



Written Public Comment

Provided for the October 21, 2021 Meeting
of the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Civilian Oversight
Commission As of 10/21/2021 at 5:00pm.

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Agenda Item	Public Comment	Name
Politician Oversee	<p>A slow movement is starting; the movement of having more oversight on Politicians.</p> <p>I want this office to begin proceedings to move away from the oversight of the County Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>I want the Board of Supervisors to have a clock in and clock out system to track their productivity. The Board needs to have a mandatory work load of 10 laws “reviewed for relevance to modern day and events per day. Dedicate one whole day 12hr shift to new issues, and be subject to a Mandatory full background investigation, criminal history, finance probe, family matters, disclosure of beliefs, psychological review, ethical considerations exam, critical thinking exam, analytical skills test, and a full detailed list of references of business ties as well as previous employer reviews. Camera views of their office and audio recordings to be released if needed for the end of year review.</p> <p>Lastly, I want the Board of Supervisors to undergo an annual review of productivity and a full report generated to match productivity and workload in that government seat.</p>	Fransisco Vela
2C, 2D, and 2E	<p>As a citizen of LA County, I feel more than concerned about LA County's Sheriff Department and Acting Sheriff Alex Villanueva. In a neighborhood council meeting he attend, he told people to hold him accountable, but time and time again, he refuses to be held accountable, but instead blames politics, so-called "paid" activists (without proving they are being paid), and bureaucracies for his contempt of the law he claims to uphold. He has refused to swear to tell the truth in investigations. He has withheld evidence. His accounts of trying to improve and clean up deputy gangs in the department has been proven false and discounted by whistleblowers. He has a special investigative unit that is now trying to pin claims against the people who are trying to hold him accountable. His officers commit the worst acts of brutality without any accountability, including tackling school students and shooting people in hospitals. He used social service dollars to fund photo ops for "cleaning Venice Beach"- which just means he displaced people from one location to another. What is more is that he does not take seriously any calls for his transparency or for his accountability. His continued role as Sheriff has devastated trust in law enforcement and trust in the County, and his pride and contempt for anyone who tries to hold him accountable shows the worst side of corruption in public office. His depravity is so bad that I hesitate to sign my name at the end of this comment for fear of retribution. Remove Sheriff Villanueva.</p>	Sarah Bowers

2b, 2c, 2d, 2e	<p>Majority of individuals incarcerated in LA County jails are there in the pretrial phase of the criminal legal process. Strategies for diverting people away from jail and into community-based services will result in significant reductions in the jail population. Focusing on diversion and alternatives to incarceration must be a top priority for any effort to reduce the jail population.</p> <p>The Commission should urge the Board of Supervisors to overhaul the entire Sheriff's Department, including a ballot measure that would amend the L.A. County Charter to maximize civilian oversight and community control over the sheriff and LASD.</p> <p>The RAND report only confirms what we've known all along. We were never expecting the RAND report to accurately depict the full extent of the decades-long deputy gangs crisis. It has severe limitations in its methodology, fails to fully make the connection between deputy gangs and the wholly-lacking LASD disciplinary system, and mainly recommends reform and training—nibbling at the edges, really.</p> <p>Still, on the bright side, as a research institution perceived to be as neutral as it gets, RAND is saying that deputy gangs exist, some are actively recruiting and doing harm, and more could be done. In fact, the report's recommendations to create (a) a strong and clear policy prohibiting deputy gangs and (b) external mechanisms for accountability are good jumping-off points. And it serves to stop Villanueva's gaslighting on the issue. The report also confirms there's been no coordinated effort to discourage membership in deputy gangs. And the fact that the vast majority (63%) of LASD employees surveyed say deputy gangs are just fine and shouldn't be banned demonstrates how LASD is rotten to its core.</p> <p>The Commission should use and enforce its subpoena power courageously, actively, and zealously—and pursue any legal means necessary—to hold the sheriff accountable for his harassment of oversight officials and likely illegal political activity using taxpayer resources.</p> <p>The Cancel the Contract: Antelope Valley coalition has been very clear on their demands related to LASD</p>
RAND's Report on Deputy Cliques.	<p>Sheriff Villanueva needs to denounce the criminal behavior of the LASD gangs that kill, harass and harm innocent civilians and communities. Stop hiding behind the first amendment. Villanueva is violating our human rights and should be terminated in his role as Sheriff.</p>
2b.	<p>My name is Melissa Camacho-Cheung. I am a Senior Staff Attorney with the ACLU of Southern California. I commend the Civilian Oversight Commission on its decision to play an active role in reducing the LA County Jail Population.</p> <p>The jails are at a point of crisis that demands swift action to decrease the population to its May 2020 low of 12,000. I share Inspector General Huntsman's assessment of the need to reduce overcrowding to ensure that people are not left languishing and shackled in IRC with no beds or necessary medical and mental health services. Before this Commission, the Inspector General exhorted the Board of Supervisors and LASD to "Take the keys, unlock the door, and dump people until you get to 12,000."</p> <p>The Board of Supervisors and LASD did just that at the beginning of the pandemic, bringing the population down from 17,000 in March 2020 to just under 12,000 in May 2020. Yet today, the number of people has risen to 14,200. Not only is this causing untenable pressures on housing, as seen by the IRC crisis first reported in August, but we are seeing a dramatic increase in in-custody deaths in 2021. In 2020, 38 people died while in custody – higher than each of the previous seven years reported in the 2020 OIG report. OIG has reported that in the first six months of this year, 25 people died in custody. If the second six months are like the first, we are facing the possibility of 50 in-custody deaths for 2021. We ask the COC to sound the alarm and push the BOS to actively support OIG's release position and push LASD to release people or cease bookings to stop this waste of life.</p> <p>I am also concerned that overcrowding contributed to the MCJ lockdown incident first reported by the OIG to the Public Safety Cluster on September 29. The pressures of a lockdown on an over-capacity facility likely contributed to the actions now under investigation.</p> <p>Some of the pressures on the LA County Jail system can be relieved through a quick reduction in population. While the Board of Supervisors ultimately plans to close MCJ, this body need not wait to push for an immediate reduction to 12,000 as a first step in dealing with these crises. Thank you.</p>

<p>RAND's report on Deputy Cliques, LASD Deputy Presence in Antelope Valley Schools</p>	<p>I read the RAND report, and I am horrified by everything I learn about the continuing presence of gangs in the LASD, and by the lack of accountability and insubordinate posture of Sheriff Villanueva both in response to BOS and also his attitude towards us, the citizens of LA County who he is sworn to serve. I am commenting today because I have many close friends who have had loved ones killed by LASD. My friends' lives have been ruined by the unjustified murders of their sons, nephews, brothers, and by the secondary tragedy of LASD criminalizing their loved ones and continually harassing family members in the neighborhoods where they live. Villanueva refuses to exercise any oversight over these officers and in fact publicly supports LASD gangs intimidation, harassment and misconduct. As my secondary comment, LASD has no place in Antelope Valley schools, after the recent murder of a student at Robert Millikan High School in Long Beach (I know this was not LASD but reinforces the obscene inappropriateness of armed presence in schools) it should be abundantly clear that armed law enforcement does not make schools safer, especially in a community like Antelope Valley which has already suffered from biased and racist history of selective law enforcement actions of the LASD.</p>	<p>Deborah Aschheim</p>
<p>2C</p>	<p>We must eradicate the Banditos Deputy gang in at the ELA station! The COC should urge the Board of Supervisors to overhaul the entire Sheriff's Department, including a ballot measure that would amend the L.A. County Charter to maximize civilian oversight and community control over the sheriff and LASD. The Banditos Deputy gang in ELA continues to kill and brutalize young men in our community; they must be eradicated. For decades, we have faced a crisis of tattooed deputy gangs among the ranks and management of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department (LASD). Often adopting white supremacist and neo-Nazi ideologies and imagery, LASD gangs have emerged in Black and brown communities, where it's perceived it's acceptable to brutalize, lie, and engage in crime. Deputy gang members have hunted, framed, beaten, shot, and killed people of color for membership ("ink") and prestige. We've known of at least 18 deputy gangs that have existed in various stations and units. The RAND report only confirms what we've known all along. The report also confirms there's been no coordinated effort to discourage membership in deputy gangs. And the fact that the vast majority (63%) of LASD employees surveyed say deputy gangs are just fine and shouldn't be banned demonstrates how LASD is rotten to its core. Sheriff Alex Villanueva's utter failure of leadership has only enabled deputy gangs and problem deputies to engage in greater misconduct and excessive force.</p> <p>Villanueva has gone from denying the existence of deputy gangs to claiming that they are only harmless fraternities, even comparing them to ICU nurses with matching tattoos of hearts. Despite these statements, he has also sworn he is the first sheriff to deal with deputy gangs by adopting a policy. Of course, none of Villanueva's claims are true. Importantly, Villanueva's policy does not prohibit soliciting or joining deputy gangs; instead, it only ties punishment with a separate misconduct. In doing so, Villanueva ignores the long, well-recorded history of deputy gangs and their principal purpose of misconduct and civil rights violations. Further, Villanueva's policy does not require LASD to identify deputy gangs or to cooperate with oversight bodies, including the Office of the Inspector General or the California Attorney General.</p>	<p>Carlos M. Montes</p>
<p>2E</p>	<p>Why do you believe SRO are the best fit in high schools Mr. John Lecrivain12:14 Data shows that leading cause of deaths with students in the AV schools is suicide. Would it not be better to have more councilors & social workers rather than SRO with guns and chest protectors? Would that not help lower the suicidal rate?12:16 We do not need police action in our schools!!!12:16 The relationship with Sheriffs should be in our community not in our schools!!!12:17 1012:19 15,,,plus supervisor and how much money is invested yearly for this program?12:20 Captain you are being bias at best</p>	<p>Marcos Alvarez</p>

accountable. A team that doesn't get overly emotional when they are called names by civilians because they know they are expected to uphold the law and expected to display ethics that everyday civilians are not trained on. We need to make sure that these safety officers are doing mental health evaluations every 6 months.

Reimagining safety means preventing most of the crimes that we see happening in the first place, we do that by community investments, specifically in corrective behavioral healthcare. We need to secure safe, clean, and affordable communities for displaced residents and get unmarked guns off the streets.

Lastly, when it comes to civil forfeiture capture, that money needs to go into a public civil account so that it can be re-invested into the community that the police say was harmed bc of the alleged actions of an alleged "criminal"! We need more civilians to oversee LAPD/LA Sheriff that are trained in ethics. END the pretend war on drugs!

We cannot reform the original slave patrols that are still terrorizing marginalized communities in 2021! We are working to divest completely from this violent colonist system if a resolution cannot be met! We will create a new township/jurisdiction and bar the violent descendants of colonists from entering! You are on NOTICE!

Oh btw, I'm working on a story about the time I was arrested as a young woman for allegedly jaywalking. I started filming the incident and the police at the Venice blvd station in mid-city found a "warrant" for a toll that I allegedly ran at a time when I didn't even have a car! I was a young woman at that time rushing to my car after getting off at midnight and these "public safety" officers didn't care to see that a black woman was getting safely to her car at night. Instead, they accused me of something that I hadn't done because they needed to meet quota and when I started filming the incident and tried to report them on-site to a superior, they found a

fake "warrant". And even before finding the warrant, as I was recording, the officer slapped my hand! We cannot reform the original slave patrols!

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Best,
Tieira

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