I do, I say I'll give them a blowjob for \$100. They bust me for being a prostitute and I actually, got a lawyer that time. And they ended up dropping it down to resisting arrest or disturbing the peace. But I was just wanting to go home.

Moderator: Thank you. Thank you so much for your testimony. Donna Perkins.

Respondent: Hello, my name is Donna Perkins. I live in North Hollywood and I'm also a member of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles. I don't have any personal stories. But I want to support the need for investment in more mental health counselors and social workers both in our schools and in the community in general. We need better job training and job development. These two things that keep us safe. We need less police. And body cameras alone won't keep us safe. We remember * Africa who was killed on camera. We move to see the effect use of the funds to be allocated under Proposition H and HH to help in houselessness. We remember Brendon Glenn today along with all the other homeless houses people killed on Venice Beach. We also want to participate and since oversight to help in the corruption in our current law enforcement as evidence by the conviction of Lee Baca. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Theo Gale.

Respondent: Good evening everybody. My name is Theo Gale and I'm a member of NAACP as well as a member of Reseda Boulevard Church of Christ. I will speak briefly on experiences that I've had with the police, which are both negative and positive. I have been treated over the years over many years with abuse by the police department. And occasionally, come around and do something that is positive. They will cast a different reflection in mind upon what the police is all about. But of course, when Dr. Winrow was here talking and speaking about community-based policing, I agree with that one hundred percent. It's most definitely, what we need. We need people from the community who were raised in the community, who are part of that community to be encouraged to become

police officers. To be encouraged to go back to perhaps live in that community, but we can't do that because of the lack of fund and the unwillingness of our system to deal with black community with a valorous community and the proper manner.

One of chief concerns is for the training of police officers. I'd like to know how much training they have in the area of natural training. It is my opinion that they should have by all means background checks on * decide that they want to become a police officer. I would like to know why you want to be a police officer. That would seem like a very interesting job to me and it's a dangerous one so why would you want to be a police officer. The background check would try to weed out those who come from * and their history is that of a Klu Klux Klan, KKK. We don't need members who would push background or that on the police force *. And then some of these people, you know, * police force we did background checks and find out that they've had negative encounters with people of another race where they harbor this hatred within the minds and deep within their sole. And their * is to go out and reflect harm of both – of people.

In being a member of the NAACP, this organization that I'm a part of Chapter 1064, San Fernando Valley. It is my concern also for some of the health issues that we have – I heard it mentioned several times up here, the mental health, and the people who deal with those problems. We most certainly need health professionals to deal with those problems.

This young man that Dr. Winrow was speaking about that was up here. Believe you me; he was a harmless young man. He was a peaceful young man. He was quiet. He was cared and he loved me. But in a matter of minutes upon the arrival of the police * he laid on the ground there. That is sad from any way you look at it. No way you can justify that what so ever. I sat out to the trial of that case. I found that they came back and said that if they had to within police policy. That * what are police policies. Where do they come from and who are the people that make these policies.

Then there was a civil suit after that, which found the police officer was directly at fault in taking this young man's life. A * cash award was granted to the

family. But crazy a cash reward cannot replace the life. The police officer right this name at the end of day they are going home to their families. They are playing with their children and then * time with their wife. But this young man his family will never see him again this young man whose life was stuffed out simply because of ill trained, ill-prepared police officers.

I wonder about the training. I wish someone could tell me. You know, just what qualifies an individual to become a police officer. What qualifications do he need for you to give him a baton and a gun and send him out into a black community? Send him out into a diverse community in the six months of training that a police officer receives enough to give him a gun. That's almost like taking * sending them to school for six weeks and give them a scalp. I don't want him operate on me. I don't need that. My life – is my time up?

Moderator: Yeah, it is. Yes. Thank you so much. Those are excellent questions and thank you for reminding us of that also again.

[Part 4]

Moderator: And after her Preeti Rodriguez [ph], Pier Arioloa [ph], and Hugh Gray ph].

Respondent: I want to thank the Pastor for opening the space for this public hearing. I'm thanking the elders that at least brought to your attention about where slavery comes from and the KKK and the connection with police and slavery. I also want to remind you that LA Sheriff, Lee Baca if you didn't know was going to court last year, February and was found guilty. He recanted his plea in order to get it sent out of LA County, so that they cannot know what was going on so that he can pretend that he Alzheimer's. I'm thankful for the attorney general that found him on corruption, so image all the years of him being in office as LA sheriff and all the cases that were ignored.

Okay, so now, we're going to go onto Chief Beck. Nationwide, 13 year old why is that officer in Anaheim still there. There's many more. Many more names and hashtags. When are people going to take it seriously and treat people as if it

were your own family if it were your daughter, your sister, your mother, your cousin? This is the mindset that we need as people to come together. We can't be complacent and just pretend like, oh, well it's not my issue. This is where we start. If you're serious and you don't want it done to, you think about the next person. Chief Beck has to go. Who is behind Chief Beck? Follow the money.

Moderator: Thank you. Preeti Rodriguez.

Respondent: Thank you I'm glad to be here. I'm glad because this is an important thing that we raise our voices to what's happening. I know that one of things is where the incidents that we may have to relay about what police are doing in our communities. Well, I haven't been a directly affected in a case myself. I know that in our communities it happens constantly. And so I want to speak to a particular incident. I do want to speak to the kind of situation that we live with as a result of that kind of an atmosphere. I came here as a director of a non-profit which is a cultural center bookstore that I founded with my husband, Louise.

The reason why we founded it was to give another option, another way to be in the community and another way to recover. Because in many ways, what we're recovering from is a very poverty of access to resources. The poverty of an access to dignity. A poverty of imagination of what this world can be like if we have the ability to see each other, hear each other, and accept each other. That's what's wrong with I think what's behind the way we are – what we have right now. We have in place a force that's * to our communities. This is why I think what's being proposed that there be policing, community-based policing. That is I think what has to come back.

We have to have places like for instance the one we have that – and they should be all over in every community. There should be a space where you feel safe enough to tell the truth about what's going on in your homes, in your community, in your schools. So that we don't have the issue of having to deal with things by force. Where we can actually heal, become more well, have the kind of responses for ourselves and others where we don't have to resort to violence and control. Where we can control ourselves. Where we know ourselves well enough to know that when we look at someone else we're looking at ourselves as if it were a mirror

and that's not what we have right now. We have an us and them mentality where some * we are the enemy and we are to be controlled and put down and that has to end. It contributes to the kind of the mental illness that we're seeing everywhere.

Again, I think the root of it is poverty which I have to say one of the things that I'd like to announce also and not sure, all of you know of this. But there is a growing movement to really ground things where it is not based on protecting the institution that the things that maintain poverty or rather is access, the question of access again to the kind of human abundance that we have and making it real in our communities. I think that there's a way to do it. Again, community centers, churches that are community-based that really listen, and really bring out people to their fullness.

So I just want to say thank you for this opportunity to speak. We are one of the anchor organizations. We hope to see the kind of response to the question of immigration and policing one that's fair. Really, again we start to see other as brothers and sisters and are following the need we need to respect each other in that way.

Moderator: Thank you so much. Pier Arioloa. Again, let me remind folks, if you want to speak please make sure that you fill out some forms. Get some more coming up. And you can get them just outside the doors and to my right. And when you face the doors, it will be to your right. Good afternoon.

Respondent: Hello, good afternoon. Thank you for having me. Pier Arioloa and I'm lifetime resident of Pacoima, as well as, the executive director of the Great * Juniors, a community organization that is devoted to using hip-hop culture, athletics, as well as the arts to empower you and families throughout our neighborhoods.

One of the main things that I came up here to speak about was about the lack of privilege that there is in our communities. Granted, that's a story that's tried and tested and put out there. I, myself I'm the one percent in Pacoima. I'm an Ivy league educated individual. I was blessed enough to be able to get a full right scholarship to go out to Brown University. But even at that, that doesn't stop

me from getting that pat essentially that good pat from the police. Because I'm still in that sense put in a position where if I'm not with my kids, my Great * Juniors, my youth leader and I'm showing them our own community, showing them our history, and our values. Here comes the police siren. They stop us and they say why are you guys congregated together.

Now, I want us to think about what's been going on since the gang era essentially out here. And things such as gang injunctions that have been put within our communities that we tend to not speak of anymore. Granted, these are things that people think outside how mind the children who are walking the streets gang bangers anymore. But these are things that still affects us. This is a history of things that *. So we must review gang injunctions. We must review similar policies that have come from gang injunctions especially in under privileged communities because that disallows young individuals like myself to rally other young individuals and really make the difference because we're almost inner gangsters at that moment no matter our education.

Another thing is more collaborative programming with these officers. We've been blessed enough to be able to collaborate with LAPD and Los Angeles Police Department to do wrestling programs, to do cultural arts programs. And give the opportunity to the police officers to be humane to demystify them. To show the people they are human and there is humanity in that.

Just to kind of speed things up here. We must also think about the cultural violence within our community and its pipeline to criminology that we actually create and still especially within our own un-documented immigrant communities. If we have individual like ICE or other federal agencies coming in here threatening to deport individuals in their place to be that actually creates more opportunity for criminals to be criminals. Individuals are scared enough to go to their police officer. Now, you're telling me that they're thinking in their mind well, I'm going to be deported. So I might as well not tell them that I got raped so that I don't get deported. In that sense, it becomes an issue because you're creating that direct pipeline.

So let's think about community response, let's think about community action committees with bargaining power that comes from the city or the county. Neighborhood councils are great but they have a lot that they have going on with them so we must also develop individual organizations that can come together as collective and work hand-in-hand with the overseers essentially. Hopefully, we can actually change that title to something more true to opposite. Because in that sense we're just propagating the same values that had been formulated since America's history of slavery.

With that all being said, let's definitely continue this work that we're doing here. Thank you so much for coming out and really trying to understand what our viewpoint is. This is something that is amazing and I hope it continues on.

Moderator: Let me just ask this question. You mentioned community response committees. Can you talk a little bit more, what that is?

Respondent: Yes, exactly. I have a perfect example. There's a church in North Hills – United Methodist Church, Pastor Fred Morris who started a refugee center out North Hills, California. North Hills was aka * prostitution central. There's a big immigrant community, there is a big gang community there. There's a lot of underprivileged individuals that live there lots of violence. In response to this, The United Methodist Church created the refugee center to be able to give a safe haven to immigrants within the community to come out, say what they have to say. Get resources without feeling that they're going to be put in harm's way.

Essentially, they've been able to develop into a non-profit collective. The idea being that when there's ICE activity around the area they'll call a hotline. The hotline then sends a text message out to all the community response members who then go to the location and stand up for the individual whether it's recording to make sure that you don't implicate yourself in the criminal activity that is going on through ICE. Or just essentially speaking out and telling them to get out. These types of things show the power in people show the power in collective energy. And let us not allow them to take that away from us because our collective energy is what is going to allow us to overcome all this as well.

Moderator: Thank you so much. Yule Gray.

Respondent: Hello, nice to see you *. I've been waiting for this opportunity to get a chance to say these things that's heavily on my mind to many that can do something about it. I watch the news, every day, all day long and I've been doing it for a long time. My thing is that this is about or totally just concerned. You know, everybody has a lot to say about the police bad. But the thing up there is we really need the police. Without the police, this world would be in chaos so we need the police. But we need is for the police if they're going to dress up like army men they should be able to conduct they self like army men. Like, a Marine to take a knife or a stick from a man or woman. Police stops should be able to take a knife, a stick, a bat from a man or a woman. They should be able to – if they aren't going to take it from they should be able to shoot them where that they don't have to kill them but make them where they can't be harmed. Police officers need a whole lot of training. You know, they're acting like Marines and soldiers they dress like it; they need to conduct themselves like, so.

Unnecessary killing needs to stop. It truly does. I remember from like, in the early 70s, police officer used to shoot you in the leg, you know, just to stop you from killing them. And that's what the police need – the police need to stop killing people unnecessary that's the simple thing coming all of this. And it goes back to where the reverend was saying – he was saying about how the police need to have a better background check. They do. We need to know where these police officers are coming from and why they want this job just simple as that. We need to stop – the police need to stop killing a whole of people unnecessary. What do you look like? Here you are a man shooting a woman got a pole that don't make sense whatsoever. You know, police if they got to shoot why don't they shoot them in the leg and then, you know, take the pole away. That's the simple thing, you know.

And for us lately, you know, people haven't been speaking about the police killing blacks lately because they haven't been doing it. But as we remember, you know, just recently blacks have stepped up and said hey, man if you all go – you know if we're going to die for a cause then we're going die for this cause, we're going to kill the police for killing blacks. We don't want that to happen. That's the

seed that's already planted. We want to bring that to an end quickly. So, you know, police need to be instructed that hey, if that type of behavior keeps going on it aren't going do them give question and question.

And so we need to stop that before it gets started because that will lead to a civil war, you know, blacks against police. Then it's going to be blacks and whites. And then, you know everything get out of whack. So we really need to do that. That's all I really have to say.

Moderator: Thank you so much we appreciate your time.

Respondent: It's a pleasure.

[Part 5]

Moderator: I've got Rosaline Fargrow [ph], Tera [ph] after her and C-O, after that.

Respondent: Good afternoon, thank you for being here. I wasn't going to talk *. My name is Rosaline Fargrow. I'm a member of this church but also the president, South Napa Valley, NAACP. I'm not going to be long. There's a lot being said negatively regarding law enforcement. Lord knows we got plenty of opportunities to do that as well. I just want to mention we here in the South Napa Valley have had many negative experiences with law enforcement, but we've come a long way. You don't see the level of brutality here in the valley that's prevalent in other parts of Los Angeles because we had our time where the whole of the chock hold which happened to a member of this congregation. The NAACP under the leadership of Jose Gallegus put the point on that. We also are the home of the battering ram that was most of this was with the LAPD with the old tradition. We had the battering ram, the chock hold, and then the Rodney King beating. We also then had the young man who was killed here. So we've had many opportunities to have a negative impact with law enforcement, but we've come a long way here.

And so what I'm going to say is what we're doing just it's going to take a multi-layer and collaboration with many different entities to solve the problems with

law enforcement. That are not only about law enforcement but the education system is about many institutions that are imbedded that are entrenched in the long histories of racism, but just one, small thing, that we are doing with the NAACP to try to bring about some change.

We believe that the main problem is why law enforcement kills so many African American men is because they fear them. They say they are in fear of their lives, but the reality is they are just afraid of the black man. Because that is prevalent all across this nation, we believe that that's because they don't know one another. They don't get to know one another. They don't move in the same circles. They don't run into each other at grocery stores. They don't run into each other in social situations. They live very separate lives. And many officers tend to probably live * they are safe where they can have the kids out, you know, at nighttime. And then when they encounter black men who live in warzones in many cases where they are having to have this tough exterior just to survive. One they encounter one another their fear all the sudden next thing you know black man is shot.

So what we're trying to do is to bridge that gap, to break those barriers and so we implemented something called Breaking Barriers Basketball Bash. We're playing right now for next one we started two years ago. Where law enforcement and the community preferably men who have had negative experiences with law enforcement interacting with officers who have negative experiences with black men coming together and playing basketball together. The teams are intertwined – not them against. And then once that's over they just sit down and share a meal together and then get to know one another. We have that coming up. We're looking at some time either June or July. The dates are being worked on. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Oh, there's a question. Excuse, me. Ms. Howe [ph].

Moderator: My question is you say that things have improved and beyond this particular example that you gave around breaking barriers. Can you speak to why you think * in this community?

Respondent: Oh, because they've been in the limelight. They've been – we had Christopher Commission. In fact, I believe the Christopher Commission just ended in January 2013. Then a few months later a young man was killed. But they've had a lot of opportunities to work on the rules of law enforcement. And we do work together listen, we're trying anything but * but it's not something I can really just share in this setting this quickly, but. We are working with them trying to bridge the gap behind the scenes. So we just had a lot of years where they've been bomb blasted in the media, you know, and so they had to do something different. But the Christopher Commission was probably one of the biggest things that changed it.

Moderator: Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you.

Respondent: Thank you to the committee for hosting this. *. I'm really disturbed by a lot of things. I do appreciate the man who spoke before stating that she believes things have improved. Like, since what timeframe that's kind of question. Like, from the 60s, 90s, you know. I was raised up here. In '96 no '98 I was stopped by the police just being tardy to class. * [crying].

Moderator: You're doing good. Don't apologize.

Respondent: I'm sorry. I'm a grown woman now, but that day, I never even thought I would experience something like that. I was just tardy to class with my friend. We missed our bus and we had to walk. When the police stopped us and because I've seen it on TV, I'm like "Oh, what's the meaning of this officer?" I've seen people say that on the TV. The cop gets out of the car and these are women police officers too, white women. Grabs me from my wrist from behind and slams me on the car, cuffs me, searches all of my belongings and I'm in the eighth grade. For children to have to experience that and never feel safe from being a child to an adult feeling safe from the police, that's a problem. To me, that doesn't seem improvement. They don't have to just choose people in the street to know that there's an issue with trust and police in the community. Okay, that kind of a preference to what I'm going into but.

Recently there was a shooting on Slauson – a camera on Fitness, a man was killed on March 8. His family was not notified until the 13th. He had three kids and his family can't find him. He had some type of mental breakdown episode. The police are there trying to help him. And I guess, out of frustration they were with man about two hours, they still decided to kill him. That is unacceptable. We have to have resources for people in our community. There needs to be certain – especially when people are having mental breakdowns. There needs to be a certain not task force, but mental health professionals to help these people who are having breakdowns. These police officers aren't trained in mental health. And to where they just get frustrated and take someone's father, take someone's boyfriend, or husband, or partner. Now, these children have to grow up without a father. Unacceptable. I know it's a time where we're trying to figure out other ways to either engage with the police department, abolish the police department what have you. There needs to be a timeframe.

Once, they kill someone the clock starts ticking. They need to be required to have a full report and turn around and give that information to the family. We're allowing too much time for them to collaborate stories. It's annoying. It's frustrating. That's like, they need to have everything they need to separate these people, get their statement, and make sure that their stories make sense. When they're spending a month's time to hang out and get their story, together that's a disservice to the community and a disservice to the family and they're not getting real answers. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you so much.

Moderator: The account of the brother that you were mentioned that was killed on March 8. Do you know what law enforcement is responsible?

Respondent: It was the sheriff's department, LA Sheriff's Department and his name was Dennis Todd Rogers. Oh, he had *.

Moderator: What's the last name, Dennis?

Respondent: Todd Rogers.

Moderator: Yeah, the *.

Respondent: Yeah, this man he had life. He had a career. These are the people they taking out of our community.

Moderator: He was unarmed?

Respondent: He was also unarmed.

Moderator: Thank you.

Respondent: She pretty much said it all. It's hard to follow behind that. I personally, in LA * East Coast, New York whatever, but here in LA have been stopped for driving while black. Have been stopped for walking while black. Have just been existing in a space that I'm supposed to be in, in a supermarket, at park, at a bus stop and stopped and harassed by police for no reason; right. The only tickets I've ever received in LA was for parking tickets; right. Everybody gets those. Not for felony, not for abusing anybody. I've never been arrested. I'm not what do you call it, a delinquent of society. Yet I'm constantly treated like one. I have a Master's degree, right. I think it was a brother who spoke earlier about him being able to get out of his situation. I too, am one of those people. I come from poverty. I got myself out with a help of a lot of people but I got out; right. But I'm still treated as if I'm not. As she stated before, police cameras on the camera on their bodies don't do anything. We're not seeing the cops. We're only seeing the community. We know what the community is doing everybody is talking about that – everybody too. If you go into a neighborhood after a shooting, everybody knows what happens. It's the cops who then as she stated go back and collaborate their stories. It's not us; right. We need to readjust the funding that's going to police and put it back into our communities, right. We don't – I learned when I was a vital for this young man, this brother, who was shot on Slauson. I learned there, that there isn't – the community can't say hey, this sister, this brother, this person is having a mental breakdown. There is no number that you can call to come get help for them. You can only call the cops. We know how they

respond to us. That needs to change. We need to change where our funding is going because the cops aren't for us. That guy in Anaheim why is he living in one place and serving in another community that shouldn't happen – the people who we trust with human lives look at doctors, look therapists, right. Look at all the folks who we put our time and energy in. Look at the amount of schooling that they need to do in order to take care of another human being. Yet, cops have what, a couple of – you don't even have to graduate. You don't even need a degree. You just need a couple of courses and be over a certain age. And then go through a six-month program I believe I heard. That's not enough. That is not enough. And you see by the fact that LA, what the county and whatever they go and back forth between being the two most murderous of police folks in the country. We see the effects. Like, it's time to change.

Moderator: Serena? This is our last, so if anybody wants to speak please *.

Respondent: I want to know how many people know about Wakiesha Wilson. A year tomorrow, why are the video camera be not available to family? Why is Charlie Beck not releasing the videos to the family? Wakiesha Wilson was in the LA jail on a minor infraction. There's been many stories collaborated. She didn't hang herself. She didn't commit suicide. If that is the case, why is it taking a year or basically you're saying that the LAPD is not responsible. You're blaming it on the jail which are still up under Charlie Beck.

Demands; okay, we're also going to talk about the situation in Inglewood where two couples with seven children were shot in their car while they were sleeping. Why is it taking the LA – excuse me, the Inglewood mayor more than a year to continue to run and hide from the people that are demanding answers?

This is what I need people to come together and think about. You can't just think about it. You have to take action. You have to get involved. We can't sit here and say that there's an answer for the police. It needs to be dismantled. The money that is being issued for them for these body cameras that continuously fall off and oh, no, one knows that there's video showing what happens. And the same police continue to walk. Ask yourself why. Ask yourself why. If you're a decent person ask yourself way. Why the money is being spent on body cameras, this, that,

and the other, but yet there's no money in the community for elderly, for the homelessness, and for education. Ask yourself why.

Moderator: Amala Dula [ph].

Respondent: Okay, so * Dula. Yeah, that's it.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Okay. So that was our, you got the last word in thank you very much. That was our last speaker if there's no one else. Somebody just put up their hand. Did you speak before?

Respondent: Just real quickly I wanted to ask * Pier *.

Moderator: The great one aiders.

Respondent: With the Great One Aiders, yes. Just wanted to say, aside from this conversation about what we can do in our current condition with people. We also have to think about after the fact. Let's think about the judicial system as well. Program such as the neighborhood justice program right or wrong that a lot these officers are doing. So when the local artist who doesn't have a canvas so goes out to the street and puts up his out there and he get arrested he's 16 years old. Now, he's going to have a lifetime of criminality. Through the neighborhood justice program they are able to essentially be tried by their own people within their community and not have some outsiders essentially telling them well, this is the \$35,000 fine. You are now, spending X amount of time in prison. And now, you have a record for your entire life, which then as we all know creates the pipeline of poverty. Let's think of, as well as thinking about what we can do to reform the current condition and situation with police officers let us also think about these programs that assist of the rights and the wrongs that are being committed – Neighborhood Justice Programs, Summer Night Life Program. I'm not – we're all against the grid programs that are out there. There's a lot of inequities that are coming out from city programing at times, but it's actually something that's happened. So at the very least let's continue the funding of these types of programs because they prevent things from happen, they demystify the police community relations, and they also right their wrongs. And that's really at the

heart of it. I've been able to be blessed enough to sit during one of these neighborhood justice panels and it's an amazing thing. You see the * really happening within the individuals. And a lot of times if the community is involved in essentially sentencing them quote on quote, that language isn't used. Let's say let's put the quotes with quotes there. When the community is involved the youth or the individual involved into the activity, the criminal delinquent activity is actually more apt to now having pride in your community and have a sense of ownership because they're granted that much. Thank you very much.

Moderator: Yes, that sounds like retorted justice when we're talking about –

Respondent: Yes, retorted justice definitely. So it's a neighborhood justice program part of I believe the city attorney's office.

Moderator: Okay. All right.

Respondent: Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you so much. Okay, so I just want to thank everybody again for coming out, for bringing your testimonies, for bringing the testimonies of others who might not of been able to come forward to talk with us today. As Commissioner Abdullah told at the beginning, we will be having a few more hearings. One is on April 8. I don't think we know where yet which will be focused on women and LGBT community query hearing. Please, look on the website. You can give your information to our staff and I'll let you know about the future hearings both that one as well as the one that's focused on law enforcement.

Of course, as she mentioned we will be coming up with a report. But that will probably reflect all that we've heard from all of you and other communities around the county. Our hope is not just that we will be pursuing, educating, the board of supervisor but that we will be working with all of you in the community groups in order to apply not just pressure from us but pressure from all of you on what you want, you need, what we all need for our community broad beyond policing.

So with that, I get to declare this public hearing adjured. Thank all of you for coming again.

[End of recording]