



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
SPECIAL HEARING ON DEPUTY GANGS
CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING HELD
ONLINE AT: <https://bit.ly/39mgbow>
coc.lacounty.gov**



Thursday, May 24, 2022

Attachment: [Video](#)

Present: Chair Sean Kennedy, Robert Bonner, Irma Hagans Cooper, Luis S. Garcia, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Jamon R. Hicks, Lael Rubin, and Executive Director Brian K. Williams

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Roll was taken by staff.

2. CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION REGARDING DEPUTY CLIQUES/GANGS AND EXCLUSIONARY SUBGROUPS OPERATING WITHIN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Chair Kennedy provided opening remarks and introduced Counsel Bert Deixler who acknowledged co-counsel members Lauren Wertheimer and Trent Fuji of the Vedder Price Law Firm, Ellen Choi of Covington & Burling Law Firm, and his assistant Patricia Perelló. Mr. Deixler provided an overview of deputy gangs within Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and advised sworn witness testimony will be heard. Mr. Deixler reported that several people within LASD volunteered to testify but reneged due to fear of retaliation or "career suicide". Mr. Deixler advised the investigation has been "hampered by the action and inaction of County Counsel, which has insisted upon marking and retaining as confidential, dozens of depositions taken and pending litigation against the County and Department members."

Following Mr. Deixler's comments, Chair Kennedy called the first witness, Inspector General Max Huntsman, who was sworn in and shared the history of deputy gangs within LASD. Mr. Huntsman elaborated on numerous documents presented by Mr. Deixler, discussed various report produced by his office, and referenced comments made by LASD Chief Matthew Burson during a press conference.

Following Mr. Huntsman's comments, Chair Kennedy called for Commissioner questions. Commissioner Bonner inquired if the Commission should subpoena Mr. Burson to provide his knowledge of the banditos and subcultures in the East L.A. Sheriff's station, and Mr. Deixler advised that he intends to subpoena Mr. Burson. Mr. Huntsman reported that the Office of Inspector General also issued a subpoena to Mr. Burson and will provide information to the Commission should the subpoena be enforced.

Chair Kennedy questioned if Mr. Burson publicly announced that he had been appointed by the Sheriff to investigate the banditos and the executioners, and to conduct a comprehensive investigation throughout LASD about deputy gangs. Mr. Deixler confirmed that he did.

Chair Kennedy moved to the second witness, Lieutenant Larry Waldie who was also sworn in and provided testimony under oath. Lt. Waldie stated that he has been an LASD employee for

more than 22 years and shared information about current LASD deputies who are part of deputy gangs. Lt. Waldie responded to numerous questions by Mr. Deixler related to the 3000 Boys and Executioners, including incidents that occurred at the Compton Sheriff Station.

Following his comments, the floor was open for Commissioner questions. Commissioner Rubin questioned if Lt. Waldie was fearful of retaliation to himself or his immediate family, and Lt. Waldie responded "I am afraid of revenge because I have seen it happen within my department." Commissioner Giggans inquired about Lt. Waldie's current position, and Lt. Waldie advised he is currently a Watch Commander at the Marina Del Rey Sheriff's Station.

Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy called for a 15-minute recess, which lasted from 11:01 a.m. to 11:16 a.m. At 11:16 am the meeting was reconvened, present were Chair Sean Kennedy, Robert Bonner, Irma Hagans Cooper, Luis S. Garcia, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Jamon R. Hicks, Lael Rubin and Executive Director Brian K. Williams. Chair Kennedy then reconvened.

Mr. Deixler introduced the next witness, who agreed to testify anonymously because of fear of retaliation. The telephone caller, Witness 3, was sworn in and confirmed currently employment of more than five years with the East L.A. Sheriff's Station. Mr. Deixler inquired about the term "shot callers," and Witness 3 stated that shot callers are referred to as individuals who call the shots. Witness 3 noted approximately 12-15 Bandidos currently in the East L.A. Sheriff's Station, stating they are usually detectives or training officers and then shared examples of misconduct by deputies assigned to East L.A. Sheriff's Station.

Following comments by Witness 3, the floor was opened for Commissioner questions.

Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy called witness Eli Vera, who was sworn in and shared information on his tenure with LASD. Mr. Deixler inquired about experiences related to Sheriff Alex Villanueva, Undersheriff Timothy Murakami and incidents that occurred at the East L.A. Sheriff's Station, and Mr. Vera shared his knowledge of the incidents.

Following Mr. Vera's comments, Chair Kennedy called for Commissioner questions. Commissioner Bonner stated that on behalf of the Commission, Mr. Deixler sent a [letter on May 6, 2022](#) inviting Sheriff Villanueva to this hearing and noted a [response received on May 16, 2022](#) from Lieutenant Shawn O'Donnell stated the Sheriff would not be able to attend.

Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were 55 people who provided public comment on deputy gangs. View the written public comments [here](#).

3. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy announced that information for the second special hearing on deputy gangs will be posted on the COC website and that the next Commission meeting is on June 16, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.