

July 11, 2022

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FROM: ROBIN TOMA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 

REGARDING UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MOTION RE: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS JULY 12th 2022 MEETING AGENDA ITEM 12 ON SHERIFF ACCOUNTABILITY

Below is the motion which was unanimously approved by the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) at its July 11th meeting, upon the recommendation of its Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations, regarding Board of Supervisors 7/12/22 Meeting Agenda Item 12.

Whereas, a motion by Supervisors Holly Mitchell and Hilda Solis titled “Promoting Accountability and Community Safety Through Checks and Balances of the Los Angeles County Sheriff” is scheduled to come before the Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2022, which if passed by the Board would begin the process to place a charter amendment on the ballot for November 8, 2022, the goal of which would grant the Board of Supervisors the authority to remove the Sheriff, by a four-fifths vote for cause, such as a violation of law related to the performance of duties, flagrant or repeated neglect of duties, misappropriation of public funds or property, willful falsification of a relevant official statement or document, or obstruction of any investigation into the Sheriff’s conduct by the Inspector General, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, or any government agency with jurisdiction to conduct such an investigation;

Whereas, law enforcement misconduct, including by deputies of the LA Sheriff, has triggered community resistance and many of the largest episodes of racial violence in LA County’s history, including the uprising and riots after the Rodney King verdicts in 1992, the Watts Rebellion in 1965, and the Zoot Suit Riots of 1943 (which laid bare law enforcement prejudices against racial minorities of the time, and led to the formation of our Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (“Commission”));

Whereas, “equitable law enforcement” is at the heart of our Human Relations Commission’s mission to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace, and is a core concept of our Commission’s

report **“Redefining Policing with Our Community,”** led by its committee on Policing and Human Relations. “Equitable law enforcement” is explained in our report as “a change from unilateral asymmetrical power dynamics...to robust, transparent oversight by the communities they serve;”

Whereas, our Commission’s Strategic Priority on Increasing Equity and Justice in LA County’s Criminal Justice and Community Safety Systems and our “Redefining Policing” report take into account the pernicious impact of intentional discrimination in our criminal justice system, but also the powerful role of implicit biases that are automatically and unconsciously created in all of us from our life experiences, and have particularly dire consequences when they are not recognized, managed, and reduced in law enforcement. As noted in the Commission’s Strategic Priority, “[w]hen the likelihood of being arrested, jailed, shot, executed, or rearrested after being released from incarceration in LA County is tied to one’s race, ethnicity, gender or other protected characteristics, fundamental human rights are at issue;”

Whereas, our Commission specifically recommends in our “Redefining Policing” report to “[e]nsure that all civilian oversight bodies have the necessary authority to perform their mission, including subpoena power and the power to censure and/or discipline” (Recommendation #8);

Whereas, in the process of creating our report on “Redefining Policing With Our Community,” which included multiple public hearings/community listening sessions in all five Supervisorial Districts, the Commission became aware of many incidents of law enforcement misconduct experienced by community members, and strong community support for effective checks and balances needed to ensure true accountability of the office of the LA County Sheriff;

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors has responsibility under law (California Government Code § 25303) for guiding and setting County policy and supervising the conduct of County officers and employees, which include the Sheriff;

THEREFORE, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations resolves and recommends to the Board of Supervisors that it unanimously approve the *Promoting Accountability and Community Safety Through Checks and Balances of the Los Angeles County Sheriff* motion, and takes all actions

necessary towards achieving greater accountability of the largely unbridled power of the office of the L.A. Sheriff, reinforcing the Board's policy-making authority regarding the Sheriff's Department, and ensuring permanent and independent civilian oversight.

Approved by unanimous vote of members of the Commission on July 11, 2022.

Commission President Ilan Davidson

Commission Vice President-Secretary and Chair of Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations Isabelle Gunning