

County of Los Angeles
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Moderator: I want to thank our cosponsors, the Cross Cultural Center and Department of Pan African Studies right here at Cal State L.A. And I also really want to thank all of you for coming on what is a beautiful Saturday morning to be with us today to talk about these very important issues of policing in our community. You can see I've got a whole bunch of crew here if you will. They're fellow commissioners. I'd like them to introduce themselves you briefly.

Moderator: I am Lea Anne King and I am a commissioner representing the 4th district and I'd like to welcome you and also say that we are going to—every supervisorial district because the issues are concerned with are in all of them.

Moderator: Hello, Ashlee Oh commissioner representing supervisorial district 5. Thank you for coming.

Moderator: I'm Melina Abdullah. I'm commissioner representing the 2nd district and I'm also professor and chair of pan African Studies here at Cal State L.A.

Moderator: Good morning. I'm Preeti Kulkarni and I'm a commissioner from the 3rd district. I look forward to hearing everyone's comments today about policing in the community and I currently am employed at the liberty hill Foundation.

Moderator: Cynthia Anderson Barker appointed by supervisor Hilda Solice.

Moderator: Commissioner Susanne Cumming from the 4th district, commissioner from the 4th district. Thanks for being here today. We're looking forward to hearing what you have to say.

Moderator: So let me just give a little background. We're holding this public hearing on the matter of policing issues because of course even before 11/9 as we're calling it the policing issues have been forefront in the county and national news. And they've also been at the center of some of our biggest large-scale interracial conflicts in our county. This commission's history really goes back to 1943 with the Zootsuits riots and the interracial violence and policing issues that arose out of that incident. We actually released a report back in 1965 after the Watts Rebellion. And of course in 1992, another highlight of police actions, violence against civilians was the Rodney King uprising after the Rodney King verdicts. So when the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion took place, this commission decided it was time to take stock of what was happening with policing issues

and human relations in our county. And we wanted to go supervisorial district by district to make sure that we heard from all of the members of L.A County. So today is the 2nd of 6 public hearings that we've been doing. And we want you today as we asked in the 1st and will continue to ask to hear from you about your personal experiences with law enforcement officers and agencies. We also want to hear about your suggestions on how to increase fairness and equity in policing and we want to hear your ideas about building and/or maintaining positive relationships between the police and our communities. After this hearing we're gonna have 3 more public hearings. The next one will be in December 3rd in district 2. Jordan High Schools' auditorium. We have 2 others tentatively scheduled January 28th for district 2 and February 12th for district 3. And we'll also be holding a hearing in March that will be just for law enforcement. In addition we're going to be collecting information about best practices and recommendations for fair and equitable policing from many sources—academic sources and the like. The results of these hearings and additional information will be a report. And although, as an official body to do fact finding and research on these big issues, our key role with this report to make recommendations to the county board of supervisors and other agencies. We don't have the authority to force anybody to do anything, although we would like to. But in general we don't handle individual cases but we're happy today to have the National Lawyers Guild here. Who have worked with law students from local law schools and I'm proud to say, including my own Southwester law school who are here to help you in filling out forms either for complaints against the police department or commendations if you've got that. And so I know Commissioner Anderson Barker they'll be outside basically. If you want to, before, during, please do that. So that we can get the details of those things and assist you in providing that information to the appropriate police agencies. And after we get this report we're clearly gonna be back with all of you and community groups to collaborate and talk about how to implement whatever the recommended changes are that come from these hearings from you. What I'd like to do now is invite my fellow commissioner, Commissioner Melina Abdullah who is also a professor here, she's introduced you. She is the chair of our police practices committee and has really been a driving force for our commission to put together these hearings and so she's gonna address you as our committee chair. Please, Commission Abdullah.

Moderator: So thank you all for being here. thank you, Commissioner Gunning and I want to thank the entire commission for being willing to put these hearings on and really kind of step into our role to advance human relations with regard to public safety here in the county. I want to uplift the way in which we try to kind of vision and build our hearings. We're seeing ourselves as doing this in partnership with community organizations. So for each district, we've delved anchor organizations that we work with that have helped us to kind of figure out how things should unfold today. I want to recognizes our 3 anchor organizations. And I know that there are other organizations that are also present today. But the anchor organizations that helped to build for today are

Dignity and Power Now. Thank you. Los Angeles Community Action Network and Central Community Service Organization. So thank you all for helping us to build for today. We really want to do this work in partnership with the community. I also want to thank our cosponsors for today. My department—the department of Pan African Studies here at Cal State L.A and Fred Smith, who I always say, does everything that’s worthwhile on this campus. Fred Smith from the Cross Cultural Centers who made this room happen, who made all of the logistics happen. Thank you so much for this, Fred. I also want to thank the students—you may’ve encountered some students outside. Pan African Studies students who are volunteering today. I think Aliyah may be the only one who’s inside who’s volunteering today to make sure things run smoothly, to make sure that folks don’t pay for parking and those kinds of things. I want to acknowledge the National Lawyers Guild and the UCLA and Southwestern law students who are gonna be helping to collect those official complaints and I guess commendations as well, right, if you have any you can work with those students. And then I want to thank the Los Angeles County Commission for Human Relations staff for pulling this together. So our vision for these hearings really came out of us thinking about the 1965 Watts Rebellion and how do we move forward justice? Given of the landscape that we have here in Los Angeles. So one of the things that we committed to at the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion is to do these hearings. Because we also know that this question of policing, police brutality and the ways in which our communities are kind of treated by police, there are some things that are still very present in communities and we wanted to make sure that we give that voice. So here’s what we’re hoping will come out of today. We want your stories and experiences. We recognize that people are experts on their own experiences. So that’s the position that we’re coming from is to collect your expertise on your own experiences. We also know that you have recommendations that can be more visionary in building a public safety system in Los Angeles County. So we want to collect those recommendations. And in doing so we’ll be able to generate a report that as commissioner Gunning pointed out doesn’t have the power to actually implement anything, but the report is an official report that can then be used again, in partnership with community organizations to push for a broader, more visionary public safety system that works for Los Angeles County residents. So that’s what we’re hoping to get out of today. I hope I’m not leaving anything out but I’m sure commissioner Gunning will fill in if I’m missing anything. So thank you all for being here.

Moderator: Thank you commissioner Abdullah and of course she hasn’t missed anything. She doesn’t miss stuff. She’s complete. She already mentioned—I just want to do a few process things before we go into the hearing. She’s already mentioned parking and I guess some of your students are directing. You shouldn’t have to pay for parking. Bathrooms, if you go out to the elevators, you’ll kind of make a little jook to the left and go down the hall and you’ll see the bathrooms there. Everybody who wants to speak today, we’re asking that you please fill out speaker forms which are at the table as you’re coming—entering here where Robert Sowell will be. Please complete them. You’ll see

that we're asking you for as specific information as you can provide about the policing agency or department involved in the incident that your personal experience was included in and the date of the event. We want as much specificity about your personal experience as we can get. As these forms come in I have a stack of them here and I'm gonna call people in the order that I receive them from staff. And so please wait for me to call up your name before you start making your way up here so that we can do it in an orderly fashion. We are gonna impose a time limit. When you come up here you're gonna see very bright 3 minutes here. We're doing 3 minutes per speaker. What we want to do is make sure that everybody who wants to speak gets an opportunity to speak. So that's the only reason why we have the time limit and because this is a public hearing and we're recording this information, not just for our purposes but for the public generally to have access to, we really have to have a hard end at 1:00 because that's as long as our recording time has been paid for. So that's why we've got to make sure everything stays within our time. So I'm gonna ask you to please respect when—excuse me, I've been told by the executive director of the Human Relations Commission who is a part of our staff, a key member, he'll be the one holding up the sign. Aliyah will be holding up signs. So there will be a lot of signs to let you know when your time is up. The commissioners may ask you some questions. And rest assured if people do ask questions about it, I'll make sure you get a bit more time so that you can complete whatever it is you need to say. If we end up getting a lot of people speaking, I just want to warn you we may reduce the time to 2 minutes. Again, just so within the time that we've got for recording everybody gets an opportunity to speak. Of course we want all of you to respect everyone—this commission but most importantly each other. So please treat each other as you want to be treated. Just be respectful, you know, don't shout anybody down if they're speaking, and if you're up here speaking, please try to make your remarks in as civil manner as you can and please respect it when we say that the time is up. Cell phones—everybody please put it on vibrate. Yeah, all those heads moving, right? Again, this is gonna be recorded, if you don't want to be recorded, you still can share your information by again, going to the front desk. Our staff will have forms to fill out in order to record whatever information you want to give to us about your experiences with the police. Also, if you want to be appraised of what we're doing in the future, for example the specific venue for future hearings, whatever. Again, if you give our staff your information we'll make sure that you get the information on what we're doing in the future. I think I've got all of our—go ahead.

Moderator: So, one thing that I neglected to mention is that we did not invite any policing agency to be here today. We will have a final hearing for policing agencies. But the goal in that is to allow people to speak freely, to not feel intimidated or anything—we don't want people to feel that there's a possibility of retaliation. That said, we did not invite them. That doesn't mean they won't be here or that they're not in the room, right? But we want to let you know that that's our intention is to make this a community space that's as

open as possible so that you can be as forthcoming with your experiences and recommendations as possible.

Moderator: Okay, thank you. So, all of you who are in the room right now and know that you want to speak. Will you all rise with me? Can you just raise your right hand? And just say after me, I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth. Thank you very much. Okay, we're gonna begin with speakers from Michelle Infante from Dignity and Power Now, Carlo Montez from Central Community Services and Pete White from L.A CAM. As you heard, commissioner Abdullah identify them they're community groups we've been working within this supervisorial district who've done some work on this issue. And they'll be giving an overview in some the issues and then I'll go to the folks from the public. Please, come up here.

Respondent: Hi, my name is Michelle Infante. I'm the administrator for Dignity and Power now. I've worked with them for 2 years. I'm actually formally incarcerated at Lynwood Detention Facility. I spent 6 months there. I just want to give a little bit about myself. I spent 6 months in the Lynwood County Facility for something that I didn't do. While I was inside I was subjected to sexual abuse by L.A County sheriffs and by staff there. And so that's kind of how I got involved with dignity Power Now. When I came out and met Patrice. Told my story, and I've been working with DPN for the last 2 years. I actually work in; I work with the campaign for civilian oversight. We help pass the L.A County sheriff civilian oversight. For the last 2 years I've been working and doing research on civilian oversight across the United States. Every state that we have and to Canada and Europe and South America to find out about profiles and learn all about commission work and subpoena power—everything that involves commission work. So I'm here today, I'm gonna read a little bit about settlements for DPN. Marc Anthony who was supposed to be here today couldn't be here because he was in training. So I'd like to read a little bit of some of the work that we've done with regards to settlements if that's okay.

Moderator: Absolutely. Go ahead.

Respondent: Okay. For those of you that don't know Dignity and Power Now is a grassroots organizations that's based in Los Angeles that fights for the dignity and power of incarcerated people and their families and communities. Over the last 4 years we have fought to end state violence in Los Angeles, specifically sheriff violence in the county jail system. That's something that I know very well about. Our work has consistent of 2 campaigns; first a campaign to implement independent civilian oversight of the sheriff's department and secondly just out of jail construction. Our organization started and created the coalition to end sheriff violence, a coalition over 30 organizations state-wide that have done the work to end sheriff violence in Los Angeles County. Community members of district 1 are critical centers of leadership in the fight to end sheriff violence in Los Angeles County. Today we are presenting to you data that for us articulates a crisis of state violence and mass incarceration with clearly impacts black and

Latino residents in district 1. This data presented comes from research compiled at UCLA and from the sheriff's department open data. I hope that everyone receive d a copy of this up there. Major trends between 2015 law enforcement have spent \$122,000,000 arresting people in 10 cities in district 1. This has resulted 1,000,000 days of jail time. the top 3 reasons of arrests are public health issues that are being addressed in policing, possession of controlled substance 8,000 arrests, DUIs with a prior 6,000—over 6,000 and under the influence is over 2,000. The cities—East Los Angeles spent over \$30,000,000 on arrests and their top charges were possession of controlled substances, DUIs and battery against former spouses. Pico Rivera spent 17,000,000, El Monte spent 11,000,000, La Puente spent 10,000,000, Southgate spent 9 and the list goes on and on—millions and millions of dollars. In addition to 2 major facilities within the largest jail system stay on district 1. Men's Central Jail and Twin Towers for settlements issued between 2012 and 2015. Over 1/3 of settlements for incidents inside the jails were brought by individuals with mental and physical disabilities amounting to over \$5,000,000. Regarding women, over 11,000 women have been arrested in these 11 distract 1 cities. While the Central Regional Detention Facility (CRDF Los Angeles) the only women's jail is not in district 1. We know that within days, sometimes hours of arrest women are transferred to CRDF. We continue to hear stories of medical neglect including misdiagnosis, under diagnosis and incorrect and negligent treatment of health conditions, contraction of diseases such as MRSA, water contamination and denial of care of those with mental health conditions and disabilities. I was in there for 6 months and I saw what happens with mental health condition. It's very, very poor, things are not clean. The food is terrible. And when you think of terms of food, lot of people don't think how important it is. But it's very important because when you're feeding someone really poor food you're gonna get really poor behavior from people and they don't have clean water. While I was there I was told not to drink the water. And everyone that drank the water got sick. Every girl got sick. And not only that there are suicide attempts on the inside. And it has to do a lot with food and treatment of women on the inside. Some of our recommendations are the county should divest money from the sheriff's department and invest in public health infrastructure in district 1 including substance abuse programs, dual diagnosis treatment and housing. The sheriff's department in the county should immediately invest in diversion programs for black and Latino women and reduce the amount of women being criminalized for public health issues in district 1. The sheriff's department needs to more stringently eliminate problematic officers who are in their probationary period. A recent report by the inspector general found that probationary reports on new deputy performance were either late or turned after the period in which correction action could be taken. Oftentimes assessments of deputies were copied, pasted, incomplete or ignored allowing deputies with negative attitudes, poor integrity and raising extreme concerns were never released. The department should eliminate problematic officers immediately. And as the impact jail conditions and patrol operations that have historically lead to civil and human rights violation and black and Latino people. The county should strengthen civilian oversight to give the community more power, impact sheriff transparency and accountability including subpoena power. I applied and tried to become a commissioner. DPN had many grants and worked very hard for that position. And I want

everyone to know that I'm gonna continue to work for that position and win. The term is up—the next term is up I'm going to apply for that position again. Because I feel that it's very important to have people that are relatable to the experiences within the community and also from the jail system. And that's something that I carry with me and would be very proud to be able to work and speak for the community while working for the commission. So thank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you. Can you and me that so I can make sure that we do in fact have it? Thank you so much.

Moderator: Can you expand on what you were saying about the probationary period for new sheriff deputies? And I'm not sure if you were talking about in the jails or? I know you mentioned that they're not eliminating problematic officers. So if you could expand on that, that would be helpful.

Respondent: I can't really expand on it too much. It's not—my forte is more with the commission work in civilian oversight. I would imagine that a probation period is very important. But I think maybe a longer probation period but I think the most important thing is training and not just training with regards to using a gun, and how to use it, how to use these news guns that come through. We need training with officers with mental health, that can go out into the public and learn about mental health conditions. They're not being trained properly with a lot of things. So their probation period maybe should be longer so that when there's abuses and things go on those things can be brought forward to the commission and when those abuses happen in the very beginning it makes sense to know about that stuff so that it's not problematic down the line and it's stopped in the very beginning.

Moderator: I have a question. Were any formerly incarcerated women from Lynwood Jail put on the new commission on civilian oversight that you worked so hard to make happen?

Respondent: No. Unfortunately it's a 9-member board. The L.A. County board of supervisors picked 5. So that obviously means that they have the majority. There were 4 openings that were available and they said the community would get some of those. And 2 of the people that were picked, one was from the community and an organization. Another one was a female that is a presser at a university. The other 2 I don't know about. They're not anyone that's formally incarcerated on there. There's no one.

Moderator: Last question is a group of us had lawsuit against the Lynwood Jail a while back for strip-searching women out in the cold in a bus depot—an old bus depot. Has that changed?

Respondent: I'm so glad you asked me that. Because I have brought this information about not just the food, but exactly what it was like. I went through that system. Let me tell you I took a bus ride from Alhambra court house locked up in chains. My hands were all dirty from the metal. Then I went to Twin Towers and at Twin Towers I was put inside. You don't get to wash your hands. The filth piled up on the floor with pads and food and things like that. It was literally this high. Then they connected us back in chains and our hands and then took us to Lynwood. And in Lynwood we were stuck in the—they bring a bus in and it's a huge garage. And inside the garage when the bus leaves they put all the women inside there and they make you strip down. And there's men and women that are coming in and out of the doors. And so while you're stripped down they ask you to remove your pads if you have any, and drop them in front of you on the floor. They ask you to spread your cheeks from your bottom and also from the front from your vagina. And after all that, they ask you stick your hands in your mouth and open your mouth to see—that you might have drugs inside. So that's, that's the process by which you don't get to wash your hands; everything that you touch and people coughing on the bus and people with diseases, any kind of viruses and things. You just do all of that and stick your hands in your mouth. It's a horrible process and it's very demeaning.

Moderator: Yeah, absolutely.

Moderator: Just wanted to ask one more question—point of clarification. Out of the 9-member civilian oversight commission members are any of them formally incarcerated?

Respondent: No. They are not There's not 1 of them.

Moderator: Okay, thank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you so much. We really appreciate you coming forward.

Respondent: Thank you.

Moderator: the next one up is Carlos Montez. And Carlos I'm going to ask you right away.

Respondent: Good morning. My name is Carlos Montez thank you to you know, to the commissioners for organizing. I see a lot of faces out there that I haven't seen in a long time, probably in like 40 years.

Moderator: Don't out him like that. That's not fair.

Respondent: I was gonna ask for more time cause I'm an old guy and I've been around a lot. I've been arrested over 12 times and indicted twice by the L.A grand jury so and found not

guilty. But you know, unfortunately some of the experiences she just shared brought some of that trauma back to me, also, you know? Being in the county jail, being strip-searched and abused and yelled at and not being able to go to the bathroom for hours or people peeing on the floor cause there's on restrooms. But yeah, my name is Carlos Montez. I grew up in east L.A. Went to Garfield High School here locally. And I welcome to local east L.A. Lot of people don't realize that Cal State L.A is in east L.A. I'm with Central CSO, community-based organization in Boyle Heights. We don't get funding by anybody. We primarily work on immigrant rights, public education. But recently we've had to obviously take on the issue of police killings. There's been 5 LAPD killings in Boyle Heights and another one in east L.A. And many of the traditional nonprofits won't touch it. It's too controversial. They don't want to deal with it. We see it as a gross violation of human rights, okay? And this has been going on for years, East L.A> I was involved in the Coast Commission. I mean how many of you were involved in the Coast Commission. Was it in the 90's? We had the coalition—the original Rainbow Coalition for Justice where we had black and brown communities fighting for justice, right? We were on the Coast Commission. Went through all these meetings and protests of trying to reform the sheriff, right? And what happened? Nothing happened, right? But you know, we're gonna continue fighting. I'm here, you know and I have some specific recommendations. Usually more good at speaking at rallies and marches but I'm gonna try and relax and—but you did mention personal experiences, right?

Moderator: Yes.

Respondent: So an old guy like me, I still get you know; sheriff's SWAT team raided my house 4 years ago at 5:00 in the morning with the FBI because of my anti-war activities and arrested me. They could easily—I'm a public figure. They could easily walked up to me somewhere and arrested me. Even if they called me and say you know, we got a warrant for your arrest, we gonna arrest. Is aid okay, I would've probably cooperated versus you know, taking the danger of—the sheriff is a military organization. They're not here to serve our community, in my opinion, you know? They terrorize our community, right? The other personal experience I'll share real quickly with you is that even an old guy like me, parking in the early evening here in east L.A in my car, talking to a friend. The sheriff come up on you right away, you know? And I'll say there's no such thing as a 4th amendment rights in east L.A. Especially for Mexicans, Chicanos. We don't have any of those constitutional rights. They violate them daily, weekly, yearly, right? Sitting in your car not doing anything. They come up on you with their guns drawn—come out of the car. Pull you out of the car, search you, keep asking where are the guns, where are the drugs? Where are the guns, where are the drugs? Is ay I am an old man activist. I don't have no guns, I don't have no drugs. They go in your pockets. The only thing they'll ask you—do you have any sharp objects in your pocket that I might get a puncture? And they have little plastic—you know? And then, you know, they put me—put you in the backseat of the car. I'm under arrest? No, just get in the car. So here I am in the early evening in the backseat of a car. And I've been there dozens of times. But this is just recently—last few year. An old

dude like me, right? My friend, you know, they, they got harassed. So finally they run a check. They keep asking about the drugs. So the stereotype, the racist stereotype that all Chicanos, Mexicans are drugs and have guns is a racist accusation. It's a stereotype that the sheriff, LAPD have. So I'm sorry if I'm getting uptight here. I promise not to do the rally effect, right? Now, you know, imagine young teenagers—younger folks going through this. For an old guy like me, and sometimes it might be funny but I'll ah veto say it out. Sometimes, I could pass. I'm a light-skinned Chicano Mexican, right? And I've been able to get in and do stuff and survive, just because I'm an older light-skinned guy. But in east L.A the stereotypes—Mexicans, Chicanos that we have to deal with—I grew up in East L.A. Cruising the boulevard, getting harassed, getting stopped for no reason, being searched, arrested. So like I said the sheriff, LAPD have a long history of abuse in the killing of Chicanos and blacks. Every year we hear about a young man getting killed in our community. As I mentioned Boyle Heights. We've invited the community and other folks will talk more specifically about the killings in Boyle Heights. But I wanted to highlight Jose Mendez. Undocumented young man, 16-year-old killed by the LAPD in Boyle Heights. Edward Rodriguez, 24-year-old father, killed by the East L.A sheriffs. Shot in the back. They shot him in the back of the head where the bullets came out his eyes. And in the back, you know. Jesse Romero. 14-year-old. Killed by LAPD. The racial—in each case there's witnesses and videos that contradict the police version. And this goes on year after year and nothing's ever been done. So you know? What can we do? Our solution is to continue to fight and organize for our rights, right? But we're asking for specific recommendations. I'll put out my specific recommendation. We need an independent, special prosecutor for police crimes; a prosecutor with all the duties, resources and funding to investigate and prosecute police crimes. The current district attorney is not dealing with this big problem. Police are rarely prosecuted. We need real, solid committed to discipline the police. When they commit crimes and violate our civil rights. The police, in my view, have too many protections. Okay, recruitment, you know? Strong screening process to eliminate people with major trauma or biases. You know, we're gonna hire police we need them to be well educated and well-rounded individuals. Not the friends and family of current police that will continue the bad practices. Someone asked me to say also they should be drug tested in the initial hiring and ongoing. When they get hired don't put them in the jails, cause for year or 2 years they go in the jails and then they go out to the field and they come out like, you know, like bulls. They call them the bulls, right. They come out ready to fight. They, inculcate all these stereotypes that everybody on the outside is just like people on the inside. So the training, you know, has to start initially in the career. So that training turns them into aggressive bulls as I said. We need to eliminate that cowboy, killer mentality. Stress—they need to understand and know that real knowledge of the laws so that they can obey the laws and understand the civil rights and constitutional protections of all the people. They should have a sign in the east L.A sheriff's station instead saying * should say you know, obey the law and obey the constitution, respect the laws of all the citizens. You know, they should require an AA degree. They should have ethnic studies classes. They should study the history of the community that they're gonna work in. maybe that'll help. Maybe if they understand the community and they should live in the community. The field training, before they go out

and become sheriffs or LAPD maybe they should do intern. Volunteer in community groups. I will say that the current county commission—I don't know the exact name of it. That the sheriff they just come out with reminds me of the coast Commission. Has no real power and is more like little window dressing. They have no subpoena powers. They have on discipline authority and they cannot fire or hire any of the sheriffs. And they were appointed, not elected. I think they should have an elected, civilian police reviewer that has this power. Just in wrapping up, they should eliminate the issue of immigrant rights. Eliminate these unnecessary checkpoints where they target our immigrant community for car impounds. And that the police should definitely not, collaborate with the immigration authorities, right? And I can go on and on. Whenever we have public events...

Moderator: but I don't want you to go on.

Respondent: Thank you very much. I have other recommendations. I can submit the writings. Get the recommendations, take it to the board, do something with it. We're tired of every 20 years doing this thing and nothing happens, you know?

Moderator: Please submit it in writing. Yes, gotcha.

Respondent: We're gonna eventually have to just organize and rebel.

Moderator: Can ask Carlos one question? Carlos, can I ask you one question? What is the current sheriff policy? Someone's arrested, they're undocumented. Is the sheriff inquiring when the arrestee is in the jail what that person's immigration status is do you know?

Respondent: Well let me tell you one right off the front. The sheriffs are always saying where you from? They always saying in Spanish and English, you know? It's not just to get you to commit that you're saying a gang, right? But they get—you know and people are proud. Where you from? Mexico, Michoacán. Right away, okay, so you know. It's a trick that they use. Inside the county jail, when you get bailed out, you know they put us in a holding tank. And all the non-Spanish speaking people get all uptight. What are we doing here? This is immigration check, you know? And they start asking or highlighting folks that are Spanish speaking and they'll question them. So there's ICE programs where they work with L.A. During the Bacas time he'd sound an MOU where he'd work with the ICE to work—collaborate with them in identifying so-called undocumented folks. And they use when you're coming out. They do an interview to see where you're from, etc. That's where the non-Spanish speaking people get what am I doing here. You know what I mean?

Moderator: Got it. Thank you. One more question?

Moderator: So I think the recommendations are really helpful and I know you are gonna submit that in writing. So I just want to kind of reiterate what we have. An independent special prosecutor for police crimes, strong screening process for police recruitment. Which includes the things you talked about, degrees, ethnic studies training, volunteerism, and living in the community.

#3. Elected police review boards.

#4. Eliminate checkpoints.

And #5. No collaboration with ICE. Were those the 5 that you have?

Respondent: Did you get the real, solid commitment to discipline?

Moderator: Okay.

Respondent: Disciplinary processes.

Moderator: And the reason I'm reiterating it even though we have it in writing is also we recognize this is a space for folks to collaborate with one another. So we want to make sure that the people in the room also hear what your recommendations are. So thank you very much.

Respondent: Thank you, thank you.

Moderator: Pete White I believe is coming forward from L.A Can. You, too have a few more minutes than what we're going to be giving regular folks in the community—5, right. And so please, go ahead.

Respondent: So good morning. My name is Pete White with the Los Angeles Community Action Network. A 17-year-old organization located in Skid Row; working in South Central. Not South L.A. South Central Los Angeles and downtown Los Angeles. What I just passed out was a policy if you will sort of platform and set of recommendations. I'm not gonna ask you guys to follow that. I will point you to particular recommendations when I get there. I think also from the outside, because we were I guess sworn in and we ah dot raise our hands to say we were gonna tell the truth. I will be really, really truthful about our orientation when it comes to policing in our communities. Our orientation is not situated in any sort of idea that believes in building and maintaining good relationships with police departments. Because from the outset, we know the police departments were slave catchers, we know they were the enforcers of the black codes, right? We know they were enforcers of Jim Crow. We know that they were enforcers of knocking down movements, union movements, the civil rights movements, the black power movements. And so their orientation does not lend to building good relationships, right? We're very clear in that sort of vein and that sort of imagination. Also that we need to reframe the

public's narrative and our definition of public safety, right? So currently public safety continues to be rooted in 1033 programs, further militarization, surveillance, and right? And using police to police our communities in ways that banish us, right? That incarcerate us. That strip that Dr. Clyde Woods talked about; asset stripping. That takes away all the potentials we may or may not have to succeed. And so for us, we reframe that public safety narrative and to think about it from a divestment sort of framework, a divestment from policing in the ways in which we see it with its deadly and noxious outcomes to an investment in things that really make us safe, right? It's not more police. It's not more prisons. It's not more jails. It's not all of these drivers. It's really fully funding services, making sure that everyone is housed. Making sure that there's equity and equality into the ways in which our public resources are dispersed. On the city side, we know the general fund budget is 7.8 billion dollars. 54% of which goes to the police department. On the county side nearly a 3rd of its budget goes to publish safety and protection. But all of that moves way from all of the things organizations have been calling for in terms of things that really make us safe. And so I think one of the recommendations today for this commission is making sure that we really begin to divest or take away and reprioritize the ways in which resources are being spent that aren't making us any safer. I think in my 1 minute and 17 seconds that I had a whole other thing to say but I was sitting here listening to Carlos and other folks. I think the other thing that's important from our vantage in organizing in Skid Row. In the first 3 years of the Safer Cities Initiative, organizing in a 25 square block area. In the first 3 years there were 27,000 arrests. There was 36,000 quality of life citations given in a 15 to 25 block area with nearly 13 to 15,000 predominately African Americans, right? And when we talk about racial profiling we really need to look at it from its public health consequence, right and from a lifesaving consequence. Because not only when we talk about arrests and tickets we also ah veto talk about the use of force and the use of county jails as a mental health facility. We have to talk about the death of Carlos Acono and Brother Africa and the arrest and holding on a million dollar bond of Trishawn Carey all of which and all of whom were living with mental health conditions, right? Not going to go through the recommendations. I'll leave myself open for questions. But at the bottom you'll see a set of recommendations for L.A County that begins to address some ideas that we have and have been perusing about ways in which to remove the sheriff's department and others from being the policers if you will of public health issues. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Any questions commissioners?

Moderator: I imagine that I'll have a couple questions for you. I just want to reiterate for those who are here that the—this commission is interested in policing questions not just in terms of L.A County sheriff but for every policing unit in the county. So we are interested in experiences with regard to LAPD, Torrance PD, Long beach PD, as well as the sheriff. Pete, you started to lift up mental health and policing. And I'm wondering if you can talk a little bit more. You mentioned a couple of cases. I'm wondering if you can lift those cases up, but also if you can talk about the ways in which these special units have

been working around questions of mental health and whether or not that's the most effective way or if you have other recommendations?

Respondent: Yeah perfect. Thank you for that question. As we see, as the headlines remind us the special units are definitely not working for our communities. For example on the LAPD side, we have what's called SMART teams, right? And the SMART teams were created after the shooting—the murder of Margaret Mitchell in the mid-90's. The SMART teams in the city of Los Angeles—there were 12 teams that patrolled the entire 469 square miles of the city of Los Angeles; 12 teams. And they were not and they are not 24-hour teams. They are actually 2 shifts, 8 hours per shift. So 16 hours per day. Those units—that unit is based in Skid Row, central division. However, in Skid Row, the SMART teams are never deployed. They've set up a counter program for Skid Row where you have got to be arrested first before you can engage with SMART teams. What is that broken? Smart team was developed because it was very clear that individuals suffering with mental illness and in mental illness crisis, when engaging with law enforcement. Usually the outcomes because they were uniformed were bad. And so SMART teams were especially trained officers who don't have badges, who don't have guns, who don't have uniforms on, right? And so you would have units deployed from Skid Row, right? But unlike in other communities the SMART teams weren't deployed and aren't deployed there. And so instead by policy the first responder is a uniformed officer. Oftentimes a rookie. And that first responder is not trained. For mental health intervention, right? And so for us, really interrogating how these programs remained broken. I talked about Carlos Acono a Cuban brother who lived in Skid Row. And he would always climb on top of trees and on top of buildings to get away, right? To get away from the noise. On one morning—and the police department knew him well. One morning, Carlos Acono climbed on top of a billboard. And instead of SMART being deployed. Again, SMART team is in Central Division he was killed on the corner of 5th and San Pedro. The police department is on 5th and Wall Street. You could literally walk around the corner. Instead of sending SMART, they sent SWAT. So instead of sending SMART for Carlos Acono, who everyone knew, the police department, for the last decade knew was living with mental illness they sent SWAT. They put a pack of cigarettes for him—he had no shirt on. He came down on the roof, picked the cigarettes up, was going back up onto the billboard and they shot him with a less than lethal. And that brings a whole other conversation around less than lethal. They shot him with a beanbag gun, knocked him off and he fell to his death. And so when we talk about these special programs, these special programs are special in name only. The LAPD SMART team much like the county PEP teams, right, and the SMART team is a highly recognized and awarded division of the LAPD per their PRD department. However, in the communities that need the most, these services are not deployed.

Moderator: Thank you. Any more question? Go ahead.

Moderator: I have 1 question. I don't understand. You must have talked to Central division. Why isn't SMART team used on Skid Row?

Respondent: So we've definitely talked to central division and it's a policy question. It's also one of the reasons that we need to push harder at the state level; particularly when we're looking at the peace officers bill of rights. So when we talk to Chief Beck and we talk to others, they say the reason SMART teams are not deployed as first responders, not just in Skid Row is because it's a safety issue. And so for us, we say well, you a police and that's a police officer and you're trained. What's the safety issue? And they say per union contract the union has ensured that SMART don't go first. But uniformed officers are the first to respond. And as we see in case and case and case, a 3rd of the killings and the murders in Los Angeles, a 3rd of those people are people suffering with mental illness because of these first responders.

Moderator: And just to follow up, how does the police protected league, the union impede your work?

Respondent: I mean, of course they impede our work. It's their relationships to power that impedes our work. It's the, it's their relationship to elected officials and the campaign hopes and aspirations that impedes our work. But none of them stop our work, right? And for us, our work is going to be to clearly articulate our concerns and to disrupt the process, and to attempt to create a process that works for all and in the current moment that means reframing what public safety looks like and divesting in the police departments across the county.

Moderator: Thank you.

Moderator: Policeman's bill of rights, are you suggesting that it should be repealed or modified in any way?

Respondent: So we are definitely saying that it should be modified, ultimately, our greater vision of the world that it's repealed. Our greater vision of the world is that we're divesting from police forces and militarized forces in our community. There are certain elements. There are many elements in the peace officers bill of rights that is giving these sworn servants the license to kill, right? It's giving them the license to abuse our community and making that as a day on the job. And so we are right now organizing ourselves without putting too much out. We are definitely organizing ourselves to once again challenge as many others have attempted to in the past ways in which the peace officer's bill of rights continues to allow our murders at the expense of our communities.

Moderator: Do you have anything where you list specific items of highest priority? Are you gonna hold it close to your chest?

Respondent: That part right there. We're gonna hold it close to our chest and definitely not put it out here in this forum. But we'll be calling on you. Thank you.

Moderator: Pete, thank you so much. So at this time we've got 18 folks who have requested to speak. We are gonna be more disciplined about the time. So I'm gonna call up the first 3 to get ready. Carmelo Alvarez will be the next one to speak, and then coming up behind him Thomas Allison Social justice Advocacy Project and behind you Robert Crisco, Brown Berets. Please, go ahead.

Respondent: Good morning. My name is Carmelo Alvarez. I've been a youth advocate for 38 years. Currently a gang interventionist and also a former human relations instructor at the L.A police academy which gave me a great insight into police culture. One of the things that I'm going to recommend is not only more intensive human relations instruction but also a more intense screen process. Most of the offices, they had an attitude that they're not social workers. They are social workers. They're the people that are on the street in society. They're the ones that people call when they need help. So there's training bulletin #11 that states the people are the police and the police are the people. In order for the people to go to the police for help the police must again the trust of the people. It is the police responsibility to gain the trust of the people. And they're not gain the trust of the people by treating them in a very abusive manner. And I grew up here also in Los Angeles my whole life, as a young man, as an adult. I've been mistreated by law enforcement. Stereotyped, disrespected, but I did have the opportunity to go in there and share about you know, my culture. So even though they really didn't care about it, a lot of them, when I ask why you here? They want to see action? They're gun enthusiasts, a lot of military background. A lot of them got bullied when they were young. They have misuses and they need to be dealt with also. They need—they're coming from trauma as well, coming from war, coming from being bullied. So they need the psychological evaluations more intensely. So that's one thing. The other thing is that I'll give you a good example of policing. I also opened the first hip-hop youth center in 1983 here in Los Angeles. It was called the Radiation where a lot of the kinds from the movie Breaking. Some of the older folks here remember that—the birth of hip-hop here on the west coast. So at that time, kids were leaving gangs to join graffiti art crews, to join break dancing crews and DJ MC Crews. Well, over the last 33 years what's happened is instead of the county and the city embracing culture, they've criminalized the young people. So currently the county spends about 36,000,000 to eradicate graffiti. The city of L.A spends 9.5 million to eradicate graffiti. But the budget for youth art culture is 0. We spend 250,000 to incarcerate 1 kid per year. Imagine what you can do for 250,000. So one of the big issues right now and the #1 constituent complaint is graffiti. A lot of the kids—80% of the violence that we're dealing is graffiti related. So now since we didn't embrace the kids, the gangs did embrace them. And now the graffiti crews they're not future gang. And that's the reality that we're dealing with. But I have other recommendations. I know my time is up. I'll put them in writing.

Moderator: Please do that.

Respondent: And I would love to you know, share it with the commission. So thank you for your time. I appreciate it.

Moderator: Thank you. There's a question. Go ahead, Commissioner Cumming.

Moderator: Quickly, could you say what your recommendations are?

Respondent: my recommendation is going back to mental health, the majority of also the clients that we work with, they're suffering from trauma. They've been misdiagnosed. So when we call the PEP team they send the police or the sheriffs. They're the first ones to respond. And they have 1 question for the kid. Are you gonna hurt yourself or are you gonna hurt someone else? So if they're not 5150 they will not call the PEP team. So a lot of cases where the kid's like no I'm not gonna do that. But the minute they leave, the police, they're assaulting the mother, they're violent, they're you know, so that's not a good criteria to call the PEP team. The 5150, that's all their training is. That's all they know. The other one is to redirect the monies that's spend for graffiti abatement and put it more into activities like in culture, job training to identify their gifts and their skills so that they can fulfill their purpose in life. Not a dead-end job. There's plenty of jobs going out there and cleaning a warehouse. That's fine. That's maybe a start. But let's really get, and allow them to live their dreams. So I have a bunch of other recommendations. I don't want to take up other people's time. But I will put them in writing and I will submit them to you. If there are other questions—you all good?

Moderator: This is not a reminder if you don't want to come up here and speak or if your speaking time is gonna exceed the 3 minutes, please put your comment sin writing. All of that will be part of our public record, okay?

Moderator: And indeed it might be—maybe our students might be able to record some of this information or that might be the best thing to have National Lawyers Guild students that are out there and available. So if you feel you're not that comfortable writing out things yourself. We'll have them do the recordation and definitely make it into our record for sure.

Respondent: One last comment, the suppression that's really intense right now in Boyle heights, Lincoln Heights is definitely directly tied into the gentrification that's going on.

Moderator: Hi yeah.

Respondent: So I will write more of my observations because I'm out there in the streets, you know and dealing with this every day on a daily basis. So I'm gonna write about that and really get down to the root of what's going on.

Moderator: Yes, yes, please.

Respondent: thank you so much. I appreciate everybody here. Thank you.

Part 2.

Moderator: Mr. Allison?

Respondent: Hi, my name is Thomas Allison. I am president and founder of a nonprofit organization called the Social Justice Advocacy Project. We've taken on the issue of community oriented policing in the east San Gabriel Valley. One thing that I've come to realize is that policing historically is not been a people issue. It has been an interest issue. If you ask why are there so many people incarcerated, it's because there's an interest in incarcerating people. If you ask why those conditions in incarceration are so terrible it's because there's no interest in bettering those conditions. It is an interest based institution and we need to make it a people based institution. And that is what my nonprofit is setting out to do. We've created the east San Gabriel Valley Community Oriented Policing Strategies Task Force to help bring the people together for a solid, unitary voice. I think the issue that we're having now is that we're all trying to take this issue up individually. Well, we do know that individuals don't have power. Groups have power. And groups have interests and that is how we develop interest. So what we've done I been a black man very unsafe in L.A County or felt unsafe in L.A County. I reached out to every single police chief in my regional area. 8 cities I contacted and I got all of them to participate in what's called a truth and reconciliation program. That is they sat down and they listened to the people express some of the same concerns that we're expressing here today. But they recognize that those problems existed and then gave models for reconciliation. That is how we start the process by getting law enforcement to recognize our interest based relationships and get them more in tuned with the people. Then we educate the people so that they know the power that they actually have in this system and what we can do if we actually come together. We get community input and then we implement those inputs in policy. And that's what we're setting out to do in the east San Gabriel Valley. We're kind of the stepchild of Los Angeles County in that we don't get that much attention from district 1 or we don't get much attention from district 5. We're members of both of them. But it's an issue that's plaguing I think the entire community, the entire county. And that's what we're setting out to rectify.

Moderator: Any questions? Commissioner Dove?

Moderator: We don't have any written material from you but do you have a map that clarifies which of the cites in the county are under your jurisdiction?

Respondent: Yeah. Actually we do have a 15 point platform that I'll make sure that you guys receive. But the 8 cities are Azusa, Claremont, Covina, Glendora, Laverne, Pomona, San Dimas being the L.A County sheriff east patrol and West Covina.

Moderator: But not Pomona?

Respondent: Yes, Pomona.

Moderator: Oh you said Pomona?

Respondent: Yeah that includes Pomona. I have a relationship with Chief Capraro as well.

Moderator: It's totally in the San Gabriel Valley then?

Respondent: Yes. So those are the 8 cities that we're working with. We have command staff on all of them that have committed to making this work because we don't want to be the next region that becomes a powder keg.

Moderator: Are any of those cities under the Lakewood plan using the sheriff for their local police?

Respondent: No. The San Dimas would be under the east patrol. So that is the areas out covering the unincorporated areas of east San Gabriel Valley.

Moderator: Any other questions? Mr. Allison in addition to what commissioner Dove asked about, if you could submit in writing about the cities. You said you have a 15 point plan?

Respondent: Yes.

Moderator: Could you also give us some information about how your truth and reconciliation worked? I assume you have ease literature about how those dialogs?

Respondent: Yes, I mean so our platform is based on basically 3 theories. Contact theory, participatory evaluation that engages the community directly with stakeholders and collaborative governance, which is getting the community involved. I think law enforcement agencies should be deconstructed. Mental health is not a law enforcement issue. Homelessness is not a law enforcement issue. Drug and alcohol abuse, not a law enforcement issue. But they're currently law enforcement issues. So we're looking to deconstruct law enforcement and replace those operations with community organizations that actually specialize in those particular fields.

Moderator: Got it. And do you have any literature that you could submit to us about what you mentioned, the truth and reconciliation groups that you did?

Respondent: I do. This is actually my dissertation. So I have about 100 pages worth of research that supports all of this.

Moderator: Oh my goodness you've got lots of stuff for us if you've got a dissertation. So whatever you can share with us we would like to have it.

Respondent: I have a whole book.

Moderator: We want your book.

Respondent: Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you very much. I've got Robert Crisco and coming up after him Lloyd Wilkey and Mariella Saba.

Respondent: Good morning everybody. So first I just want to bring into the space Mayra Oconojó. Mayra Oconojó was a mother of 2 I believe and she was shot and killed by the Compton sheriff's department at a gas station. She was guilty of wielding a knife. I also want to bring into space Edwardo Rodriguez and Ricardo Lara. They were—one of them was a student. They were both at a family party in East Los Angeles and they were standing outside the family party and from the description of people who were there, it just seemed like the sheriff's department just rolled up on them and shot them. They—later they justified the shooting by saying that one of them held a bee bee gun. I also want to bring into the space of Noel Aguilar. Noel Aguilar was a young man also shot and killed by the sheriff's department this time again in Compton. And one thing I want to bring to your attention is also not just the shootings but the manner in which these shootings were I guess you would say investigated. So first Ricardo Lara and Edwardo Remudez, when they were shot, there's been allegations, it hasn't been proven but there were allegations that the bodies were moved. Also, the witnesses said the sheriff's, because this was at night. The sheriff's used the flood lights of their cars to block out like the windows of the apartment buildings around to make sure that people couldn't record. Then this was also seen in again in Compton, which is a different side of the sheriff's department for Compton versus east L.A. So in Compton and this is in relation to Noel Aguilar shooting, so just to show the extreme in which for the Noel Aguilar shooting. So there was a video that did come out of the shooting. And to the extent or the lethality that the officers were using, they shot the poor young man so much they actually shot each other. One of the bullets passed through Noel Aguilar and hit one of the other officers. They're like, shooting him from both sides. But one of the more troubling claims is also that the officers—like I said this isn't substantiated but this is what's been spoken through the communities, that the officers also went around the apartment

complex asking for video and confiscating video of the shooting. And that is why the video of the shooting came out later. So I just wanted to lift up those names and bring those names into the space, as well as in terms of the sheriff's department. The sheriff's plagues the community in multiple different areas. So of course you have the extreme—of course the police violence, the gun death. Then you also have the daily. So I do want to speak to the daily, that youth in the county experience. So mainly I see it through fare evasion. Now through fare evasion it's really a license to do what you want. So a youth will get pulled off of a metro bus or a metro train for fare evasion. And through this fare evasion you need up getting stopped, you will be frisked. Sheriff's department I will say when it comes to attitude, I know police officers are not famous for their attitude. But sheriff's as themselves have a particularly bad attitude. I don't know if it was like my friend Carlos was saying, them coming straight out of the jails. But sheriff's their attitude borders on gross. So I'll just say 2 personal stories in reflection to that. The first, so I was an AP US history student and for your AP US history test, you get out early after you finish your exam. It's like one of the gifts of taking an AP test. So when I did and I was walking to the bus, a sheriff decided—he flagged me down with his shotgun and asked me what I was doing and where I was going. And when I told him I was an AP student. He said come on, where you really from? As in what gang I was really from. And then it took me—I'm 25 now. This was when I was 17. I don't remember the exact conversation. But I do remember I had to show him my actual AP US history booklet for him to let me go. And this is how the sheriffs are. The sheriffs are the type if I was hanging out with somebody, and I left, the sheriff's will come up to those people and question them based off of hanging out with me. So as far as my recommendations for the sheriffs I believe again in screening. But at the same time I have to reiterate the call for a civilian prosecutor. But also I would ask for you to really do what you can. I don't know what your ability in this could be, but to really help strengthen the civilian oversight along with dignitary and Power Now and a lot of the organizations. In this space we fought for civilian oversight. So I ask you do all in your power to give that civilian oversight board some teeth and some ability to get justice. Thank you.

Moderator: Before you leave the first name that you said?

Respondent: Mayra Oconojó.

Moderator: What was the date, do you know?

Respondent: I'm not 100% on the date. It did happen I believe last year.

Moderator: Any other questions?

Respondent: Thank you all for your time.

Moderator: Thank you very much for your time.

Respondent: Good morning. I'm not good at this stuff. 3 minutes is a long time if you're in a boxing match but doing this is not easy. My name is Lloyd Wilkey. I'm not here representing any organization or anything like that. Although some of you know that I do work for the Museum of tolerance. I do train police officers in diversity and racial profiling and all that sort of thing on a consistent basis. And I also work with a youth program that I founded and directed and direct for about the last 20 years. I have a lot of hats. But that's not what we're here about. I wanted to come and lift up the names of Keisha Michael and Marquintin Sandlan. 2 individuals who were allegedly asleep in a car on Manchester Boulevard about 9 months or so ago. And were involved in an officer involved shooting which took their lives, leaving behind 7 children. Why I wanted to do this was because I mean this is not typically what I do. But I wanted, because it really—it touched me and I was troubled by this situation, because it exposes a sort of a pattern that I see that happens all over the country. Where, whereby people are killed and no answers come up. And no investigation is forthcoming and then what tends to happen, as recently happened in that Inglewood area. Somebody waits about 4 years for their case to be figured out and then they get a settlement and everybody goes away and we forget about it. In this particular case as I said when I heard about these 7 children I really kind of got activated. So I went to the police commission hearing and low and behold, the commission meeting was canceled, all right? And so I thought that was unusual. And I spoke with the family members that had arrived at that occasion. And is aid to them well has the city reached out to you? No. It took them a month to get the body. Which was riddled AR15 bullets. And you know, I can't go into all the details. I got 30 seconds. I wanted to make a couple recommendations. I wanted dot kind of get us focused in it because since that time there've been no police commission hearings. City council meetings are like 15 minutes in Inglewood, and at the middle of a day on a Tuesday or a Wednesday or something like that. Nobody talks about this situation. The only thing they're talking about is the stadium.

Moderator: Oh yeah.

Respondent: We need to shine some light on this. The county DA I think is supposed to investigate these matters. I haven't heard a thing. The sheriff's department is not investigating it. I think the Inglewood police department is investigating themselves. This is something really mysterious about the deaths of these individuals. When the mayor was interviewed following their deaths he quote said, the police arrived and they spent 45 minutes trying to rouse the couple and deescalate the situation. Help me understand which one was it? Recommendations—I've heard a lot of recommendations. I will second those recommendations—a lot of those, especially the things about redirecting moneys that are intended for public safety into programs and other things that would benefit the community in a way that would really ensure public safety. But since I'm a trainer I just want to get you all focused in on what is intended to be rolled out. This implicit bias training that you're supposed to be seeing all over the county. I hope that you as folks involved in this sort of thing will closely look at what the training really is and is it

effective training or is it just some 4-hour thing that the guys go in and they sit and they look at their watch and they say okay, we're done. Let's get back to the shooting range. You understand what I'm saying?

Moderator: Yes I do.

Respondent: Thank you.

Moderator: Yes, Commissioner Kulkarni?

Moderator: Given your role as a trainer do you have any recommendations of what the training should be including or any changes that you would recommend?

Respondent: Yes.

Moderator: Can you provide them?

Respondent: it would take too long. But it will take longer than 4 hours for an individual, say myself. I'm 60-years-old. I became biased over this 60-year period. It's not gonna get fixed in 4 hours.

Moderator: Something in writing that you could submit to us?

Respondent: Absolutely.

Moderator: Thank you very much.

Moderator: I have 1 comment. A couple of nights ago there was a big forum at * around the response to the immigration policies that may come out under the trump administration. And 2 ministers from a group called CLUE—Clergy and Laity Untied for Economic Justice approached me and said we've got to work on changing what's going on in Inglewood because the police commission there is essentially the civilian review board is nonexistent, nonfunctioning and has no power. So I'm just mentioning to you there are other activists who definitely want to work on this.

Respondent: That's correct. And I'm familiar with that and I would say that this should be examined because you know, obviously the county is now put in place a civilian review board which I was a candidate for. But I think we want to keep close eye on those situations and was indicated earlier, they need to have some teeth. I mean there's no point in having a commission if you can't do nothing.

Moderator: Right, thanks.

Moderator: Yes, thank you so much.

Respondent: All right.

Moderator: I've got Mariella Saba and after her I'll have Jesus Martinez and Patricia Russel.

Respondent: Good morning everybody present here. Thank you for choosing to be here this morning to contribute to action, to important dialog. Trusting that this is going to help us move in the right direction. I am grounded in the collective vision that the right direction is abolition of the police state and the police militarized force in our communities. So I really call on that collective imagination and that collective power and how are we going to play our part to make it happen, to get there? There is no relationship with police. Relationships are 2 ways. This is one that is imposed in our communities. And as Pete White lifted earlier, the police uphold the legacy of white supremacy, of racism, of patriarchy, of capitalism. That is what they enforce. So every single interaction with police whether they're just driving in the street or murdering is violent at the core. I thought about 6 different incidents that I could share and the time doesn't allow us to do each one justice. But I will mention them to just illustrate the variety of violence that the police force represents and enforces and why we need to move towards abolition. And that is a journey that we can and we have to make possible to honor our ancestors. Everybody who has been murdered and named here and our ancestors who have been fighting against this forced imposed in their lives and communities for too long. I think about my brother who's locked up and I think about my mom—both of them are not present right now. So I will mention, back in November 2010 my brother had just gotten out from prison in May of that year. And he was you know, picking his spirit up that had been broken by the system. And Hollenbeck department who has been mentioned here as a murderous department came into our home when my parents pleaded that they would not come in because our brother was sleeping and he was working a night shift at the time. Still, they kicked out my parents from our house, and walked into my brother's bedroom and handcuffed, tazed him and beat him up in the dark. My brother recalls that he thought he was in a nightmare and realized it was Hollenbeck brutalizing him. And my parents could hear his cries. And then they arrested him and took him out of the house bloody. And arrested him for resisting arrest and because the police uphold and enforce the law and are part of the court system. When we went to court the case had been thrown out. Gonna mention as a healing arts practitioner and someone has to do a lot of intervention work when police are in our communities, I'll just cite 2 moments this year. Helping a trans sister who was living with us in our home and post-trauma detention struggles and was suicidal. And I was thinking who do I call? How do we not LAPD in our home? Because that's only inviting more violence. SMART team was not available. Calling 911 leads to police showing up. So we find ourselves having to intervene with them. Who show up aggressively wanting to kill, wanting to arrest. And that

is the truth and I have story after story about that of similar situations. My recommendation is divestment as well. That is one important way to desaturate a department that is over resource. And the resources we're talking about are violent resources. We need to support alternatives to calling 911 and how do we do that block by block? That also means we have to impact the curriculum in the schools. We're up against a whole culture of policing so.

Moderator: So just an announcement and a question for you. I want to remind folks if you have specific instances that you want to file complaints around we have law students out—right outside this room who can help you file those complaints so please make sure that you do that. I also want to acknowledge 2 of our anchor orgs that are in the room for the 2nd district hearings but they're here so Black Lives Matter Los Angeles is here and Youth Justice Coalition is here. So thank you both for being here. Mariella I have a couple of questions for you. 2 things that you mentioned that I think need to be lifted up during this hearing is one it sounds like the interaction that your parents had with the police around your brother highlight the inability of parents to protect children from police. So I'd like to hear you just kind if there's any recommendations you have around that, lift that up. And then the second thing is around trans communities and policing. So if there's any specific just very quickly if you could lift both of those items up.

Respondent: In terms of trans communities I would—I have a good transgender friend, she's a woman and locked up in a men's jail. She is not the only one that needs to be ended, investigated and it is one step towards abolition is getting folks out of the system completely. They face all kinds of sexual harassment, humiliation, like the other testimony that was given. And as a trans a person that is part of what they experience on the daily there so. In terms of my parents—thinking about my parents and that scenario, I remember when they shared that I wish I had been there cause I would've helped uphold maybe more of our rights. I know my mom did some pushing back. And knowing our right sis not the full answer but I have seen how that standing up in our rights can push back which also means it also triggers police because of our wisdom and our intelligence and that can also trigger their reactions to be more violent. So it's not the full answer. Yeah, I think that it's important that you said. If parents can't protect their children from police there's something really wrong there and police imposing their power as if they can. And we've seen that time and time again after they murder someone, just even pushing the family out. Just the state is completely taking over a family in that moment and making decisions over their bodies and that's why we have to envision collectively abolition and the journey to it.

Moderator: Thank you so much.

Respondent: Thank you.

Moderator: Two things. I want to echo what Commissioner Abdullah said about going to our law students. But even if it's not specifically going to be a complaint, any of the specifics—Mariella, I know you said there were a lot of other incidents and if you can have that recorded by our law students that will be shared with us and we can include that as a part of our official record. However way you want to do it. You submit it or if you want to just tell the folks that we've got we will get it and that will be part of the official record. The other thing is it is about 11:30. We do have lunch outside. We know that we're going into the lunch hour. Any of you who would like to get lunch please do so. You can't bring the food into the theater. So you'll have to eat it outside. But I did want to let everybody know that it is available and yes it is complementary. It's free. Jesus Martinez and Patricia Russel and Jordan Philips.

Respondent: Good morning. On behalf of my beautiful community, I'd like to ask everybody in this room to please help bring about justice for the lives of Jesse Ramiro, Edwin Rodriguez, Jose Mendez, Arturo Torrez, Myra Cornejo, and Noel Aguilar. The community service organization meets next on December the 14th at the Benjamin Franklin Library on 1st Street from 6 to 8. I hope some of you can join us. Commissioners. My name is Jesus Otelo Martinez. I've been a public school teacher most of my life. My first experience with the police was getting pulled over late at night and having a Mexican and a white officer approach my vehicle; one on my driver's side door and one on my passenger side door. And listening to the white officer, tell the Mexican officer I told you he was not a cholo. I'm here, my first suggestion is we need to end racial profiling. And that's—when I say that I mean from all our community police officers. The real reason, or my motivation for being here this morning are these letters from my best friend who sits in North Kern State Prison because he's mentally ill. He's not a criminal. And one of the main things that I'd like to share with you is that we need to work on decriminalizing mental illness. In connection to this is the need to overhaul our 911 system. Especially in particular with the calls made about mental illness. My suggestions and I was prepared to talk at length since I only have a minute and a half left I'll go through these rather quickly. My suggestions is first of all we need to radically diversify our police force. We need to make the number of women in the police representative of the community at large. I'd say at least 50%. We need to test our police officers for racial bias. We need to test them from post-traumatic stress disorder and we also need to test them for the use of steroids and illegal drugs. I also want to recommend strongly that we force body cameras. Body cameras. Body cameras. And to not allow an option to turn the body cameras off. I'd also want to recommend that we immediately film all of our police officers. We need to film their statements after each and every use of force. We need to require our officers to also live in the community. We need to create and enforce no use of force standards. And finally we need an independent prosecutors to try misconduct cases. What I am laying forward have been inspired by the writings of Mr. Shaun King, the journalist at the new York Daily News. He poses 25 key suggestions. I encourage all of you to look for them. They're easily available. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Patricia Russel?

Respondent: Hello. I have never come to one of these before and I'm very impressed and inspired and appreciative. I have a son who's mentally ill. He has bipolar disorder and polysubstance dependence. And as a family member I'm terrified to call 911. A lot of times when I really should and I need help to try to get him into a hospital I don't even do it because I've had such bad experiences where first of all, they haven't helped. They've made things worse. They haven't killed him like they've done a lot of mentally ill people which also terrifies all of us. For example *, etc., etc. So I'm a member of NAMI which is national Alliance for the Mentally Ill. We actually do go out and do trainings with police force—I mean training academies around Los Angeles County. I've done that. And it helps because they hear it from the family member point of view and also from the person who suffers from mental illness. I'm also on Jackie Lacey' ongoing mental health criminal justice task force. And the idea is for diversion for the mentally ill rather than incarcerating them. I've written down some things, if I can get an email I'll send more information. One of the issues, if someone's on conservatorship. Like my son has been on conservatorship the police officers need to understand that a conservator has the right to ask a police officer to detain a conservatee and take he or she to a hospital. And that it is not the police officer's job to do their own elation. And by the way, unless it's a SMART team or an MOU police officer they don't really know about mental illness and how to do evaluations. So that's one of the things we're working on with Jackie Lacey is to train police officers to understand that. And also there's a new law called AB1194 that was just passed in January by—and it has to do with historical information. And that it's a law now that police officers have to take into consideration if a family member is saying yes, this person just talked about wanting to hurt himself. But they're not acting like it right at the time, police officer say, oh well do you want to kill yourself? No. Do you want to hurt someone else? No. See ya. But the family member's begging no, he's really dangerous. He's—we're afraid—he's talking like he want sot kill himself or he's done this and this and this is his history in the past. Now it really matters. By law the police officer has to even make a report on it. So there needs to be a lot more training and a lot more training for police officers out in the field. Desolation, desolation, desolation. I just shutter when I hear all these horrible things happening to people who are just suffering from mental illness and don't realize that—what's going on. Because they might move their hands a certain way, they're dead. It's happening all over the country. That's it. Thank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you very much. We appreciate your testimony. If you go to the staff at the front table they'll tell you exactly how to email us.

Respondent: Hello, my name is Jordan Philips. I'm a part of Black Lives Matter and Nation and of Vibration. And one thing that I've just been hearing, just today and just from my research of police is that we are not calling it like it is. It is a terrorist organization built on instilling terror and feeding on terror to allow people's fears to dictate what they come into our communities and homes to do, which is to protect and serve. And I think about that statement and I wonder

what they are protecting from. From what are they protecting and to serve whom? Whom are they protecting? And I think about the history of this nation and I think about the point of which they even came to fruition—the police out of what I forgot what his name was. But to catch slaves, to catch slaves on the street who were freed and didn't have jobs because I mean, what were they going to do? Pick cotton again? And they're trying to figure out their lives and they would hire police to catch them for loitering or for taking up space or for not doing anything. And putting them to work again and I see that system being recycled across this nation. And the fact that the police themselves are not addressing it shows how complacent and how comfortable they are with this system. So I truly believe in divestment and diverging of funds to take their money away means to take away their power especially because they are coming from this capitalist system that needs to be broken to begin with. Because I can be brain washed that I am comfortable because I have nice clothes or because I can put nice lotion on my skin. When people look at that skin and can still make judgments about me. What is, what is my money for me then? When there's slave owners on my money still. I feel like the testing racial bias is null and void because we have biases. That's how our brains work. At the police commission meeting, the last week, the professor that they brought in pointed out inherent biases that our brain creates and because of the structure of this country and honestly globally because of colonialism, we are inherently racist and need to break that system. So I'm here to just re-instill the topic of breaking systems and divestment and deconstruction of law enforcement were just some of the things that truly highlighted that for me. As well as giving power back to community organizations who are willing to help the people and not terrorize them.

Moderator: thank you so much. I have Lila Vanderbilt, Gloria Gonzales and Kim McGill.

Respondent: Good morning. So I just really wanted to acknowledge the fact that we really need to demand that we have police out of schools and that it's really important that we can collectively organize and you know, make that happen because I want to share a quick story. So when I was 12-years-old, which mean I was in 6th grade, I had actually just got out of elementary school—5th grade. I got in this fight and it really—it really impacted the rest of my life - like this one thing, this one incident because I got arrested. I was handcuffed in front of my whole school and it made me feel so powerless and it made me seem like a criminal to the students, to the staff, you know, to the schools. And I actually was cited a \$500 ticket at the age of 12. And I currently get my driver's license until I pay this ticket. And I'm 21-years-old now and I've carried that burden with me. And I just really want to acknowledge that having been arrested at 12-years-old dragged me into the school to jail track. It denied me the access to get A through G requirements that I needed. I, you know, gave up on school. I went to continuation schools. I luckily got my high school diploma with the Youth Justice Coalition. But ire ally wanted to also talk about how if we could just take 5% of LAPD, L.A city attorney, L.A district attorney probation department, sheriff's department and the county's portion of their court's budget, that would equal to \$236,000,000 a year that could potentially fund 50,000 youth jobs, 1,000

peace builders and 100 youth centers with a million yearly budget. And that's really important, you know, because if we would have those youth center sin L.A County and we would actually be able to invest into having a youth development department, a lot of people wouldn't be—a lot of youth wouldn't be in prisons. And we wouldn't be occupying those places. We would be occupying colleges and universities. So I just really wanted to share that and to acknowledge the fact that it's really important that we have police out of schools. Thank you.

Moderator: Thanks you so much. After Kim, Vanessa Deleon and Robert Zardinetta.

Respondent: Good morning. I want to really acknowledge the tone of this hearing, how different it is being here than being at the police commission or before the sheriffs or before the board of supervisors and really appreciate that I think, maybe for the first time the community really feels like they're being listened to. Like our opinions and our experiences matter like our lives matter, thank you so much for that. So the thought Justice Coalition is led by people who are formally incarcerated. We've either been detained or jailed locally or in the state system. Many of our family members too have effaced deportation or have been deported. And so our experiences come from directly having impact with law enforcement not the streets, in the system, and in court. And we have several recommendations—which we handed out a more thorough description of that was put together by a number of organizations in L.A County which are listed. The first is that L.A County obviously has led the nation in militarized policing and an addiction to suppression, incarceration for 150 years; more, actually. Which means that we have the largest jail system in the world, the largest sheriff's department in the world, the largest probation department in the world, the largest juvenile halls in the world, the highest concentration of law enforcement with 57 departments across the county. And I think it's important to say that today and every day. Because unless we take on the burden that L.A Count residents face, having come up across—against the most militarized and most financed law enforcement—I don't know what to call it—but an army then we can't address this issue. Secondly, L.A County gave rise to the war on gangs. We were the first county in the nation to have a SWAT unit, gang units. The use of militarized equipment against civilian populations, use of helicopters first came out of L.A. And we've exported those policies as well as gang databases, gang injunctions and gang enhancements to the rest of the state, the rest of the state, the rest of the nation and the rest of the world. This means that even when we've been able to pass good legislation to start to dismantle those policies, like Assembly Bill 458 which was the first thing that cracked open the gang database or the audit that happened this year that exposed the gang database for how racist and ineffective it is. Or 2298 which just passed to give people right to appeal and appeal in curt if their agency appeal is not corrected. We know from the audit that law enforcement—even when good laws are passed, fail to implement them. They intentionally break the law. So we need to dismantle the war on gangs entirely and recognize it as a war on youth of color and a tool for gentrification and displacement. L.A County also leads, again both in the creation and still the existence of gang injunctions. In L.A City alone we have 49 injunctions covering 82 neighborhoods. All of those injunctions with the exception of 1

in L.A County and all of them in L.A City are against communities of color. Despite the fact that L.A County has the highest concentration of white supremacy gangs as well as the Arian Brotherhood coming out of L.A County, a number of biker gangs. We're #2 to Northern Mexico in Methamphetamine and exportation but not a single gang injunction against a white neighborhood. I guess my time is up, but we had 7 recommendations altogether, which I can try to give you. I would just highlight real quickly one of the things we did is we collected all the use of force data for L.A County. We can get you an extensive list. We're updating lists now. So you'll have it. Could I just spend maybe more minute?

Moderator: Please give us your 7 recommendations very quickly.

Respondent: Well, regarding use of force we think there needs to be a thorough investigation into law enforcement department in L.A County. We've had nearly 700 people killed since the year 2000, and when we looked at each of those individual deaths. There were some really disturbing things that came out. First of all that homicides in L.A County are down by more than 50%. But law enforcement use of force resulting in homicide is actually up, both in real numbers and as a percentage of overall homicides. In the early 2000's between 2 and 3% of all homicides in L.A County were law enforcement killing people. Now it's between 6 and 8%, and in some years in some parts of the county, like for example Inglewood at some years is as high as 15% of other homicides are police killing people. We think that there is on sheriff's oversight without subpoena power and without independent counsel. We're fighting that now with the probation department oversight. So we're trying to have again what people have talked about—oversight with teeth. We were also a part of the efforts to get sheriff's oversight. And while many of us fought for there to be involvement of people that had been in the system we were excused from that—from the county supervisors. We are holding county supervisors to that; the reason that people are calling for an alternative to 911 and we just had our 1st meeting about how to create that locally is because people have lost all faith with law enforcement. Some of the things we saw both in terms of working with families but also in terms of the data, was that at least in 9 cases families called law enforcement because their loved one was threatening suicide and the person was killed. In at least 40% of the cases people had mental conditions who were killed by law enforcement. Obviously there's huge racial disparities but also the kind of excuses that are given over and over again—they were pulling up their pants, they were reaching for their waistband. the same language used over and over again in the DA's reports. And the DAs have a understanding with all 57 law enforcement agencies in L.A County. That they won't investigate anything until the law enforcement agency has completed their investigation and hands it over to the Das. So by the time they get the Das—the Das begin their investigation 6 months to a year and a half later the case is cold. They're doing no investigation. And through a public record request we have all of their reports that we can send to you between 2009 and 2015. Every single report has the same paragraph. That this report is entirely based on the evidence we got from law enforcement. Similarly, people have already talked about the budget, but just to highlight that, we also have a huge mission land side from law enforcement. One of the things that's most

notable is the probation department, L.A County sheriffs, the district attorney's office and LAPD are now working in schools with what they call voluntary probation supervision. These are 12,000 young people who have even been arrested but are under probation DA, and law enforcement supervision. The federal government is also pushing for something that L.A Unified School District, Compton Unified School District, Inglewood at least—probably many more have adopted, which is the triad model of school policing. Which says that all school police should be both counselors, teachers, and law enforcement officers. It totally blurs and erases any due process rights that young people have—Miranda rights around understanding who is law enforcement that can hand you over to a prosecutor or arrest versus who people are that you can confide in as counselors. On top of the fact those are \$150,000 even for a rookie officer straight out of the academy. \$150,000 a year for them to be quote, unquote coaches or tutors or mentors. As opposed to being able to get youth workers for that same amount of money. 3 full-time intervention workers for that same amount of money. Who not only would be better and better equip but also more cost effective.

#4 and Gloria already said this to remove police entirely from schools. Another thing that it's a huge cost burden is to ensure that every young person in L.A County have a free Metro pass. We fought hard to get fare evasion illuminated from our county processes. We were somewhat successfully in that. but we really had to go to the state. And this year we're able to pass Senate Bill 882 which fully decriminalizes fare evasion. But still, and then December 1st they're gonna finalize it. The MTA has \$105,000,000 a year contract with the sheriffs. it's now gonna become a \$550,000,000 year contract with several law enforcement agencies over 5 years to do mostly fare evasion on the trains and buses. You can see long lines of youth of color lined up to check their fares. No similar lines in white communities. Less than 20% of what they spend to have law enforcement on the trains and buses would provide a free metro pass for every student in L.A County from preschool through college. Of course, many of those students wouldn't even need those passes. So we're talking about a fraction of what they spend on suppression. On conditions of confinement—we have several recommendations but most egregious to those of us that have gone through the jail system is the fact that there's nothing posted which is against the law. Nothing posted about your right to pre-arraignment release, to a bail hearing and to pretrial release. So that people aren't even knowing that we have the ability to call and counter that. And most of the people you see cycling in and out of the jail system are people that don't need to be there even an hour. That if we had real pre-arraignment release our jail system would at least drop by probably 10,000 but even by sheriff's estimates about 5,000 people. In immigration detention, immigrants when they're detained have no access to counsel. They have no access to counsel unless they pay for it. So providing free counsel to everyone in our immigration detention system. the other thing that immigration detention, you have no access to bail. So unlike other people where if you have a bail you can pay 10% and get bonded out. People have to come up with 100% of their bail amount in order to fight their case from the outside. So fighting your case from inside immigration detention. Especially in Adelanto it's almost impossible. We have to have a moratorium on jail and prison expansion in L.A County.

Including blocking the 2.3 billion dollar jail expiation plan for L.A at a time when our—again, our crime rates, both violent and nonviolent are down to lowest since the 1950's. And yet, we're investing more than ever in jails. This includes now a majority women on the board of supervisors claiming they're feminists and voting for a women's jail in Lancaster on land that is invested with valley fever that they're calling a women's village and arguing that women and their children should be there together for the 1st year of that child's life. And then finally people mentioned ICE in the jails. It's true that we used to have a secure communities contract which allows ICE full integration into your jail system. And that was done away with. A lot of groups in the county worked to do away with that. But what hasn't changed is that ICE has access to people as soon as they're in their final stages of leaving the jails or coming out of the jails. So that relationship still exists. It's a new name same pain I would call it. And similarly if you want to get any access to alternatives to incarceration or dentition in the jail system you have to agree to spend an extra day to a day in a half in the jails in order to have access to those services. So rather than getting those eservices offered to you before your release, you're asked upon your release, do you want to spend an extra day and a half here and find out what kind of drug treatment, mental health, housing, etc. is available to you? Which is ridiculous—no one at that point is gonna stay an extra day and a half in the jails. Those are some of our recommendations. Again, we really appreciate this opportunity.

Moderator: Thank you and we're gonna ask to come back for our 2nd district hearing which we know that's where your based to offer a fully presentation of your recommendations as well as the work that you're doing. Thank you, Kim.

Moderator: There's a question.

Moderator: Can you actually clarify what you said around the ICE and security communities in terms of how does the sheriff's department work with the ICE in terms of the immigrants who were detained?

Respondent: So sheriff Baca did have a agreement with Secure Communities' which is the federal program that allows for full integration of ICE into the county jail system. And a number of groups we met several times with the sheriff's department and got that memorandum between L.A County and immigration customs enforcement done away with. But what was put in it' place is almost the same thing. Which is that ICE has a desk is how they describe it. I haven't ever seen the unit. But there's a desk inside the jails that people—ICE can interview people from. And similarly when people are being released they can be interviewed by ICE at that time. And of course, right outside the jail they can be interviewed with ICE. And there's no blocking of ICE access in any of those 3 points in the jail. Similarly, we don't think that much like the gang laws that we tried to change at the state level that any of these laws are being implemented correctly at the local level, including the immigration recommendations that were moved forward in L.A County.

Moderator: Just quickly, Kim a lot of the folks in the room worked hard for this county civilian commission to have oversight over the sheriffs. We know that a lot of folks have described the failings. The lack of subpoena power, the lack of ability to hire and fire and discipline officers. But it seems to me, that some of these recommendations—like posting a pretrial release poster in the jail—I mean this civilian commission should take some of these issues on.

Respondent: I think one of the challenges is that the civilian commission is gonna have a reporting to the inspector general. We meet with the inspector general every single month. We take all our family members, those of us who have been released recently county jail, including people that have been just released from county jail because things do change to those meetings. We also have quarterly meetings with the jail command staff. We also have meetings with the district attorney pretty regularly. And none of those meetings have resulted in any changes. And so while I feel some of the staff within the inspector general's office when we ah vena emergency and we need someone checked on. For example last last , I got a text again, a young man was 2 weeks in the hospital because he had a seizure inside the county jails. When he was released from the hospital they put him directly into the hole which is the most dangerous place to put people who have seizures. So the family was desperate. Like how can we get him out of the hole? So in a situation like that I can call the inspector general and they'll do an investigation right away. Civilian brand commission, same thing. But in terms of following up with any substantive policy changes, they've been totally ineffective. And I put that 100% on max Huntsman. Not on his staff. So if we're gonna have an inspector general we have to have an inspector general has the courage to stand up to the law enforcement agencies that are suppose dot monitor and not see themselves as an arm of that agency of or a staff of that agency. The same thing with Bustamante with the L.A Police Commission. L.A Police Commission in comparison to other counties and cities across the nation has more powers than almost anyone. And yet they don't utilize their powers nearly at all.

Moderator: Thank you very much.

Moderator: One quick question. You mentioned the ICE desk in the jail. Is that both in the county and the city or just in the county?

Respondent: I don't know if it's in LAPD's mini jails. I personally have been unfortunately through the jail system a lot of times. Not as a guest or as a monitor but as a detainee. And I've never seen ICE in the substations which are operated by LAPD throughout the county. I don't know if that means they're not there but they're for sure there in the county jail.

Moderator: Thank you so much. Okay, I'm calling up Vanessa Deleon, Robert Zartinetta and Trevor and Gerard. We have about 10 more folks who want to speak. I

think we have to try and be a little bit tighter on our 3 minutes just so we can accommodate everybody before we lose our recording equipment.

Respondent: Hello, my name is Vanessa Deleon. I wanted to talk about a little bit roe about diverting money from police. As Gloria mentioned earlier right now we're working on a campaign here we're asking 5% from the police budget to be reallocated to go towards youth development. So currently more than half of the budget is going towards police. Which could be used as others have mentioned for more positive and actual useful resources. So what we're asking for is if 5% were to be diverted we actually surveyed over more than 2,000 residents. And from their recommendations they wanted to see more youth jobs, youth centers and peace builders or intervention workers in the communities. So if we were to do divert—we're actually working on this campaign at a city and county level. So if we were to divert 5% from the city and that's going towards police and 5% at the county level that's going toward police we would be able to get 1,000 peace builders or employ 1,000 peace builders or intervention workers. We would be able to create 50,000 youth jobs, and open up 100 youth centers. And this again, like I said was from residents that were saying. And they had a list of host of thing sot choose from. Like from more police in their streets. But these are the ones that they asked for. And so there are cities—major cities across the country that have already implemented very successful youth development programs. We're also asking that a youth development department be created in the city and the county. And there are models in New York, in Boston, in San Francisco that have been successful a is mentioned. We recently released a report which I can make available to all of you which goes into more detail as to what they have done and how we may replicate it in Los Angeles. So that way again so we are using that money to go towards more positive resources in youth development because we know that the over-policing and we're leading in youth incarceration which not only impacts them as a youth but it will follow them all throughout their lifespan and can disrupt their learning, their physical, emotional health in so many different ways. So if we were to create resources that allow youth to be—to access those—whether it's through work or through safe spaces such as youth centers where there are no alternatives or we have no access of where to go in our communities. Those are very needed.

Moderator: Thank you so much.

Moderator: Robert Zardinetta.

Respondent: Good morning. My name is Robert Zardinetta. I'm the executive director of Color Youth Build in east Los Angeles and Boyle Heights and I'm also a life-long resident of the community in which I serve. We work with young folks 16 to 24 pushed out of the traditional school system and empower and engage them to become agents of change within the community. We do that by offering them an opportunity to earn a high school diploma in a school that offers a culturally relevant curriculum themed in community organizing social, economic and environmental justice. So our young folks are part of the collaborative that

advocated for civilian oversight within the L.A. sheriffs. It's a real strategy that over the past 6 years of my work that I've personally lost more young people to police violence and gang violence. And it pains me that so many of these families continue to live their lives without closure or justice because there can be no justice in a system where police themselves. The violence and criminalization of our youth is overwhelming. And our communities have never had a great relationship with law enforcement since I've been around and since my parents have been around. But it's getting exponentially worse. Some of the ways things have changed—I remember we used to—when I was younger, we use dot get football cards from the cops in the park. Now our students are getting shaken down by cops, by having them try to plant weed canisters on them. Our students use dot get cited for truancy back in the day. Now they get cited for trying to come to school because of fare evasion. Cops used to rush students to school in the morning. But now in places like Ramona Garden, a CSP gives students on their way to school citations for paraphernalia, for carrying lighters and drop them off in rival gang neighborhoods such as Dogtown. Cops use dot give citations to skateboarders. Now they shoot them in the back like they did Carlos Olevis. Cops use dot play ball with young folks like I used to with these Dezelle Ford for many years. Now they killed him fully understanding his history of mental illness. And cops don't encourage young folks to, you know, pursue career paths. Someone like Robert Cario who was in our youth program who one day was on his way from lunch after working on a construction project and had his hard hat and his tool belt. And the police stopped him in an alley and beat him because he had a box cutter in his tool belt, which was part of his tool belt. Beat him, beat his grandmother, his brother when he was detained. He was detained for several days without notifying the families. And his brother, Robert Cario became the face—basically became the face of police violence on a county-wide because he was part of them 1.5 mile lawsuit. So things are getting exponentially worse. I really appreciate the opportunity to share the stories of these young people.

Moderator: Thank you so much.

Respondent: We also fully as an organization fully support Central CSOs recommendations as well as the Youth Justice Coalition.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Trevor Gerard. After that Joy T. Shond.

Respondent: Right, so I feel like there's 2 things that sort of hinder this argument. One is sort of a sense of delusion and the other is cowardice. The police are little more than the domestic military arm of the United States government, right? As such what they do is protect the interest of power. When they're talking about protecting and serving, they're taking about those how are in power. They are the ones how carry out on the street on a day-to-day basis the legacy of white supremacy. So and not just white supremacy then but now and in the future. So when we're talking about like policy, and training—I keep hearing this word training. Well, the training that they're receiving is exactly what they're doing on the street. That's why nobody fucking

goes to jail, right? And so you know, we act like we haven't had a long history of police brutality and violence and murder in this country. And that we've just now come to this point. But we forget 1919 which is what? The Red Summer. And we forget the Watts Rebellion. There's this long history of it. And when I talk about the cowardice it's also the complacency to step outside of the models of just continuing to talk about it and talk about real solutions in the community that look at totally debunking and abolishing policing. I think we need to start organizing within our communities and teaching our communities how to defend themselves, right? And sort of also look at more proactive means of attacking their economic base. And I'm not just talking about divestment, right? A lot of these people have businesses they're connected to. Like economic actions are eons that you can carry out and nobody goes to jail cause they're not illegal. You're talking about stopping 2.3 billion that's coming in and funding. Quick show of hands here on the panel and here. Who here owns factories or planes or has access to trade routes? Anybody? Anybody know anybody has access to those things? Exactly, you're not gonna fucking stop it. Cause that's not the way this world works, right? You don't have power to stop the economic onslaught of white supremacy. Look at what's going on in North Dakota right now. that's their land that they've been criminalized on. Black people don't even fucking have land here, right? that they've been criminalized on and thrown in jail. Some of them without bail and this sort of thing. But we do have power as a community. And so I'm not interested in police reform or any of this other kind of crap. They're doing exactly what they're supposed to do. Just really quickly, in Bustamante's report there was 1,356 incidents where people had accused LAPD of bias policing. 0 were sustained. That's mathematically impossible, okay? The government is not going to indict itself or convict itself. And that's—I mean I can go on but that's where I'll stop.

Moderator: Thank you. Thank you so much. After Joy. T. I've got Zomaaria X, and Sal Marquez.

Respondent: Good afternoon My name is joy T. Shond and I'm a member of the Sop LAPD * Coalition. I've actually been a service provider since 2001. It's been about 15 years where I worked mostly in communities of color and undocumented communities providing services and advocacy and unfortunately, having to interact—forced to interact with our local police department which is LAPD. Listening to this conversation, I've been thinking about racial profiling and what racial profiling looks like. I wanted to add some definition and also to talk about really what are the solutions. I think a lot of the solutions have been echoed by many people here. So racial profiling—when we're saying racial profiling we're talking about state sanctioned murder, we're talking about state sanctioned trauma. We're talking about dead bodies that are laying on the concrete, we're talking about blood of children that are laying on the concrete. This year, LAPD has murdered 19 people and most of these people are actually young black and brown men. I want to read the names of some of the children and the men that LAPD has murdered. Kenny Watkins. He was 18. Richard Ricer. He was 18. Keith Bersey. Wakesha Wilson. Killed in the Metro Detention Center—murdered. Carnelle Snell. 18. Jesse Romero.

14. Omar Gonzales. Robert Diaz. Arturo Valdez. Cesar Freez. Rimi Jerdart. Juan Medez. 16. Efren Herrera. Marcella Luna. Alfred Larano. These are all people that were taken away from our communities and this is state sanctioned violence and terror that's being inflicted in our communities. What are the solutions? We've said that we have to completely defund them. LAPD, all of the officers that are murdering people—Chief Beck, the police commission that's allowing the murder of people in our community. They should be tried in front of an international community for war crimes. Racial profiling, it looks like the collection of suspicious activity reports. Since 2001 LAP actually has been piloting the national suspicious activity reporting program and the recent audit that was done, it was actually in 2016 by the Office of Inspector General by Bustamante, it was found that actually suspicious activity reports which are suspicious activities are actually categorized as very innocent behaviors. So for example because I'm a brown person, because I look Muslim, because I look South Asian, because I look like a foreigner, because I'm in a brown body. If I'm out in the street and I'm taking a photograph of a building, if I'm talking about how I don't like the policies of this government. If I'm walking funny, if a student's speaking up about the police in my campus these are all sanctioned as suspicious activities. OF the suspicious activities that were collected in 2016, over 50% in the gender count were on black women. Over 80% were on people of color in Los Angeles. Over 30% were on black people in this city, while black people actually only comprised of about 9 to 10% of the population. That is what we mean when we say racial profiling. I just want to say one more thing. I know that Trevor mentioned that recently there's an audit and it was on bias policing. There are 1,356 bias policing reports that were filed in the community over a 3-year period. And 0 were sustained. Racial profiling looks like saying that we are a community of liars, that we're constantly suspect, that we have to prove ourselves, that we are not lying. That is racial profiling. And what the solution is, right? So if we have the inspector general saying that we are a community of liars, we have the police commission that is supposed to be an oversight body that's completely failed, that's completely flawed by design. They should be removed, they should be defunded, and they should be convicted for war crimes against the people.

Moderator: Thank you.

Respondent: Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you so much. Zamaria X?

Respondent: Hi there. My name is Sal Marquez and I am a member of Central SCO Community Service Organization. It's an organization in Boyle Heights and a lot of our people are from east L.A and that area as well. We're here of course—we understand what the purpose is, and you all have been saying that you want specifics and I'm here to give you 3. I do know that they were probably already mentioned so this might be a repetition. Those 3 are—we want there to be an investigation of the officer who killed Jesse Romero who was 14-yaers-old

and that was on August 9th. We understand that the officer who did this killing had previously done so only weeks prior. So we feel that that that's an injustice. That should have never happened. I do not know his name. And the 2nd instance is Edwin Rodriguez; I do have some of the family member's right over here. And that one happened on February 6th of this year. And it happened in east L.A by east L.A sheriffs. And again, there were complete lies fabricated around that. The justification supposedly, they claimed that he was in a stolen vehicle and that there was a weapon and they've backtracked on both of those statements because they were false. The 3rd one is Jose Mendez Peruzzi who was 16-year-old and that happened in Boyle Heights this year again. It was February 6th. And again, there was just recently a forensic report that happened. There was a failure to be mentioned by the police officers who were involved in this that they had actually cut you know the seatbelt and removed the body. And that's, you know, that's obviously something that you should never do if you just killed someone in the middle of the street. We feel that that's an injustice and to this day it's been over 8 months and the family has received no justice for any of this. We again are involved with these families. The 3 of these cases are just the surface of how many we've mentioned today. 19. I was gonna say 13 but I had no idea it had already increased to 19. That's the largest in the country. Those are startling numbers. There have been hundreds. How many have been actually tried and jailed for the crimes that they have committed against us? None. And so we're here to say that you know, we again understand what you all are trying to do. We're here to give you these examples. But we are out in the streets. We are in our communities. If there's anybody who has never been to of our events or anybody else who's here, you're invited. We're in Boyle Heights. We're in Central CSO or we are Central SCO. We unite with our sisters, brothers and everybody who's been effected by police brutality. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Lonny Kupchi, we have Abdolio Oliva and Lou Colonche.

Respondent: Good after noon I'm Dr. Lonny Kupchi. I actually teach here in the Chicano Studies department and also department of history. I am also currently the vice president of the school board of education for Montebello Unified School District. And I'm here, commissioners to add something else for you to consider related to policing and how this affects school districts and children. Montebello Unified is the 3rd largest district in L.A County. We serve 8 municipalities. Montebello, Bell Gardens, Commerce, San Gabriel, Rosemead, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera and unincorporated east Los Angeles. While my jurisdiction is schools and we are working to safeguard our schools, our children are still affected when they go home. And we were dealing with immense structural trauma and there is intense fear and anxieties among our children. They day after the elections I walked into different kinds of classes and I spoke to administration and teachers. And a lot of our children are worried about parents and family members being raided and deported. And there have been even student-to-student threats of deportation in the classrooms. While we have Plyler versus Doe which guarantees K12 undocumented children the right to public education, this still doesn't really, fully protect

children from the experiences of parents and family members from being deported. And so they bring these experiences into the classrooms. And then you have teachers and administrators that have to figure out how to handle these kinds of issues in the classrooms as well. And so at Montebello Unified we are considering being a sanctuary district. But we also have to consider the repercussions of potential cut federal funding. So first, what would be helpful for school districts is knowing what kind of collaboration, resources and support can be given to sanctuary districts and 2nd, we have our own school police; some of our cities and our districts and sheriffs. So we need immediate training and support from groups who use transformative justice as an alternative to school suspensions, expulsions and arrests. And I just really want to thank you for the important work that you're doing and for allowing me to share some of my recommendations on behalf of the children and families that I serve.

Moderator: thank you very much. We've gotten a text and somebody did mention we have family members that have lost loved ones. I just want to say our hearts are going out to you. We're with you.

Respondent: Good afternoon to all the people that are here and my name is Abdolio Oliva and I want to give my testimony.

Respondent: My son, Carlos Ernesto Oliva was killed by the sheriff of Los Angeles. There's many things to say about the sheriffs but Anthony Forlano and Nicholas Castalano, they detained him illegally. And Anthony Forlano, he had killed 7 people in total. With my son it was 7 people and my son was attacked physically and verbally and they were trying to provoke him. I believe that it was something that was planned in order to be able to kill him. And so as not to go on too long, with respect to what happened with the district attorneys. There were 2 different reports that were made and the reports were contradictory with one another. There were many errors, lies and fiction. The pistol that they say that they found, and my son doesn't carry a pistol. It was a 380. They said that it had 7 shells. 6 in the magazine and 1 in the chamber. But now the officer's saying that there were 4 live rounds in the magazine and 1 in the chamber. Well the pistol, it belonged to another person who was never there and we saw that Anthony Forlano, he took it from another person—his finger prints—Anthony Forlano are on the pistol and my sons are not. So the testimony that was given by Nicholas Castalano to the attorney Galipo was that when Carlos was confronted he was completely clean. In other words, he had on blows, on damage to himself. And yet, in the end he was badly beaten. And we don't know why he had his nose broken. He had blown all over him and he appears to have been beaten by a lamp or by a baton. And so the other question is who let Forlano back on the street? It was Panarco. He was the one that allowed this criminal back on the street again. And finally I want to mention Jackie Lacey who was the district attorney, she saw what was going on but didn't say so. We took the case up. I won the case against the county. They asked for a settlement, but what was done to Carlos was injustice, it was negligence, it was the worst thing that could've been done. So the settlement that we had was that this Mr. Forlano—I don't know if he deserves the title of

Mister. But he cannot carry a weapon anymore, that he cannot use the uniform anymore and he's really a monster and a danger to the community. I don't know if they have him hidden somewhere, but if they let him out onto the street again, we will reopen the case and we hope that that never happens. So that's a little I have to say. I apologize that I couldn't speak in English. I speak very little English. I'm really traumatized and that's what, you know, I can say. I'm very traumatized over the death of my son.

Moderator: Thank you.

Moderator: Was that officer fired or not?

Respondent: The last that I knew, I'm not really sure but I think that I think that they have him doing emergency services. I don't know if it's 911 or something like that. I really don't know. I know that he's still working but I'm not sure exactly at what. I'm not sure if it's 911 or something else. And the other one, he's still working. He's at the canine units because when he came to the attorney's office he was in a big patrol car and it said canine. And we say the patrol car but I didn't have it in my heart to look at him. But we did see the patrol car but he was in another office.

Moderator: How long ago did that happen?

Respondent: It happened on the 10th of September of 2013. It was 1:30 AM. My son was at the house of a female friend and there was a call that was made around domestic violence issues and there was a young man who was crossing the street. And the officials received a radio call to come for another Epsom and then Anthony Forlano and Nicholas Castalano came. But the person that they were relooking for they didn't find him because he was sleeping in a car. So that's when all the fiction started on the part of the police and the district attorney. They said there was a person that was bald that had a pistol in his hand. And it was that also had a skateboard. So what the police was looking for. But it was 10 to 15 minutes later. And my son had left. He was on his skateboard and he was listening to music. So he didn't hear that's why he didn't obey when they saw him. They stopped him like a 1,000 feet away at a school. It's called something like Miller Hizer or Kennedy, something like that. And they were very aggressive. And he said you know, I'm not doing anything. I'm on my way home and the official whose name is Forlano, he said shut the F up. He said I'm not doing anything. They were really bullies. They beat him and supposedly that's when the pistol fell. You know, anything about DNA, there was nothing that could've been true about that. It was completely false. Any DNA of my son was on it. It was all a lie. I don't understand if the US government says that it doesn't tolerate lying. Then why is it that when they lie they defend them. And Lacey is defending these people. And they're—she's defending people who kill.

Moderator: Thank you. Just so that you know all of us on the commission are really sorry. So sorry for your loss and you're grateful that you would come here with that father's pain to talk about what happened.

Moderator: thank you for your struggle for the whole community. If there are any families that want to come forward—is there another family? We'd like to have them come forward now if they'd be willing.

Respondent: Hello, my name is Stephanie Anez. Edwin Rodriguez's partner. He was murdered February 14th by east L.A. sheriffs and as his partner and mother of his kids it's really hard to deal, go through this every day. Especially because we have a 3-year-old son and my daughter who are really close to him. Everyday it's very hard on me. especially because I'm a single mother. I'm young, I'm 24-years old and we were just getting our life started. We had our own place, he had his job, my kids. He was a good dad. When he didn't have work—he was in construction, so the times he didn't have work he would dedicate to the kids, to my son. My daughter, she's like a stepdaughter to him. She wasn't his but he helped me raise her since she was a year old so she really got close to him. And when all this happened, all this tragedy, it really, really affected her the most. The day we buried him, that's the day that actually really hit her. She broke down, she's just crying and as a mother it's hard for me to see that, especially for my daughter, that she lost her dad. My son—every morning, everyday he's always telling me when is my dad gonna wake up. I miss him. I love him. It's just very hard and I don't think what the east L.A. sheriffs did to him was right. He was murdered for no reason. The way they treated him, the way they left him. 19—they shot him 19 times. 4 in the head, 8 in the chest, and 4 like on the waist. Like all through—he was—they had him facedown. That's like them wanting him dead. He didn't even know what was coming to him. And everything that they were saying—supposedly he was in a stolen vehicle which was not true, supposedly he was armed which was not true, and there was other—they were also saying that he was trying to weapon from a female officer which was also not true. Just the way they treated him, the way they left him. They need to see what they did, what they're doing is not right. nowadays kids, well kids everyday they're scared. They see officers they're scared. Not that long ago on Saturday, I went somewhere and here was a cop driving behind me and he started flashing his lights on me and he went on the side of me. And he told me, he's like what? You're scared. He goes like pull over, I'm gonna pull you over, trying to be funny, sarcastic with me. What they're doing right there is not right; like they're scaring people. I feel like that's harassment. There's another time where I had gotten pulled over with Edwin. We were going to go eat with the kids. And I guess just cause they seen cause he was bald. They pulled us over. I was pregnant and they were accusing him that he had drugs. And that he was all scared—why was he so nervous that they pulled us over? Because they seen that he was so nervous. They pulled me over and they asked me, oh you look like you drugs. I was pregnant. I was 8 months pregnant. That's harassment. What they're doing is not right. We're just here because we want justice for all the family—all the ones that lost loved ones. We just don't think that it's right what they're doing just killing people. It's not right.

For no reasons. And they try throwing reasons at them that they have weapons, they're armed, drugs,. And just by their appearance, the way they look. Just cause they're bald, Hispanic, black, it's not right what they're doing. They just pull—they just see them walking around and they just pull them over for no reason. It's really hard, I'm very nervous. We're just here because we want you guys to know what's going on with the sheriffs, the cops. All the killings that they've been doing. And Jackie Lacey sees all this and she does nothing about it. She needs to jail the killer cops. She needs to see what's going that all these innocent kids are getting killed for no reason and it's just not right. She needs to open up her—I know she sees it. She's just right there backing them up. Acts like she doesn't see nothing. Like she doesn't know what's going on. She needs to open her eyes and see what's going on. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you so much for coming.

Moderator: What neighborhood is this happening?

Respondent: It was in east L.A. It happened in east L.A Valentine's day.

Moderator: Oh gosh. We are so sorry for your loss as well. Thank you for the courage to come here and tell us all of this. Lou Colonche, Eddie Licon and Stephanie Anez.

Respondent: Good afternoon my name is Lou Colonche. I'm the executive director of Legacy L.A., which is a nonprofit development organization that's 2 miles just west of here. And myself and Eddie who's one of our youth leaders grew up in the Ramona Gardens community which is about a mile and a half away from here. Unfortunately have grown up seeing a lot of police harassment and a lot of police abuse. And gosh, in the last month there was a settlement for an in custody death. So this is something that has been occurring for many, many decades in Ramona gardens. But there still seems to be roe investment in law enforcement in the community versus other types of programming. Not only to provide opportunities for young people, because the bigger issue is poverty and lack of opportunities. Not that young people want to be in gangs or be criminals. That just happens as a result of all these other issues that are facing the community. But what they get is basically they get criminalized and arrested and their whole life is impacted. And many get killed. But we're here today to actually talk about a project that we started at Legacy L.A that was started by youth and Eddie will talk a little bit more about it; since it was him and his 2 friend's idea. But this project—Legacy L.A is focused on developing youth leaders to address social issues in the community. So versus what we have today in Ramona Gardens is a CSP program which is called the Community Safety Partnership that it's a new program that was launched by LAPD and the housing authority. And basically it's millions and millions of dollars to have dedicated law enforcement officers in a community. It's supposed to be a community building strategy but it's resulted in more criminalization. And it's being touted as a community relations, community partnerships program. But it's really not. It's really not developed by the community or supported by the community. It just keeps growing. But one of the things

that's come out of it was that even the research—the evaluation like the early implementation of the project basically shows that there's still a lot of criminalization because police officers don't have the skills to deal with teens. They do a really good job in building strong community ties with elementary school children which is fine. But once kids are teens then it's more of a combative type of relationship. And as a result our youth developed a project called through our Eyes that we want share with you. I'll let Eddie talk about it.

Respondent: Yes, so as Lou mentioned I along with 2 other youth have created a program called Through Our Eyes. It really comes as a result of a lot of the racial injustice that my community and like, hundreds of other communities face. And so what we decided to do, was we realized that a lot of the tension that happens in the community along with other communities has been a result of a lack of communication. And so the through Our Eyes workshop really aims to build a safe space where both officers and youth can come in and share their opinions of one another, share their like, opinions of the community. Just give their perspective on one another. And we aim to through building this safe space that we are able to delve more tangible and sustainable solutions to the problems that police officers claim to be targeting. So instead of criminalizing youth, arresting youth and things like that we feel that that's just putting a band aid on the problem, like of drug position, drug usage and things of that nature. But we really want to come up together with solutions that are much more healthier and longer lasting. So that's through education programs. Through different components that we feel are the root causes to some of these issues. And so we really want to—and also one of the targets—with the CSP report—the Community Safety Partnership Report, one of the downsides of that program was a lack of engagement of youth between the ages of 13 of to 24. That's the most important age group because those are the population that's targeted by them on daily. So a lack of engagement with them and you claim to be a community safety partnership. That didn't really make sense. So that's what our program aims to do is bring that population. That 14 to 24-year-old. Let them have a chance to share their experiences. Share their feelings towards police in hopes to gain an understanding of one another. This program has started back when I was a sophomore in high school. And I'm now in my 3rd year of college. So we've done this program several different times; resulting in some benefits and some progress. But definitely there's—that was just a like a fraction of what we want to do. And what we're really aiming to ask you all for is your help and support tin getting this program funded and implemented into the different housing authority projects in Imperial Courts and all the ones that have the community safety partnerships. We really want this to be also a part of the community safety partnership's training and curriculum. Because we feel that they claim to get trained on how to engage with the community but a lot of the methods are not affective at all. So they're spending millions of dollars in this program. So we just want to really find—we really want to make this training more admonitory for the community safety police officers. Because we feel that it's way more effective than the training that they receive through other sources.

Moderator: Thank you so much.

Respondent: Also I wanted to mention that this program is entirely youth-lead. That's what makes it really—it makes it powerful because it's giving youth the chance to use their voice to make lasting solutions. And we really have just been able—also it's really difficult having it be youth-lead. It has positives but it really just changes the dynamic with the police officers because a lot of the times they feel like they can harass us. They feel like they can poke and really try to get a rise out of us to really get us to do things. We're really trying to change that. We're really trying to make youths voices heard and make them valued pretty much. So that's what we really have to hope like your support on and really see if you can help us with spreading this program throughout the other ones.

Moderator: Absolutely. If you will submit that. We want that. thank you very much Eddie. You've got a powerful voice.

Moderator: Eddie, how many—are you across the entire county or just in the city?

Respondent: So we want to begin with the communities that have the CSP officers.

Moderator: City or county?

Respondent: This is county, city-wide.

Moderator: You're located in the public housing or section 8? Which one?

Respondent: Housing authority of the City of Los Angeles. So we really want to expand it to a county level.

Moderator: How many kids do you have altogether now?

Respondent: So the way the program works is that we get youth from each of the communities. Total number it's honestly really flexible. It's contingent on the amount of officers we have available. And sometimes that's only...

Moderator: A range?

Respondent: So the range for our program—our target is around 10 to 15 youth and 5 to 8 officers per site.

Moderator: Thank you so much. We have one more speaker—Vic Charlie. We have to speak to this 3 minutes. We'll be running out of time soon. We appreciate your patience.

Respondent: Hi. My name is Vick Charlie. I'm an inner-city organizer and gang community organizer. I did want to give the perspective of gang communities that I've not seen much conversation in this last hour. I organize with gang leaders, veteranos, Chicano gangs call them vetaranos. And their presence is important in this debate. The activist quite frankly ignore them too often. I organize at Cal State L.A in the 90's both gang communities and student activists. I organize with a prominent * organizer. So it's important to point out that there's a lack of a dialog between gang communities and the city of L.A. right now I'm doing an organizing push with the gang alliance—Boyle Heights, Lincoln Heights. I think their issues are important too. We got 1,000 police cops coming to raid Harlem Crips right on Western 3rd block. I was the only activist organizer showed up and supported Harlem. So let's have a dialog—a long-term on gang communities and what they mean for human relations and city of LA. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you so much. So we are—our public hearing has come to an end. I just want to thank every single one of you for coming out. I especially want to thank the families who of folks who came. I know it has to have been difficult and painful to come and give the testimony that you give and we appreciate all of you for using this Saturday morning to be here. As I mentioned, if you want to keep up with what we're gonna do please provide your information and we'll make sure you get it. Our next hearing will be in Long beach on December 3rd. So fairly quickly. And we'll let anybody who wants to know exactly where all the other hearings will be in district 2 and district 3 as well. So with the concurrence with all my fellow commissioners I declare this public hearing adjourned. Thank you very much, everyone.

[End of recording]