



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING HELD
ONLINE AT: <https://bit.ly/3pQi5U5>
coc.lacounty.gov**



Thursday, March 17, 2022

Attachment: [Video](#)

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

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR

Call to Order: Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked staff to take roll. Kennedy introduced Commissioner Jamon Hicks as the newly appointed Commissioner from Supervisorial District 2. Following the introduction, Chair Kennedy provided an overview of the agenda and the code of conduct and moved to the consent calendar.

Approval of Consent Calendar: Chair Kennedy called for approval, there being no objection, the [January 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#) were adopted. No members of the public commented on this item, and Chair Kennedy then moved to item 2.

2. REPORTS & POSSIBLE ACTION

2a. Chair's Report

Chair Kennedy reported meeting with community groups who shared concerns over the restricted oversight of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and thoughts that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the Commission should seek other avenues to hold the Sheriff accountable. Chair Kennedy shared concerns over the Sheriff's use of public funds to promote his campaign and advised he will explore issues and report back appropriately. Chair Kennedy then moved to item 2b.

2b. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Brian K. Williams welcomed Jamon Hicks as the new Commissioner and announced the Commission will follow the direction of BOS in regards to returning to in-person meetings. Mr. Williams announced the Commission will host a virtual conference on March 24, 2022 to discuss the LASD Budget. Chair Kennedy then moved to item 2c.

2c. Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report

Inspector General Max Huntsman advised the OIG quarterly report and statistics on deputy involved shooting and in-custody deaths have increased; and he acknowledged COVID-19 was a contributing factor to the rise in in-custody deaths. Mr. Huntsman advised he is still

working on the issue of deputy gangs. Following Mr. Huntsman's comments, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2d.

2d. Commissioner Comments / [Ad Hoc Committee](#) Updates

Commissioner Harris provided a brief update on the Budget ad hoc and encouraged the public to review the [staff report](#) and footnotes for detailed information. Commissioner Harris advised that a virtual conference will be held March 24 to discuss the LASD Budget; he noted that LASD Administrative Services Division Director Conrad Meredith and Chief Executive Office's Shelia Williams will present and answer questions.

Commissioner Rubin recalled the BOS directive for the Commission to develop a report for BOS to address deputy gangs and advised the ad hoc committee requested information from the Sheriff related to an investigation at the Compton Sheriff's station. She stated that no information has been provided and the committee is scheduled to meet next week. Chair Kennedy acknowledged concerns regarding deputy gangs and then moved to item 2e.

2e. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

There being no LASD comments, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2f.

2f. County Counsel Updates / Reports

There being no comments, Chair Kennedy moved to item 2g.

2g. Elections for the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission

Chair Kennedy called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner Rubin suggested postponing the election until after new Commissioners have been selected and onboarded. Chair Kennedy agreed to postpone nominations and moved to item 3a.

3. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

3a. Family Impact Remarks

Chair Kennedy acknowledged Julie Martinez, mother of Paul Rea and Helen Jones, mother of John Horton, and both shared their remarks. Chair Kennedy expressed condolences and thanked both families for their remarks. Kennedy advised public comment on this item will take place later in the meeting and moved to item 3b.

3b. Conditions of Confinement at the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF)

Chair Kennedy introduced Assistant Inspector General Cathleen Beltz who provided an overview of the [OIG's quarterly report](#). Ms. Beltz spoke on allegations of racial bias among women of color and limited access to programming, and she advised that OIG is conducting a study that will be shared when complete. Beltz advised that the recommendation to increase the amount of bottled water distributed to pregnant women was met and that LASD plans to install faucet filters in each housing module. Ms. Beltz could not confirm if this would include modules outside of those housing pregnant women.

Ms. Beltz reported that prenatal diets are a concern and LASD is revising the plan to include more fruits and vegetables. Ms. Beltz also reported time outside as a major concern and that pregnant women at CRDF currently are given 205 minutes a week of outside cell time and that the Department of Health Services recommended 150 minutes a day for all women. Ms. Beltz recommended “better monitoring of these issues and better accountability.” Beltz advised that LASD staff member Melissa Kelly oversees Educational Based Incarceration (EBI) and efforts towards gender responsiveness at CRDF. Ms. Beltz stated until policies, protocols, practices and accountability is in place, gender responsive efforts will fail. Following Ms. Beltz comments, Chair Kennedy called on Assistant Sheriff Brendan Corbett for comments.

Assistant Sheriff Corbett shared the racial bias issue is being taken seriously and that he had recently met with Sybil Brand Commissioner Cheryl Grills and Commissioner Harris and suggested developing a video to encourage Black women to sign up for programming. Assistant Sheriff Corbett confirmed Ms. Beltz’s comments regarding bottled water and advised that water faucet filters will be installed in common areas; Corbett stated that bottled water issued to pregnant women will no longer be limited to a specific number and that a nutritionist will be providing information to educate the women on healthy eating. Assistant Sheriff Corbett advised that out of cell time is a concern and the procedure for monitoring out of cell time will be changed to monitoring and tracking in cell time, requiring the women to only be in their cells during a specific time. Corbett reported a reduction in food service workers has created a backlog with special diets (including prenatal and medical diets), and he is working with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to fill those positions. Following comments from Assistant Sheriff Corbett, Chair Kennedy opened the floor for Commissioner questions.

Commissioner Rubin inquired about the number of pregnant women in custody and if they can be released to community programs. Assistant Sheriff Corbett advised the number fluctuates and that inmate reception places pregnant women into alternative programs and those with serious crimes are remanded. Corbett advised the list is monitored weekly due to court appearances that may end in sentence reductions. Commissioner Rubin suggested inviting Melissa Kelly to address the Commission, and Assistant Sheriff Corbett agreed.

Chair Kennedy advised that many individuals feel they are being targeted and fear internal investigations are not real, and he inquired who inmates should contact under those circumstances. Ms. Beltz shared multiple ways for inmates to submit a complaint and advised that individuals who feel their needs are not being met should notify OIG by phone or email.

Inspector General Huntsman advised that OIG has the authority to investigate individual incidents by County ordinance and State law, but do not have the staff capacity to investigate every complaint so they use the information people give them to try to improve conditions.

Assistant Sheriff Corbett stated, “we still have policies and procedures in place from back in 2012 when the 3000 boy’s incident occurred, with mandatory rotations, with other things like that, were still following those protocols.” Corbett stated that Body Worn Cameras (BWC) have been brought into the jails and “we’ve started our pilot on 3000 with the sergeants and senior lined deputies” and BWC have been distributed to 39 deputies and he would like to expand it

to all the jails. Assistant Sheriff Corbett also advised that signage about how to report an incident is posted in all the housing areas.

Commissioner Giggans questioned if information on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and who to contact is also posted. Assistant Sheriff Corbett advised that PREA is taken seriously and that signage is being updated on regular basis to draw attention to it. Following Commissioner questions, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment.

There were 11 members of the public who commented on this item. Following public comment, Chair Kennedy called for a 15-minute recess, which began at 10:36 a.m. and open session reconvened at 11:01 a.m. Present were Chair Sean Kennedy, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Jamon R. Hicks, Lael Rubin and Executive Director Brian K. Williams.

Following the break, Chair Kennedy advised that one of the speakers for item 3c will be delayed and moved to item 4, general public comment.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were 14 people who provided general public comment. View the [written comments submitted online](#). Following general public comment, Chair Kennedy returned to item 3c.

3c. Discussion regarding the Los Angeles County Family Assistance Program

Chair Kennedy called on staff member Ingrid Williams, who [discussed the Family Assistance Program](#) and proposed design under the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention. Ms. Williams advised the pilot program has not achieved permanent funding Ms. Williams expressed the importance of maintaining the program and highlighted the number of families who received assistance so far. Ms. Williams advised the next step is to obtain support for the proposed design of the program, outlined in this [OIG Report on the Implementation of the Family Assistance Program](#), and to urge BOS to allocate funding for the program.

Following Ms. Williams comments, Chair Kennedy introduced the Office of Violence Prevention Director Andrea Welsing, who agreed with Ms. Williams' comments and the need for a permanent program. Ms. Welsing advised how imperative it is to engage the community.

Commissioner Rubin proposed a motion urging BOS to adopt and fully fund the Family Assistance Program in the amount of \$1.5 million annually, and Commissioner Harris seconded the motion.

Following the motion, Chair Kennedy moved to public comment. There were six people who commented on this item. Following comments, Chair Kennedy called for a vote on the motion to urge the BOS to adopt and fully fund the Family Assistance Program in the amount of \$1.5 million annually. The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioner Bonner unavailable.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kennedy announced April 21, 2022 as the next Commission meeting and adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.