

**County of Los Angeles**  
**File: (TASCAM\_0010-0045)**

**Moderator:** Good morning. Buenos Dias. Folks, we don't have our interpretation equipment so can my interpreters put up their hands or stand up? There you go. So if you do need interpretation for Spanish, please move closer to them. Thank you, alright. So, I'm calling to order this public hearing of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human relations. This is a public hearing on policing and human relations in the 5<sup>th</sup> supervisor district. So I want to say welcome to everyone here this morning. My name is Isabelle Gunning and I'm the president of the L.A County Human relations Commissions and I'm also a law professor at South Western Law School and I have the privilege this morning and the pleasure of presiding over this hearing today. The very first I want to do is to thank all of you. It's Saturday morning. They're other things that you could do. But you're here because I know you care about your community and we just want to thank you for coming out here, for being patient with us as we get all of our equipment together. So thank you, thank you very much. Joining me today, are a number of my fellow commissions and I'm gonna ask each of them to introduce themselves in turn.

**Moderator:** Good morning, my name is Dr. Sandra Thomas and I am your 5<sup>th</sup> district commissioner assigned by supervisor Michael D. Antonovich. So, we're glad to have you and if you need any information from 5<sup>th</sup> district you can see me later, thank you very much.

**Moderator:** Good morning, Ashley Oh. Also from the 5<sup>th</sup> supervisorial district. Thank you for coming today.

**Moderator:** Good morning, I'm Preeti Kulkarni with the 3<sup>rd</sup> district and I look forward to hearing your comments today. Thank you very much for taking the time.

**Moderator:** Good morning, my name is Susanne Cumming from the 4<sup>th</sup> district. Thank you so much for coming today. We're looking forward to hearing your concerns.

**Moderator:** Hi, I'm Donna Bojarsky appointed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> district and I'm happy to be here to hear from you and learn. Thanks.

**Moderator:** Good morning, my name is Jarrett Thomas Barrios, from the 1<sup>st</sup> district. I live in Echo Park.

**Moderator:** Good morning everyone. My name is Robin Toma. I'm Executive Director of the County Commission on Human Relations and also assistant director for Community and Senior Services of L.A County. We're really pleased to be with you here today.

**Moderator:** So let me begin with just a brief amount of background. The commission is holding this public hearing on this matter, because as I'm sure all of you know and are here for this reason, policing issues have been front and center in both county as well as national news. It's also that policing issues have been the center of many, many, many interracial conflicts. And of course, as a human relation commission, this is a major concern for us. Our commission issued a report calling for changes back in 1965 after the Watts uprising and of course we've had the 1992 Uprising after Rodney king verdicts. Indeed, our commission's origins actually go back all the way to 1943 when there were Zoot Suit riots. When the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1965 Watts uprising took place, our commission decided that it was time to take stock of the state of policing and human relations in our county and hear from communities in the diverse, supervisorial districts of this country. And in fact, one of our commission's strategic planning priorities for our 3-year period is, in fact, increasing fairness and equity in the county's criminal justice systems. So this is central to our mission and our strategic plans. So today is the first of 6 public hearings that the commission will be holding as part of a countywide project on policing and human relations. We here at the commission want to hear from all of you today. We want to hear...

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**Moderator:** Experiences with the police, we want to hear about your suggestions for increasing fairness and equity in policing in your community and we want to hear your ideas for building or maintaining positive relationships between the police and the community. After this hearing we'll be having 4 more hearings one in each of the other 4 supervisorial districts and they'll take place from October to December. We'll have an additional hearing in January that will be to hear from law enforcement represents. In addition to the hearings, the commission expects to obtain and is obtaining information about best practices and recommendations for fair and equitable policing from a variety of sources. And our anticipation and plan is that the result of these hearings and additional information will be combined in a commission report and it will include recommendations for ways to support strong, positive relations in our communities and will then collaborate with community groups and law enforcement partners to support the implementation of these recommended changes. So that's the background. Let me say a few points about the process. The first thing is, if you go through those back exit doors you will find the bathrooms. So I want you all to know exactly where they are. And you can come back in through those doors, although, please be careful cause they can be a little loud. We do have childcare, and if you go out there you can talk to the folks at the staffing table. But you

should be able to see it, right up the top of the stairs. For anybody who wants to speak, what we're asking is that you fill out speaker forms. You can put whatever name you want on it. We're not trying to use it to personally identify you. You can get those form's outside with Robert Sol and just please complete the form and submit them. We're using this, just to make sure that everybody who wants to speaks get a chance to speak and that we do it in a very orderly fashion so that we're gonna call up people by the speaker forms. Not just have you pop up. So I'll actually have your names and call you up, 2 by 2, as other people are speaking so that we move it along fairly quickly. Time limit. To ensure that everybody here gets a chance to speak, we're gonna ask that you limit your remarks to a maximum of 3 minutes. We've got a clock. But the speaker will be able to see it. So that you can see how much time you have remaining. There'll be a red card. And we're asking to please, please, please obey the time limit. This is a hearing for everybody here and I know all these issues are really important, but in order to make sure that all of you get a chance to speak. We've got to be able to allocate the time so that everyone here can speak. If you run out of time and we ask you to please sit down, we ask you to respect that. And there are 2 things you can do. One is submit something in writing, because anything that you submit to us we are definitely going to consider very carefully. The other thing is depending upon how our time goes, if everyone who has spoken has done so, you can feel free to sign up again and finish your remarks, all right? If you're asked questions—and the commissioners may ask a few follow-up questions just to clarify what you're saying. Cause we're here to listen, right? Then I'll make sure that you get some additional time to answer the question to make sure that we're clear about what it is you're saying. Just a warning, depending on the number of speakers, we might reduce the amount of time that each person has to speak to 2 minutes or 1 minute. Hopefully we don't have to do that. But I want to warn you now. We might do that again, not because we want to cut anybody off but because we want to make sure that every single person in this room who wants to speak and give testimony about this important issue gets an opportunity to do so. Respect. We expect everyone here to be respectful not just with us, but with everyone. So please treat others, as you would want to be treated. We have our public hearing protocols. Believe they're at the sign-in table that you found when you came to fill out the speaker forms. And as the chair, I'm gonna be responsible for ensuring respectful behavior and creating an atmosphere conducive to a positive environment for everyone to speak. We're all here as a part of the community...

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**Moderator:** Let's join together. Tough issues, hot issues, important issues, that's when we most need to make sure that we get our point across clearly but also respectfully, because whatever comes out of this it's gonna be all of us together. So as we're talking about it and talking about solutions, let's do so in a way that is respectful, that keeps us all together and moving forward. So, I'm going to ask you of course to not be disorderly or contemptuous or insolent or curse when you're taking to us or referring to other

people. And including—again—if I ask you to stop—if the red card goes up, please, just stop, turn in whatever you have in writing, go back to the end of the line. Any boisterous conduct—violence conductive of course I'm gonna ask you no, let's let this thing go forth so that everyone can speak. Disobeying any reasonable requests and basically all it's gonna be is please stop if the time is up. For assistance—so, Robert Sol who you would have seen before, if anything should happen he's the one who would come up to you and say what I've already said. But say please, please stop. So he's gonna wave. So that's Robert. Cell phones of course, please—we've all got them, we all love them, can't be without them—pleas put them on vibrate or silent so that there's no disturbance. As a public hearing, this is being recorded. It's not just that this is going out—you can see the cameras—all of these microphones are, in fact, picking up everything that you say. So if you don't want to be recorded then don't actually do oral testimony. But we do have forms for you to fill out where you can tell us about whatever experiences you feel are important even though you may not want to actually be recorded. But as a public hearing we want to have this recorded. It's what we're going to use to create our report and we want to make sure that we have an accurate account of everything that was said today. If you wish to be contacted regarding further proceedings or actions, you're gonna need to provide your name and some contact information. And again, we have the sign-up sheets at the front table to do so. So if you want to know when the other hearings are actually scheduled, where they're going to be, all of that, please, give us your information. We'll make sure that you get that follow-up information. So, let's begin the hearing with those who wish to speak. We have 2 who have already signed up. Farrell Mitchell and Ruth Tina Harrell. Please come forward.

Respondent: Excuse me, I have a question.

Moderator: Yes?

Respondent: In the event that the prepared statements exceeds the premade time limit will the speaker be allowed to deliver the rest of the statement?

Moderator: Sir, I would prefer that that would not occur, because I want everyone in this room to be able to say what they need to say. So what I'd prefer, if the speaker's statement goes over is that you provide us with your written statement, because we will use that and preserve that just as we would anything audible and if we still have time at the end when everybody else has spoken and you want to still deliver the rest of it, then I ask you to deliver it at the end.

Respondent: Thank you.

Moderator: You're welcome. Okay. And I'm gonna say right now, who's next, coming up? Oh, yes, for all of you who are going to be speaking, what I'd like you to do is have

**you stand. Those of you who are going to speak and stand with me, raise your right hand. And recite after me: I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Okay, thank you very much. Please, go ahead. State your name and so we know who it is.**

Respondent: My name is Farrell Mitchell and I'm one of the CEOs of the Community Action League and I just wanted everyone to know that we're here and we're very concerned about our community and our community needs. So whenever we address something we always go to our community first...

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Respondent: So, we invited the community so we can hear from our community but we also want the community to know we're not here just to hear from our community, but we're also here to solicit solutions on how we can better work together with the sheriff's department. Here in the Antelope Valley as I always say we will be a blueprint for the nation. So what we want to do is hear the solutions on how we can better relate with the sheriff's department and our community together. It's very important that we hear the voices of the community and that's why we're here today. Thank you.

**Moderator: Thank you so much, Mr. Michel. Okay.**

Respondent: Good morning, my name is Ruth Sanchez. And today, I would like to thank everybody that is here present for coming over. First of all, I am the vice president of Antelope Valley Latino Education here in the Antelope Valley—a nonprofit organization. We've been at it about 7 years. 7 years ago we started with the car impound in the Antelope Valley which is a big issue. Trying to find solutions, we came across an attorney that really helped us out, and I mean she has been fighting the fight for years before us. But what she helped us was fighting the fight out here in the Antelope Valley. I have to say that things are not completely solved. However, they have changed drastically for the better. I want to commend the Lancaster Sheriff Department because we have had a lot of changes that are happened there—positive changes. And we see—when we first started, it used to be anywhere from 10 to 15 towing trucks in both cities—Lancaster's and Palmdale. Now we see maybe 1 or 2. Now we see the reduction, the cars are not being impounded. The cars are being held until the owner or the licensed driver is able to pass them, to get across. So those are just some of the small issues that we see that are—that have gotten better. Other issues are we're able to communicate with both departments, able to bring issues that the community comes to us with different issues. Such as police brutality, harassment, or they feel that their rights are being violated. What we do is we hold also the community, you know, responsible. Because we understand that this is not a one-way issue. This is an overall issue. And that's why we emphasize on education. Educating the law enforcement on how to deal with the community, but also the community how to better, you know, deal with the law enforcement. We have a series of workshops. We do know your rights workshops.

We tell them how to handle different issues. We assist them with hearings with law enforcement and again, we have worked in a past with the National Lawyer Guild which today I am pleased to say that we have volunteer students here ready to assist anybody that has any issue and we can go head and assist them in any way we can. So I do want to thank them and the national Lawyer Guild for being here, again, supporting us. Another issue that we've been having is with child services. There's a lot of different issues here where children's are being removed from their home and put in danger as well. So these are very important issues that also we would like to bring up. You will hear a series of testimonies from the Latino community that are afraid to speak forward and I'm happy that they actually have the courage to speak up today because they are afraid. There's a lot of different issues that people don't understand. The Latino community also have to worry about immigration issues. They feel that when they come forward with these issues that immigration will be called. So they fall victim once again on this. Once again, so I want to thank everybody and I want to thank the commissioners and peals, you know, anybody that really needs to speak have an issue let's go head and bring it up. Let's go head and bring out solutions like Farrell say because we need to come together. There is no way we can show law enforcement what things are being done incorrectly unless we bring it forward and try to work together. Thank you.

**Moderator: Thank you so much. I've got Darren parker, Wendy Trujillo, Exedra Deleon. Can you begin to line up so that we'll kind of move it?**

Respondent: Good morning, madam president, honorable commissioners, distinguished and community members. My name is Darren parker...

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Respondent: I work as the human relations chairman for the Human Relations Commission here for over 2 decades. I presently serve as a statewide chairman for the African American caucus and special assistant to our California assembly speaker. But more importantly, as a resident here in the Antelope Valley for more than 30 years I've seen a lot of change. From when the 2 cities were 10,000 people strong to now over 200,000 people strong. And in that time we've experienced some unique growth pains because being part of L.A County meant that we were in L.A but actually as you took your drive up here this morning, you can see that we're very much detached from L.A proper. As a matter of fact, it took a lot of us—more than 70,000 of us still have to go down below every day to go to work and down below means going to L.A for those that live up here. The unique problem here in the Antelope—and let me be pretty succinct to the commission because we're looking for solutions to help us. We've done great strides over the years with our Human Relations Commission working directly with this commission and Robin Toma. We've had great strides in our education. 4 years ago we had the opportunity to do testimony in this community; they brought the Department of Justice here. The Justice Department now has an oversight committee that is working with our Sheriff's

departments. But the root of this problem as we've grown we haven't got the resources to be able to truly, affectively community police this area. Yes we have things that are going wrong and you're gonna hear testimony from many people about the things that are still going wrong as we see it in our eyes. But the bottom line is there are not enough deputies here. There has been no serious commitment to do recruitment locally here or to recruit minorities. They don't have the resources to do those type of community outreaches that are happening down below in the Sheriff's department where you have those open houses where it's a real open house. Where the police department it's not just a place where some place being negative, but a place that the community can gather and all come together to work at a common problem which is crime in their community. So even though we have problems, what can be done here is what we need to see and what we call the trickle-down effect—that concerted effort that the county puts those extra resources, as we've done in education and other areas to make sure that we do our total job in making sure we get not only the Sheriff's department, the resources but we address on an ongoing basis those issues that come from the community. The crowd that you see in this auditorium today is just the tip of the iceberg. As you saw, we have more land mass than all of down below combined. And until you start to do these type of hearings—until our community can come and tell you those issues which affect them on a day-to-day basis you're not gonna get a real sense of what the gravity of the problem is here will keep putting band aids on it. We need to see you. I applaud you coming here first. I applaud for you taking the agency out into the field. We need to see these ongoingly so we catch the people on the far eastside that have some unique policing problems. So we catch those individuals on the west side that are latchkey homes and latchkey families. I appreciate your time and I thank you for your effort.

**Moderator:** Thank you very much. Oh, I'm sorry, Mr. parker, there's a question here.

Respondent: Thank you madam chair and you the gentleman.

Respondent: Thank you.

Respondent: Good morning.

Respondent: Good morning.

Respondent: I just had a couple of quick follow-up questions. You had mentioned—none of us are actually from the antelope valley. Can you just clarify, sir, do Lancaster and Palmdale have either own police force or do they use county sheriff?

Respondent: They're contracted through the county sheriff.

Respondent: They're contracted?

Respondent: Yes, sir.

Respondent: And so the recruitment efforts that you're talking about as being necessary are with the county, not actually with the 2 municipalities?

Respondent: Correct.

Respondent: Thank you. That was my clarify question.

**Moderator: Thank you so much. Ms. Trujillo.**

Respondent: Good morning, my name is Wendy Trujillo. And I thank God for people like you. Who about those who help people like us fight to find certain resources. I've been constantly threatened verbally by an official. The daughter of Mrs. Foster who cares for my children, who thinks with the right to wear a uniform. Feels like she has the freedom to threaten me any time she wants.

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Respondent: And to yell and mentally and verbally abuse my children in front of me during my visits. I have monitored visits, so the social worker has also witnessed this but nobody cares. I've been constantly accused, main allegations, and accusations, they removed my children or took my children for me for not protecting. When I went to visitation and found my child looking this way, I began to ask them if I didn't protect my child, who was going to respond to this? Are you just gonna switch social workers and nobody has an answer. This woman, protected by the Agency Latinos \*, and the Sheriff's department, they threaten and accuse me of things that are lies. I've had the unfortunate situation to see how they threaten and use violence in front of me and I vane's been able to do anything. I'm here begging that someone please do something for my children, I need help, please.

**Moderator: I have a question about the threats. Were they specifically from the Sheriff's department?**

Respondent: The daughter of the woman who was actually a police officer. But she says her agency supports her and she can do whatever she wants.

**Moderator: So I'm asking her what were the specific threats?**

Respondent: That if I don't stay quiet that she has the power to put me in jail. That she can do whatever she wants because she's a police officer and that I'm nobody.



**Moderator:** So, what is the name of the person who's doing these threats? Mrs. Foster?

Respondent: It's the daughter of Mrs. Foster.

**Moderator:** Do you know what the daughter's name is?

Respondent: Francesca Vesa.

**Moderator:** And you say that Francesca Vesa is with the Sheriff's department or what agency?

Respondent: Lancaster that I know of.

**Moderator:** Lancaster sheriff deputy?

Respondent: Yes.

**Moderator:** Thank you so much. Were there any other questions? Ms. Deleon, as you're getting ready to speak can I get Ramirez Lara to come up and get ready and Terry Glasco.

Respondent: Good morning to everybody and thank you for being here.

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Respondent: Because just as we are Latin families of low income we do need your help because we're always presented as these low income and humble families and in front of the Sheriff's department. Then any time we have to present anything—we're humiliated and they always add words in whatever form they choose to add and write because if we call the Sheriff's department it's to have help or to get help. And it's not that so they can use us and insult us and tell us that if we don't say the truth they're going to put us in jail. Because of the situations we've had with DFS, our drastic when it comes to our children. And instead of helping us they just want to bury us more with leis and things that they invent or write. The situation with my oldest granddaughter, a few months ago had a situation at the mall. And instead of helping her, the Sheriff's treated her as if she were a criminal and she's only 15-years-old. It's very difficult for us as parents or grandparents who are in this situation, not to have the adequate help and that's why I ask and I beg that you assist us in this situation. Thank you very much.

**Moderator:** Thank you very much. Question?

**Moderator:** Thank you ma'am for being here and participating in our hearing. In this hearing what we're trying to do is gather information and details about incidents and

**situations so if you can give us more details specifically about what is that occurred then that will help us.**

Respondent: For that same reason we're are willing to put her in front of a microphone and on camera so that you can hear personally from her what happened what occurred in detail.

**Moderator: You can also share something written it's a lot easier as well.**

Respondent: My name is Laura Rodriguez

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Respondent: 2004, I have a bipolar kid diagnosis since he was little and in 2012 my oldest son got in an accident, he got killed by a drunk driver and you know we lost my son, in 2012. In October 5, okay? My bipolar kid, he was 14 then. After that he went out of control, you know, he got very sick, and the police got called. So they took him for 3 months because all the time they were having—like in court, you know, he had court. The judge was on vacation, something had been—even the people that were telling us that they needed \* like that. they don't know where to put him. And I was you know, so after that, and thanksgiving he got beat up by the police because he was calling me, crying. And he got beat up really bad. It's a report, a police report in there, too, because I did make that report. After that he came—you know, he didn't have no criminal record. His only issue was being bipolar with a lot of mental issues. And so after that he came home, after 3 months, after being sick and he was crying—he was saying why did they put me in jail? Why did they put me in jail after my brother died? They feed me dog food. They treat me bad. Why, why, you didn't know where I was. In the room—in the little room, they keep me months and months in there. And he was going out of control, out of control. They prescribe a medication which it wasn't good for him. But they sent me a letter saying that if I take my kid out of there they will do something to \*. So I went to the doctor and I got a letter from the doctor saying to take him to the hospital. He needed to be hospitalized. Post-traumatic stress, \* he was getting out of control. Many children services have reported to children's, to the court, to the PO. No one wanted to help me. I went to court and I told the judge please, help me, help me, help me. My son needs to be hospitalized. My son has mental issues. By me saying that, it was that—it was my worst mistake because they throw them into the hole. He's an animal. He doesn't deserve. It's been 4 years, false charges against my kid by the police.

**Moderator: Hang on there's a question.**

**Moderator: The first time he was put in jail who arrested him?**

Respondent: The Sheriff's from here from Lancaster.

**Moderator: And the first time, was he abused inside the Lancaster jail?**

Respondent: Yes—no, not in Lancaster jail. It was in Sylmar, I'm sorry.

**Moderator: This was the youth facility in Sylmar, correct?**

Respondent: Yes.

**Moderator: In a hall?**

Respondent: Yes.

**Moderator: Probation, so he was injured? Was he injured?**

Respondent: Yes.

**Moderator: What were his injuries?**

Respondent: He had his neck, and on his head, like \* with purple and really bad. His neck, like he tried to drop him. Yeah, it was a police report.

**Moderator: Okay, so the sheriffs were the ones that beat him up, correct? It was probation at Sylmar?**

Respondent: Yes. But it's been 4 years. 10 different hospitals, mental hospitals. It's been one time I call after that, I call the sheriff because he was getting out of control, I call the team, the mental team. The mental team didn't come because they didn't have any time. They told me to call the Sheriff's department because they had a unit in there, that handles mental. They came out and they came out. They took my kid to the hospital. I was begging the police to take my kid to the hospital.

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Respondent: Because I was in any way to hospitalize them, because the insurance doesn't want to pay, I don't know where \*. They don't want to pay, this is all the hospitals I called. No one wanted to take him because we poor, we have MediCal and you know, that police from Lancaster, they took my kid to the hospital. And the way they were calling him names, they were telling him, you know why you're here? Because no one cares about you, because you're something—I don't know. You know, you are—your mom doesn't love you.

**Moderator: I understand.**

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Respondent: they didn't care about me losing one kid. I went to the judge and I told him I just lost my kid. They didn't care about him, they didn't care about nothing. You know, he's been 10 hospitals, 1 year of jail, what did he did? I please—help me, please. I need justice. I'm losing my mind.

**Moderator: Ms. Ramirez, we're going to give you a card for the commissioner in this district because we want to hear from other people as well but we're going to follow up. thank you so much.**

Respondent: Please, help me.

**Moderator: I hear it. Terry Glasco. As she's coming forward I have Dave Bowman and Edward Browning.**

Respondent: Good morning. September 17, 2013, my husband was arrested for protecting himself from a pack of dogs that were on our property and was killing our livestock. And he was out there waving around a stick cause he didn't know what else to do. Well, it ended up where he ended up getting arrested because when I went outside I opened up all the gates because I didn't know where the dogs were. Well, when I was looking for one particular dog that I was trying to get out of the yard, it got out of the yard and I don't know where it went. I asked the neighbors did you see where the dog went? And they said the dog ran down the street. And I thought all the dogs were out of the yard. Well, he went up towards the front where I opened up the gates and there was a dog laying there and we don't know where it came from. So, anyways, he was arrested for torturing, killing an animal. And we ended up going to a murder, if it was 25 to life if he lost. We ended up have to take a deal because the judge and the district attorney wouldn't listen to anything our public defender had to say. He went the black law. He was telling the judge that there is a law that if you have an animal—a predator on your property, killing your livestock you can either kill it or you can disable it. And he didn't do either one. So own, it was a special jury had 65 for us to choose from and it was a murder trial. And we got Adela from the dog pound. Itemized list from a live dog that got vaccination shots, it had surgery on the dog's eye for 23 days it was there and we have the bill. So even the veterinarian said I treated the dog—the dog is very much alive and will be adopted. He had to take a deal because the bailiff told him to put on the hanging suit. He said any man of color wears this suit does 25 to life. So we had to take a deal. And until today, our lives are not the same. We took so many losses and it's not fair. I'm sorry I'm crying. I try not to. But the police out here...

**Moderator: Any follow-up questions?**

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**Moderator: thank you so much. We appreciate it. Dave and after him Edward Browning and after him, Stephen Adamo.**

Respondent: I have a request before the hearing started. I would like to go ahead and notify the commission will take maybe more than the 3 minutes. And I would ask to be allowed to return to read the final portion of the statement. today, we're going to hear many testimonies of lawness and discriminatory misconduct by the \*, most of our testimonies of violence, discrimination, and accountability to that, we the people of the Antelope Valley add lack of transparency to the list of charges. Since 1980 the attacks of secrecy, omission, ambush, misdirection and outright lies have been the stock and trade of the L.A County Board of supervisor district 5, Michael Antonovich and his long-term assistant in BOS endorsee Kay Barger. And as this policy has been condoned and set as an example so too, it has been adopted by the LASD Northern Patrol. Being an active 4-year participant in the Antonovich established \* council program in chambers there have been missions of disregard, of medical marijuana patient rights. As a lieutenant stated that it was LASD policy to arrest all medical cannabis patients and let the courts sort it out. the same lieutenant admitted I don't understand the policy. I just carry on. On other occasions an ATF sergeant, among other statements of aggressive arrests and remember, lake Los Angeles is the lowest crime rate in all of the Antelope Valley. He stated that he did not need a warrant to enter properties and then resorted to intimidation when town council members questions and challenged these statements of our constitution rights under the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment of the constitution. On another occasion, a second LASD sergeant did again demonstrate an absolute ignorance of state medical marijuana laws when he accused a holder of an AB420 California state cannabis patient photo ID of having made it himself and then asking him which dispensary gave this to you. These acts are all done at town council meetings and are all captured on big file. These statements along with complete reports will be forwarded to the attorney's present outside the presence of the commission after verification and appeals of law. Until the LASD respects and \* enforces the law, neither will the people respect it. When the people of the AB receive the LASD as part of the criminal element there is no law at all and the law of the jungle prevails. Trusted law enforcement builds strong communities. But still to this day, other than dog and pony shows and dancing cops serving ice cream and handing out water, there's been nothing but lies and propaganda. The optic which only serves \* we the people rather than adhering to the iron principal of professional law enforcement achieved by blind justice. If the LASD decides they accept the challenge of achieving the trust of the people then policy changes must be implemented. The first of which is body cams that stay on. There have been many union representatives resistant to cams that cannot be deactivated citing privacy issues. But as public servants there can be no privacy when law enforcement is on the job. Especially during the last 3 years of the LASD probation imposed by the United States Department of Justice. We need to abolish the policy of or seek new ideas...

**Moderator: Thank you. And you can definitely come back. thank you so much. Edward Browning and Stephen Adamo.**

Respondent: Good afternoon, council.

**Moderator: Good afternoon.**

Respondent: Good afternoon. It's been 260 days since my little brother been murdered by the Palmdale sheriff's department. December 20, 2015. It's crazy for the simple fact it's 5 officers with 3 body cams but nobody got no coverage. It's businesses around the area but nobody gets on footage. Nothing was seen because it was after hours where people wasn't on the streets. But, you know, that's just how it goes, you know? The officer just go on paid leave and get to see his kids and family while my little nephews and my kids, my family members we got to sit back and wonder still. Is he gonna walk through the door? Is he gonna come or what, you know? When it's supposed to be a medical call out...

TASCAM\_0020 SD5

Respondent: Supposed to call out for a medical response if a man is unresponsive, but nobody calls out for a medical response. The ambulance never come. You take a man out of the back of a police car and then you shoot him 5 to 9 times in the back. A guy that only weighed 135 pounds. Smaller than me. With 5 officers though, that weigh up to 1500 pounds. I'm a cosmetologist myself. I got to do more training than the officer. For me to do hair and put a perm in somebody hair I got to do more training than a police officer. What type of sense does that make? And nobody wants to hold up these officers accountable. Like, if you out here, and you trained to be a jarhead, that's what you trained. You trained to be a murderer. Once you trained to kill, if your intent is to kill and not to protect and to serve then what is you in the justice system for? What is it all for? For, just to have that honor? That oppression over other people, you know what I mean? Like I know that they say oh, black lives matter. Black lives do matter—all lives do matter and that's the case too, but at the same time all lives are not being taken by the hands of these police officers. Everybody's not out here getting slaughtered in the street, Everybody's not being oppressed. I just want to say, like, if these officers—you need to know hold these officers accountable for what they doing. We already know that everybody's \* out here in Lancaster and Palmdale just to be in an oppressed city. They already know it's no jobs. So everybody out here got to do what they got to do to survive. We already know the property rates is down. It's not up. So create something for youth that can do something so that lives can matter, shit. You know what I mean? It's just crazy. Like me, just personally I just wanted to say, you know what I mean, I feel like the system is really like failing everybody right now. if you're not a popular part of the money voting going then it's just oppressing you, you know what I mean? Something needs to change, you know what I mean? Because if it's not gonna change then people gonna put it into they own hands and change it for themself. So, you know, that's all I wanted to say, you know what I'm saying? I want to just get the video and the footage and released for that. And you all have a blessed day.

**Moderator:** Thank you. Thank you. You too. Mr. Browning, a card from this district. Mr. Adamo? Was there a question? I'm sorry. Mr. Browning? One of the commissioners has a question.

**Moderator:** So that was 260 days ago your brother was murdered. Was it Lancaster?

Respondent: Yes. In Palmdale. Palmdale Sheriff department.

**Moderator:** And to this date...

Respondent: We still don't even know the officers that were involved in or anything.

**Moderator:** You don't know the officer's name and you've had know notification about the autopsy report? Anything?

Respondent: We have none—none of that.

**Moderator:** Nothing. And you've asked for that report?

Respondent: We asked for everything.

**Moderator:** And you don't even know the officers? And you've asked for that?

Respondent: Yes. Numerous times.

**Moderator:** What would you like to see the Palmdale police do now in relation to the murder of your brother?

Respondent: I would like to see at least the officer—I want to see the officers convicted of it. How can it be 5 officers there for 1 little frail little guy who already had a broken back? Already—it doesn't take that, you know what I mean? You guys are supposed to be trained. You guys got Tasers and got Billy clubs and all of that. Whatever happened to Billy clubs? You all stopped using those?

**Moderator:** And you don't know anything about the status of their own investigation?

Respondent: We don't know nothing—I don't know nothing about it. Other people may. I don't know nothing about it, personally. I leave my card for you guys to tell me personally. You guys can call me personally. I'll give you guys a card too.

**Moderator:** Tell me your name again?

Respondent: My name is Edward Browning.

**Moderator:** Alright Edward, thank you very much.

Respondent: Is that it?

**Moderator:** Yes, thanks.

**Moderator:** thank you so much, sir. Mr. Adamo. Then I've got Salina Colman to get ready and Cedrick Wills, please.

Respondent: Hello, my name is Stephen. I'm with a nonprofit community art group in Antelope Group called We are Cedar. The train line here—it's the end of the line pretty much for a lot of people who are mentally ill, homeless. And about a year ago a lot of homeless or mentally—people suffering from mental illnesses would get off at the Lancaster line and the mayor was very unhappy with a lot of these people occupying the boulevard...

TASCAM\_0021 SD5

Respondent: Talks about making a homeless shelter out on 6<sup>th</sup> West and Avenue I but that plan is now changed into a woman's jail. \$200,000,000 women jail. And that money could go to funding a bunch of groups that are in the area including the art and a bunch of preventative measures and that's all I wanted to say so thank you.

**Moderator:** I'm sorry, Mr. Adamo are you saying that there's money that's being used for a jail facility?

Respondent: It's a proposed—it hasn't—it's still under consideration from what I understand.

**Moderator:** And your suggestion is that it be used for some community programs?

Respondent: That and more mental illness stuff. Not necessarily giving money to I guess the police for mental illness training but to for professionals to...

**Moderator:** To support the mentally ill themselves?

Respondent: Yeah.

**Moderator:** Any other question? Thank you so much. Ms. Colman?



Respondent: My name is Salina Colman. I've been in L.A County my whole life. I was born and raised in L.A County. I'm here to just speak about the killing of Leroy Browning also, that is my grandson's father. He was 5:2. He weighed 128 pounds. In 2014, he broke his lower neck and his upper back. he had 8 vertebrae in his back that was broke. I've had 2 back surgeries and sometimes I can't even walk. So the fact that he was murdered on December 20, 2015 by these police officers—and yes, I've spoke with them. I have a coroner's report number but that's all the information that we got. They evidently finished up their investigation but they can't release any information until someone makes a decision. But my think is we need more. It's not fair to the family that the police get to investigate their own people while we're left with no information. Every video camera that was in the area—it happened on 47<sup>th</sup> and R which is a commercial area. We have Target, we have CVS, we have Walgreens, we have Chase Bank, we have fast food restaurants. Every business there has a video camera. And they confiscated all the video so—it can't be released cause it's still under investigation but your people are investigating your people. That is not fair to us, the family. I have a 6-year-old grandson and a 2-year-old grandson and my daughter's 28 and she's going crazy because this man who was in her life was an excellent father. He was a primary stay-at-home dad and he took care of his sons while she worked. She has cut off all her hair. She's lost her job and it's not nothing that she can do. I did not always live a good life. I was blessed to be able to change my life at the age of 30 and work for Los Angeles County for the last 17 years. He was only 30 when he was killed by the police. I had hope for him. He could be anything. He could be a chef. He was an awesome cook. But they didn't give us that opportunity. We should've been looking at a court trail. We shouldn't have had to go to a funeral. And to look at my grandson's faces and my 3-year-old grandson who doesn't understand that his father is never coming home—he wants to know—like he want to call heaven. Can he call his dad in heaven? My daughter put on FaceBook—anybody have a number to heaven? This is wrong. And the police out here, they are racially bias. They pull you over say you're speeding when you're not speeding. I have at least 6 speeding tickets. Maybe 2 or 3 times I was speeding. So, please, thank you and I will be at all 5 of your meetings. So when you go to Long beach or whatever area you go I'll be there, because it is serious and it needs to stop and I didn't just come to Antelope Valley. I've been here for 8 years. But this being my grandmother was out here 30 years ago. I didn't want to move back out here because of Leroy Browning I moved out here because my daughter moved out here. So this is just not the Antelope Valley situation, it was all an L.A County situation. But I will say Antelope Valley has it bad.

**Moderator: Okay.**

**TASCAM\_0022 SD5**

Respondent: Thank you.

**Moderator:** Thank you so much. Are there any questions, commissioners? Hang on, a question here from a commissioner.

**Moderator:** Good morning.

Respondent: Good morning.

**Moderator:** Thank you, ma'am.

Respondent: Thank you.

**Moderator:** For taking your time to come today. I was wondering if you could just offer a little more detail. You've had conversations with the sheriff's department where you've requested information?

Respondent: I have, correct.

**Moderator:** Can you tell us what you've requested and what they said back to you?

Respondent: Okay, I requested the autopsy information, I requested a toxicology, I requested the coroner's report, I requested video, I requested any reports that they had by any people...

**Moderator:** And have you received anything?

Respondent: Only thing I got is a corner's number.

**Moderator:** Just the number?

**Moderator:** And you don't even have the cause of death?

Respondent: No, we don't have a cause of death. I asked for the district attorney who was assigned to his case, I haven't gotten that information. So there's—and basically what they told me is they couldn't give me any information because it was still under investigation and they had to finish their report before they could give us any information. But their report had to be finished if they already submitted it to the DA. So, you can't submit something if it's not complete.

**Moderator:** Thank you.

Respondent: Thank you.

**Moderator: Just a quick follow-up. So was there ever an investigators interview of the family, you?**

Respondent: No, no.

**Moderator: No investigator?**

Respondent: No, no investigator contacted any of us. No, they haven't.

**Moderator: Right, thanks, thank you.**

**Moderator: thank you so much, mam. Mr. Wills? And as he's coming forward, Jose Blanco and Eduardo Trujillo. Come up and line up.**

Respondent: Good morning commissioners.

**Moderator: Good morning.**

Respondent: My name is Cedrick Wills. I'm not very good speaking, especially over microphones and stuff like that.

**Moderator: You're doing fine.**

Respondent: I'm the one that was arrested for the torture and kill of a live animal—when the dogs came in my backyard there was 3 Pitbull's, a Rottweiler and a orange Labrador Retriever. They were in my backyard killing my chickens. My granddaughter was feeding the little chickens so I had to rush her in the house so they wouldn't get her. And I went back out to try and scare the dogs off and they tried to attack me. So I'm in my backyard—I have an acre of land—I ran and I picked up a stick. Actually, it was a mop stick. But the mop bristles had all came off and it was just that little ball. And I used that to defend myself and I can't tell you if one of the dogs got hit or not. Cause I was throwing rocks and defending myself trying to get them off my property. Well the next-door neighbors called the police and told them that the black guy next door is beating his dogs with a stick. Okay, police came out, arrested me for torture and kill of a live animal. Now, the day before we was to pick my jury, my attorney walked off the case and told the judge I quit. I'm not gonna be part of a civil lawsuit. I'd rather practice law in another country. Then they gave me another public defender from his office, which didn't ask for a continuance to view my case. This was on a Friday. I came back on a Monday and they started picking my jury. You know, I had a special jury of 65 pool jury. I was facing 25 years to life. I got a strike which I never had no strikes. I was like 19. I lived in the state of Indiana and I had a conspiracy charge to commit a robbery. They said I knew somebody I was gonna do a robbery and I didn't call the police and tell them. So I got a conspiracy

charge for that. Okay. Anyway, they used that to strike me and I was 19. I'm 57 now. I haven't been in no trouble since then. And so now I got a strike. I just got out of prison not long ago. And I'm fighting the charge. I have a case. My case is pending. Mr. Ballman is helping me with my civil rights part of the case. My rights have been violated. They told me when I didn't have clothes to wear the bailiff told—I didn't have clothes to wear in court and the bailiff told me to put on my hanging suit. Cause every man of color that put that suit on got 15 or 25 years to life. And I had to put that suit on and go in court with that suit on and so...

TASCAM\_0023 SD5

Respondent: the judge called the district attorney and the district attorney's boss and they offered him—told him if I take a 3-year deal with half time that I wouldn't be facing 25 years to life and so I had to take the deal.

**Moderator: Got it, thank you so much. Are there any questions commissions?**

**Moderator: The bailiff that was in the court room who said put on your hanging suit. Which court house was that?**

Respondent: That was Antelope Valley—Antonovich, yeah.

**Moderator: Antelope Valley—and that was a sheriff's deputy was the bailiff, right?**

Respondent: Yes, yes.

**Moderator: Okay, and how long ago was that hearing?**

Respondent: that was in 2013.

**Moderator: Okay, thanks.**

**Moderator: Thank you so much, sir. Jose Blanco, come forward I have Edward Trujillo and Cecilia Trujillo.**

Respondent: My name is Jose Blanco. I am 57-years-old. I suffered from melanoma and I have grand mal seizures. February 2014 I was arrested by the Palmdale sheriff's department because I was having an argument with my ex-wife at that time and they came out to the home, she called—so they came out home and after all that was there she said yes, hold him up until I go from the house. One of the officers that arrest me, he says I'm not letting go of this if you excuse me, SOB. I will charge him. I'm not coming to this place for nothing. So I was arrested. While I was in the squad car going to Palmdale station his remark was there's one less

wetback that I will have in my area. At that moment I hadn't spoken anything. So, still, you want to tell me something? I said no, but the only thing I would tell you, I am a US citizen. I have been a US citizen since 1988. He not even ask that. How come he was telling me I was a wetback? That's a racial remark, you know? And then while I was going, you know what? I had the pressure to take you back to the border, he said. I don't think that's a job for the police officer. I spent 9 months in jail for something that I didn't—when he was putting me in the handcuffs, because I am partial paralyzed on my left arm, that I cannot move it this way. he jerk it and is cream and I said I'm paralyzed. So he had to put 2 handcuffs on me. And still, he did not respect that. I had never done anything in my life until that day, that she was calling the police officer. So and then I went to jail and the public defender, they were throwing the ball on another. I spent 9 months until the last one says if you declare yourself that you did it you're going out today. And then the other public defenders they were just dropping the ball one to another. There were about 5 public defenders that there were involved there. None of them they help me until there was one lady that came, says I will take you out but you have to take the deal.

**Moderator: I have a question.**

Respondent: Yes, ma'am.

**Moderator: Do you know the name of the sheriff deputy?**

Respondent: Not at this moment, mam.

**Moderator: This arrest was in February of 2013?**

Respondent: 14. 2014. February 217, 2014.

**Moderator: Have you seen the Sheriff deputy since in the community?**

Respondent: No, mam, because I move out from the community, because I rather be out...

TASCAM\_0024 SD5

Respondent: to remember anything because from that day, I have been day I have been suffering from many other things—panic attack, because any time that I see an officer I get panic.

**Moderator: One more question. Was it a white officer?**

Respondent: White officer.

**Moderator:** Thanks.

**Moderator:** Thank you so much, sir. Mr. Trujillo?

Respondent: The testimony today, Wendy and Edwardo Trujillo is a video from. [Spanish]

**Moderator:** We're going to need to have translation.

Respondent: What I was going to say, once my mom opened the door for the social worker and she didn't even give me a handshake. She looked at me and she looked at me like—some criminal. I didn't like that. After that, right now, I can't go to the visits because they're telling me that I can't go. It's not fair because I'd like to see my brother, I want to see them. I know they miss me. Where's Edwardo? When I'm with them I'm happy. They don't want to let me see my brothers. They're telling me I have to leave the house. I don't know if that's right I don't want to leave the house I want to be there with them, you know? I don't like how they treated me. They treated me bad...

TASCAM\_0025 SD5

Respondent: When I was there like if I was somebody else, nobody wanted to talk to me. Nobody—when we went to the visit they blamed me for something I didn't do. they said I hit my brother and they weren't taking care of us in the visit. They weren't taking care of us. They said I hit him and after they called me up, right? And they said your brother Alex said you hit him. I'm like what, no I didn't hit him? How can I hit him? She wasn't taking care of us. They called them up, my brother came, and the social worker—I think it was Wendy, she said okay, Alex, what happened? Alex said my brother, Edwardo we were playing—he said it in Spanish. He never called me Edwardo. He calls me \*. Before they couldn't say Edwardo and they said—my brother Edwardo. I was like what? That doesn't sound right. He used the word \*. We never used the word \*. We didn't even know what that was. We're from Guatemala. Alright.

**Moderator:** Any questions?

**Moderator:** [Spanish]

Respondent: [Spanish]

**Moderator:** You can answer in English.

Respondent: The social worker \*.

**Moderator:** So the social workers are from a group called Niños Latinos?

Respondent: Our regular social workers and the social workers from Niños Latinos.

**Moderator: Were there any police involved?**

Respondent: No.

**Moderator: Thank you very much.**

Respondent: All right.

Respondent: Cecelia?

Respondent: Well we've been in the system for a year and like, 5 months maybe. The social workers they don't do their job good cause like, our social worker she never answers us and we call her \* so many times. We don't get our visits like we're supposed to. I get it \*. They took us away from our family and that we need time and we need to see them. And I don't think it's fair. They want us to speak for them, but they don't \* for us. We get treated like a whole different person...

TASCAM\_0026 SD5

Respondent: Like it's really hard and about business, I feel like \* what we can and what we cannot eat, or when we can see our brothers and sisters. I feel like there's a lot of \* and confusion.

**Moderator: Thank you so much.**

Respondent: You're welcome.

**Moderator: Any questions? No. thank you very much. We've got Alisa Deleon? It's another video. As we're waiting who will follow is Maria Gutierrez and Maurine Feldman to come on up.**

Respondent: I've been in the foster system for a year, really bad \*. I am not happy where I'm at right now. I'm currently living with my stepmom and \*. We have to feed us ourselves. They basically take us to school, don't even talk to us. I've been involved with police before, the way they treated me—really bad. I want to go back with my mom. That's what I want. I don't know what's gonna happen and yeah, I really want somebody to know exactly what happened. I hope that does happen, but I want to be with my mom and \*.

**Moderator: What happened with the police there?**

Respondent: They searched me because \*. I was dangerous and they \*. I didn't do anything. They think I'm \*.

**Moderator: Can you ask her who said she was dangerous to the police?**

Respondent: They were told to arrest me because they thought I was dangerous and they wanted to put me in \*.

**Moderator: Any other questions? Thanks. Maria Gutierrez? Come on up and as you're coming up, Maurine Feller and after Ms. Feller will be Cynthia Beverly so you can kind of begin to move your way in that direction.**

Respondent: Good afternoon, I think you for being here...

TASCAM\_0027 SD5

Respondent: Taking the time. I'm here to ask for justice and peace in my home. About 6 months ago my youngest son had an agreement to rent a home with a coworker. He was the one responsible for gathering the rent money to give it to the real estate company that they were using to rent the home. They started being late or behind on their rent and there started to be problems. So they finally decided to leave and break the contract. But my son is still there trying to wait until the contract ends. He is behind \$1,000 but there was money that was stolen from the other tenants. He's not refusing to pay but he just doesn't have any money right now so when the relater goes to the home, if she sees that he is not there she just walks in. The ones that left or moved out they also went to the police. So the kids that lived here that moved out—they were American and they wanted to get—remove their times from the home so they wanted to go in. But they didn't even ask and decided that they would go. They went to the police to let them know that they wanted to go in. I'm here to see if you can help me. I haven't been able to take blood pressure medicine because I have MediCal and I ran out and I'm here to see if you can help me and I'm not doing well. that's all thank you very much.

**Moderator: Questions? Go ahead. Do you have a complaint against the police or something that happened against them?**

Respondent: Yes, because they entered the home without my permission. My son wasn't home so they took items that were my sons.

**Moderator: And how long ago did this happen?**



Respondent: The last week of August before the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Moderator: And which law enforcement officer—Lancaster or Palmdale?**

Respondent: I don't know. West Palmdale. I would like to add one thing. I don't know what it is that those people told the police because the people arrived within minutes.

**Moderator: Thank you very much. Cynthia Beverly and Maurine Feller and let me just tell people, we have sandwiches. They're available on tables outside so if you want to get some please eat outside. I did want to let people know that we do have some food for you but we hear asking that you eat outside and not bring it inside the hearing room.**

**TASCAM\_0028 SD5**

**Moderator: Ms. Beverly?**

Respondent: Hello, my name is Cynthia Beverly. I am the founder of One Way Up. I am an activist out here in the Antelope Valley. I wear many different hats out here in this Antelope Valley. I was a part of the Section 8 lawsuit. Matter fact I helped start it. I was a TCal member. Actually I have 3 different stories in one so I got to hurry up with this time. I was arrested back in 2012 after the Section 8 lawsuit. I was arrested by the Palmdale Sheriff station. Kim Cap and Gross. Matter fact they falsified paperwork on me and they falsified documents on me. They had me to go to court out here in the Antelope Valley. When I was arrested they wouldn't even give me a drink of water. From there, they took me to the hospital because I have diabetes and they said it was okay without even giving me medication. from there, they had me—I had to do a jury trial. They made it was like a felony case. And they sent my case down to Norwalk. And when they sent my case down to Norwalk the judge say that this is a jury trial. He actually inside with jury trial, he stated this, I cannot believe the waste of public funds that was spent on this case; starting at the Sheriff department, going down through the district attorney's office and coming down here to the justice system. the fact that this case was even filed by the district attorney's office is an embarrassment. It doesn't rise a level of a civil restraining order. This case has been dismissed. After that my son—both my sons arrested for a burglary in L.A. Detective King—I just asked this man his name—excuse me, sir, what is your name? I don't have to tell you my name—he's done. He's done. I'm gonna stick a fork in him. He's done. Filed a complaint. No one did anything. Well, the sheriff department came back to me, headquarters, because he's over crime bureaus. And his little carpenter wrote this and said, oh, well we've taken actions. No one took anything. So after that, I went to the board of supervisors. I spoke to the board of supervisors about this. they said well, after the case is over then we can see what we're gonna do. Nobody did anything. During the jury trial though, this man walked up to me and started screaming at me in the hallway. Why are you looking at me? Why are you looking at me? Don't look at me. So after the jury trial was over they had him and his crew was outside in front of

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me and my family went out there started smoking cigars, started taking pictures all in front of my family like they just did a modern-day lynching. Each and every one of these officers—oh, okay my time is up.

**Moderator: I do have a question.**

Respondent: Yes.

**Moderator: You mentioned some names when you got some names.**

Respondent: Gross, Kim, Camp. Lieutenant Gross. Deputy Kim and deputy Camp.

**Moderator: These are all Palmdale?**

Respondent: They was in Palmdale. I don't know where they are now.

**Moderator: And then you mentioned detective King was involved?**

Respondent: Well he was involved with my son's case. They gave my son 45 years to life on a burglary case when the other ones—they actually seen do this on camera. They gave them 2 years. And because my son would not take a deal for 20 years they end up giving him 45 years to life. And the thing—oh, what they found was a iPad inside of a gutter. You hear what I'm saying? Now my other son—he going to court right now. And he was shot, right? my younger son was shot. Now, my baby laying up in the hospital . So because this one—Marino call me on the phone and say Ms. Beverly we know who you are. Matter-of-fact, Kim say we know who you are. Detective Feeny said we know who you are. Marino said we know who you are.

**Moderator: Detective King, is that the individual who yelled at you, was taking pictures?**

Respondent: Yes, yes. His name is Mark King.

**Moderator: And he's with Palmdale...?**

**TASCAM\_0029 SD5**

Respondent: No he's not with Palmdale. He's with the Special Crime Bureau out of the headquarters.

**Moderator: Okay, Special Crimes. And he also was somebody who said we know who you are?**

Respondent: Oh yes, he definitely told me we know who you are. When I was arrested, King—Camp said we know who you are. And then when my son, with King, we know who you are. Now, Marino, they got my younger son in there. they offered him a 30-year deal because he won't take a 30-year deal they taking about he looking at a life sentence at the age of 23, you hear me? And he was shot but nobody is saying—they said oh he a gang member. He's not in no gang, no gang tattoos. They couldn't identify him in no kind of gang. You understand what I'm saying?

**Moderator: I do understand.**

Respondent: Somebody—when I talked to Christina at the Michael Ontonovich office, I hold a meeting with her. I showed her every piece of document. Everything that I can say I can back it up. So I give them documents after documents they said that they was gonna give it to the justice. The one in justice—she never called me. She never sent me a letter or anything. So I gave a paperwork to the DOJ. To everybody—nobody doing nothing.

**Moderator: Okay. Are there other questions?**

Respondent: And another thing, my son is a special ed student. Mental disabilities. He been having disability ever since he was little and nobody saying nothing about that as well.

**Moderator: I have a question, what do you want to happen?**

Respondent: I want some justice for my sons. You know what? It's like this. My son name is \*, but I'm gonna tell you this, when I told the board of supervisors—and I mean every word I say, if I could sit around here and help thousands of people because that's what I do. I help low income families and children in this Antelope Valley. Have always been doing it—when I stayed in Long beach, when I stayed in Harper Hills in the projects, you hear what I'm saying. I want justice for my son. I will walk the streets of the people. I will go to the end of the earth for mine. If I stand up for thousands of kids out here, I'm sure gonna stand up for mines. You gonna see me again and you gonna see me very soon. I'm getting ready to hold something out here, but I'm going to Compton. I'm going to Torrance. I'm going to these court houses and you will see me again. I told the board of supervisors I will walk to the end of the earth for mines. Thank you.

**Moderator: thank you. There's a card there for you. Thank you so much. Ms. Feller. And as she is coming forward, I've also got Dr. Miguel Coronado and Lilia Galendo. Ms. Feller.**

Respondent: I apologize right away. I've not had near enough coffee this morning. Such a time limit—so much to say—so little time. First I'd like to touch on the fact that many of

you have not been up here before. It is very important that you learn our history. You can start with a 1995 article in the New Yorker. I think it was about 25-pages on our white supremacist groups up here. The reason why Mr. Darren parker was put on a human relations taskforce was in response to that article. That was not a lifetime ago. That was only 2 decades ago, okay? I see the fallout from it every day. Our court house is a pipeline from our schools to our prison. The other part of our history you need to know is we make money on incarceration. We have a prison up here. that's what Antonovich gave us. When the broken families started following their inmate partners and fathers and brothers up here there became issues with housing that we declared war on. Section 8? We blamed Section 8 and poor people instead of the destruction left behind incarceration, okay? I don't have much time; it's real important. We've had the DOJ up here. A lot of people up here are responsible for bringing them here. They did a lot of good work and I know the sheriffs are trying. They need to know our history, too. Somebody said something at their town hall the other night. And that is you cannot deny somebody their reality. The reality up here has been racism—those changes—if you don't know our politics those changes are already being chipped away at. We now live in a city that is set up their own citation and justice department. I got 40 seconds. Very important. We're passing a homeless tax that will bring 3 to \$4,000,000 a year to the city and our city leaders have made it quite clear that half of that will be used for policing. We have had the mayor, the vice mayor, and now the mayor Emeret in front of the DOJ monitoring group the other night come right out and say we will give them a choice. The shelter or jail. That has been in our newspaper, that was on video and our town hall. They say 40% of our homeless are veterans. Are we gonna start telling our veterans where they can go and where they can't go? I'm sorry I'm out of time. thank you.

**Moderator: You said our city—our city several times. Are you Palmdale or you Lancaster?**

Respondent: I am Lancaster.

**Moderator: thank you so much. We appreciate it.**

Respondent: Good morning. Pleasure, Miguel Coronado. I am a founder of \* the Change. It's an organization that focuses on education.

**Moderator: Can you say the organization?**

Respondent: I am a founder of the organization with my wife. It's all H the Change. It focuses on recruitment, retention, and graduation and transfer of students to 4-year universities. I received a call in February of 2012 that there was a shooting here in Lancaster and I reached out to a gentleman that spoke earlier—Mr. Darren parker to organize a press conference to bring about the issues that are happening in that time in Antelope Valley. We also at that time had issues with Section 8 and the mayor, both Palmdale and Lancaster, the sheriff department.

In the words of citizens, terrorizing the community. Since then—2012, it's been almost 5 years. And some of my fellow committee members and some of my fellow activists are still concerned what's going on in this community. I'm here to report to you that a lot of change has occurred. A lot. What we don't hear sometimes the side of the sheriff department. I spoke to a young sheriff's officer and he shares with me that he stopped a Mexican lady, and a Mexican lady was about to drive off, he wished on the way home blow up and burn. But we don't hear stuff like that. the unfortunate circumstances of that story that it happened to be a brother who was a deputy that stopped the lady. So we still have issues, we still have concerns, but I'm here to report to you that we are making enormous change. And I was hoping that this committee had met with us maybe 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015. It's 2016. The middle of 2016. The year's about to be over. I'm here to tell you that the Sheriff department specifically in Lancaster, I live here in Lancaster, under the leadership of pat Nelson and Sergeant Osonman, and Randy Harris and the rest of the officers are making effort to make changes in this community. The mayor, the city council are making effort sot make changes here in Lancaster. And I am the forefront of that. to my fellow activists that are here today, they know that I am a liaison to the sheriff's department, to the city of Lancaster, to the hospital board, to school districts, to the community. If there are issues, there is an advisory board that I am part of and will be very happy to take those issues directly to the captain. But we cannot just focus on complaints. We need to focus on solutions. I hear a lot of complaining and what I want to see is a committee of these activists coming together to work together to bring the appropriate change with the sheriff's department. Thank you.

**Moderator: Thank you. Any questions, commissioners?**

Respondent: I've heard there's no California constitution in this valley. The counsel is proud of it.

**Moderator: Have you signed up to speak?**

TASCAM\_0031 SD5

**Moderator: Dr. Coronado there's a question for you. Please help her sign up.**

**Moderator: Thank you for your perspective and being here. I wonder, so you were hearing these complaints and why do you think—I appreciate that your call to unity and activism and to let you know that these problems have been happening. Why do you think nothing has happened before that? Just because people haven't come together? Why do you think issues of Antelope Valley are the issues of Antelope Valley?**

Respondent: Well, to be honest with you, mam, not all, but some the activists are agitators. They know that we have a particular advisory committee that's a liaison as I mentioned to you between the sheriffs and the community. And when there are issues, abuse, of any sort we

are there to makes rue that we hear them and talk to them and community with them and bring those issues to the captain and to his leadership and we're there for them. We don't hear these calls. A lot of the complaints here in Lancaster that you heard today, we haven't heard about it, because it hasn't been brought up to our attention. Lot of these activists at times look at me like who are you? And what are you doing? Well, I've been a trailblazer here for the last 10 years as an academic counselor in Antelope Valley College. I always press to the activists that we need to come together, work together and resolve these issues. Opt not wait till a commission comes to our community and start airing these situations. As you guys already know, we have over half a million residents. And if you look at this room there's only about 40 that are bringing up issues that we have been dealing with. where there still issues and concerns that we need to deal with? Absolutely. But in order to deal with those issues and concerns we need to know about it. And if we don't know about that means the captain is not gonna know about it, the mayor is not gonna know about it, and our community is gonna be deaf to what really is going on and what changes we're going to be able to bring.

**Moderator: One more question. I would love to know, even if it's 2 or 3, what are a couple of solutions or programs or something that you've decided now are really sort of working or would be information for us to have? Where we should be looking and thinking about possible solutions are?**

Respondent: Solution 1. I would be for the activists that are here today, or the activists that put this forum together today which I do applaud is to come together and sit together with us in the advisory committee if the Sheriff is a problem or are a problem. That's solution 1. Come together. Let us know directly what it is that we could do. But we have to sit at the table together. #2, the second solution is to come up with solutions what do they want to do? What do you want to see? What is the change that you would like to experience? We just cannot complain about what's going on. We want to come up with solutions. Solution #3. Find an organization that is currently in existence, find a leader that is currently active in the community and get involved with them and figure out how it is that together we can start bringing these issues to the community and specifically to the sheriff's department and of course the mayor which I serve.

**Moderator: Those are suggestions of other people have solutions. I'm looking to you for what you know—cause none of these complaints, although each one—obviously we're human beings, you know? Anyone suffering is always heartbreaking but there's nothing completely out of the realm that I haven't heard or read in the newspapers because I do actively—and I pay attention to them I'm on this commission. We are hoping at the end of this—these hearings we will have something to consider and propose. So while your suggestions are very good, I'm looking a little bit more for what can actually be done? If you had to be the activist. If you had these things happen to you, what would you want to see?**

Respondent: Actually I still am—the only issue here is if I'm not contacted when there are problems how do you appropriately bring them up to the authority figures that could make the difference? That can come up with the solutions that they need? In order for us to be able to do that, we need to know about it. What I specifically do—what I would do before without knowing...

TASCAM\_0032 SD5

Respondent: What the necessary challenges would be, for example when they shot that young Mexican kid, the first thing I did was I called other activists to come together. I called other families that had this kind of same issues. I went ahead and called the community to see what it is that we could do together to stop these shootings or stop this abuse. TO come up with an action plan where we could sit with the sheriff's department and bring about the emissary changes. That's what we need to do. Without communication we're going to continue to complain and we're not gonna come to a specific solution.

**Moderator: Thank you so much.**

Respondent: Thank you.

**Moderator: Lilia?**

Respondent: Good morning, thank you for coming here. my name is Lilia Galendo. I am an immigrant from Mexico. Mexico City. I am an economist and I have a master's degree in public administration. I am part of the community advisory committee in Palmdale. I am also—I have a radio take show. I started that radio talk show because of the abuses of the sheriff's department here in Lancaster and Palmdale. I have been on the air for 6 years, and I have the fortune to be the voice of the Latino community in the Antelope Valley. They call me when they have problems. And do you know they are not here, because they cannot come because they are working, because of the language barrier because they are tired, they are afraid and they don't complain. Many times, I have received the complaints and I tell them go to the watch commander. And do you know, they go there and they say the watch commander is not here. there is no forms. There is no people who speak Spanish. The customer service of the reception is so bad that you are afraid of going. And they are many, many problems that they still have but they don't talk. Now that we have Donald trump on the scene they are scared again. Do you know, that I think the situation that we live here in the Antelope Valley in 2010 was a product of the recession, and we will use us as the scapegoats of the situation. The immigrant community, the African American community. They are producing this \*. And they were listening to Rush Limbaugh and I understand that many people in the \* department, in the sheriff's department, they listen to that kind of information. They really believe what they say. And now, right now, with Donald Trump it's the same situation—everybody is scared. We are always scared.

You know, I came to tell you that. I think we still have problems and the people is not going to call here. We have to think of other avenues to convey the message to them. Do you know, I saw with a big surprise in this Los Angeles County Commission of Human Relations that we have only 1 Latino there. And do you know? We don't have a representation from the Antelope Valley. We have so many Latinos now. It is my understanding L.A County have like 48% of Latinos. If it's not of \*, my God we don't have anybody. It's good to know the language, but it's also so important to know the culture. The second generation is not the same, but I, who came from another country, who know all the challenges that you have to overcome to go ahead in this country, I want to be the link with my people who came from my country. That's it, thank you very much for your attention and please get us involved in the 5 district, we want to be part of the solution because if you are not at the table you are on the menu. Thank you.

**Moderator: Thank you very much for speaking. You've mentioned that you have a radio. Café Con Lecher. Can you tell me, it went off the air because of the sheriff's department?**

Respondent: No. In fact on my show, I have invite Sheriff \*, all the sheriffs to give the opportunity to listen directly from the community the kind of problems that they have. They have been really good resolving the problems when somebody call and they speak Spanish and I translate for them. We have an excellent opportunity that the people can talk with the big shots. Many other people—I think this is the way we have to communicate. We send information in papers, fliers, people don't want to read. They don't speak English. They don't have access to computers...

TASCAM\_0033 SD5

Respondent: They don't have internet. We have to think about those issues when we want to send them information. Thank you.

**Moderator: Thank you so much. Barron G is next up and Cliff Ross, Jean Vardon .**

Respondent: A couple things I want to speak on real quick. I'm already 30 seconds in. I would like to reiterate a couple things. One thing—the family of Leroy Browning came up here and spoke. I want to make sure that the point is driven home that this man was put in back of a car without handcuffs and he was not under arrest and that is directly—that goes directly against what the Department of Justice recommendations were in what was it? 2013? Something like that. And then this man ends up dead. So protocol was broken and this man ended up dead. So that needs to be put front and center. Also, another issue in this community that I'd like to speak on which was brought up briefly as well are these checkpoint snit he community. They seem to be popping up mostly in areas that are dominated by minorities. and when you follow these stories and look at what's going on you get a bunch of people arrested but nobody's getting



busted or hardly anybody's getting busted for DUIs. This is being used to harass and bust people, particularly disadvantaged people—immigrants, things of that nature—vulnerable people in this community. I'd also like to speak on something that went down—some police intimidation to actually shut down a march in Lake Los Angeles. What month was that?

Respondent: That was on the 22nd of May.

Respondent: On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May a rally was supposed to be held at a park in Lake Los Angeles. And the police showed up there early and they were deep, standing out there, looking mighty intimidating. This is a community with a large percentage of immigrants, predominately Latino. And we know what time it is—we know why they were there. Trying to dissuade people and intimidate them from attending this march. I'd also like to speak on the coalition of groups for those of you out here, man, we're gonna be marching on this court house on the 5th to address all these things that's going on and I want to see a lot of yall there. if you want some more information you need to touch base with myself, this man right here with the camera—Cliff Ross right here with the orange glasses on his head, Cynthia Beverly with the red shirt right there, be able to help you out. Give us your contacts and we'll reach out to you. I guess I'm just about out of time. thank you very much.

**Moderator: What's the date of this? the 5<sup>th</sup>? October 5<sup>th</sup>?**

Respondent: Yup, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Respondent: It's gonna begin at 10:00. \*.

**Moderator: I need a little bit of detail about the May 22<sup>nd</sup> incident where the police were intimidating folks who were trying to attend a march. Was that Lancaster or Palmdale?**

Respondent: That was in Lake Los Angeles. East. It's way out east of Palmdale.

**Moderator: Lancaster PD? How were they intimidating?**

Respondent: There was sheriffs, they were out there.

Respondent: Lake Los Angeles is 70% Latino. What we went ahead and we made an intent to do was to inform the community of their rights as voters is what we were attempting to do and register them as voters to provide them with information on zoning and coding enforcement which is a big problem out in Lake Los Angeles. What went ahead and occurred was no less...

TASCAM\_0034 SD5

Respondent: 8 officers had showed up in the parking lot, lined up both sides and turned away, the vehicle with Latinos in it to dissuade the Hispanic community from either coming to the park, which they have been paying for the last 30 years. That was the type of intimidation that we had...

Respondent: Alabama Sheriff type stuff.

**Moderator: So that was a public parking lot?**

Respondent: No, that was a public park that the people of Lake Los Angeles have paid for with their own tax money for the last 30 years to the sum of \$12,000,000 for a park that only cost 3.5 million to build.

**Moderator: We need more detail on that. So outside, there's a whole group of people who can take it down.**

**Moderator: Thank you. We really appreciate it. Cliff Ross, Jean Vardon and Mark Garden.**

Respondent: Good morning everyone. My name is Cliff Ross. The issue I wanted to touch on w something that occurs quite regularly. I'm an athlete so I like to go jogging at night. And the incident that occurred was I was jogging down Elizabeth Lake Road. It was about 10:30-11:00 at night. And a police cruiser pulled me offer, stopped me and this police officer pulled a gun on me for no reason, asked me a bunch of questions—why were you out here so late at night? As if I was a suspect for some sort of crime even though I had done nothing wrong. I was just jogging. He had asked me why are you running from us? Which was a ridiculous question considering I was wearing running shows and sweatpants. So what I was out there doing was pretty clear. And this is something that's been happening—this has happened at least 2 or 3 times. So that's just want I wanted dot make clear.

**Moderator: Do you know which—Lancaster, Palmdale?**

Respondent: This was in Palmdale. On Elizabeth Lake road.

**Moderator: How long ago?**

Respondent: This was about 2 months ago.

**Moderator: Did you make a complaint?**

Respondent: I did not make a complaint but they had put me in handcuffs on the side of the road. They threatened to take me down to the police station to drug test me. This hasn't happened just once. This has happened at least twice now.

**Moderator: Thank you.**

Respondent: Thank you.

**Moderator: Jean Vardon. Then Mark Garden and Lindy Williams.**

Respondent: My issues are not really with law enforcement directly but more with things that are happening to families that become involved with the Department of Children and Family Services and then kind of the whole justice system around that. just a little history, I worked in education for over 4 years and I—it just happens that I was on the family board of AVPH and I'm a consultant with AVPH and doing that work I meet a lot of families. We promote helping families just surviving and getting along better. I hear stories and about a year ago I agreed to be a temporary non relative kinship caregiver. So this was—of all the meeting is want to preface with this, I over the years both in Venture County, Los Angeles County I've been to lots of meetings with DCFS people. Met a lot of great people. I know quite a bit about what they say their goals are for keeping families together, reuniting and I think that's sincere. When I got personally involved with the system I found a whole different set of circumstances going on. Where it was really difficult to communicate. I would have emails not answered, phone calls not returned, questions not answered directly, and I'm trying to help a family get through a period of time so they can have reunification. And then during this time, I actually started hearing this story that you heard earlier from Wendy Trujillo. I became very concerned about the things that were happening to her. But I couldn't address it at that...

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Respondent: But now that I'm not a caregiver I had a little more time so I agreed to go to Wendy to court. Just to try to understand what are the things that she's being told, because they don't make sense. She's met all of her requirements. And in trying got be her advocate and ask if I could sit in on everything, it turns out I actually got removed from the court room, and I heard later that the attorney was suggesting that I was intimidating her and that that was the reason I had to be removed. Well, I don't know if I look very intimidating but it's the first time in my life I've ever been accused of being intimidating someone. So I guess my question is, I went there with an open mind and I'm just wondering how often do other people not really get heard or listened to? And I guess that's my main issue on both sides. Is people do people understand what's being said to them and is the whole system really listening, because I believe in family reunification.

**Moderator:** thank you so much. We appreciate your testimony.

**Moderator:** Can I ask just a quick question? You're referring to the DCFS—the dependency court procedure? Were you in dependency court?

Respondent: This was the court here in Lancaster. I do want to say, with the family I was a caregiver, I went to Monterey park I think 3 or 4 times. I had very good experiences there. This was a whole different atmosphere. I don't know anything about what's behind it—this just happened on money. I am doing some follow-up—was it called dependency court? Yes.

**Moderator:** Thank you very much. mark Garden?

Respondent: Good afternoon. My name is Mark Garden. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 last year I was driving home and pulled over by an officer. He asked me for my license, registration, I provided it to him and he pulled me out the car, and used a lot of force. I had got back in my car because I was scared, I called my mother, and he just was cussing me out. And I got out of the car, asking him hey man, what's going on? I didn't know what's going on. Upon receiving the police report he had lied and stated that I had ran a red light which I never did. The pictures show that. they took me to jail and while I was in jail, they threw paraphernalia in jail which we have taping of it. I've been going to court for the last year which is shocking because I didn't do anything wrong. He tried to say that I tried to sock him, that I was cussing at him. I never cussed at him whatsoever. I just stated I know I'm a young African American male, however I'm not out here doing anything wrong whatsoever. When I went to—got out of jail I made a complaint. The officer there knew of this officer and said he was racist, sexist and arrogant and to take it to the top. And I've been going back and forth to court—I feel like I have everything from the pictures, and it's still not over. And I'd like it to be over. I didn't do anything wrong. It's just extremely shocking. They made a fake DUI test on me. The timing was wrong, that's on the paper, it's just shocking. I don't know if officers need to do this for DUIs or whatever, but I've never been in trouble and it's extremely shocking to my life. So that's why I'm here.

**Moderator:** Which police agency?

Respondent: This was Palmdale.

**Moderator:** What was the name of the officer?

Respondent: John Schnerenger. He's the #1 DUI officer out here.

**Moderator:** And you filed the complaint at the Palmdale?

Respondent: I did.

**Moderator: And when was that complaint filed?**

Respondent: I believe August 15<sup>th</sup> the day after. 2015.

TASCAM\_0036 SD5

Respondent: We did a \* motion. He had several complaints. One from the deputy, we have the video tape of them throwing the paraphernalia in my cell.

**Moderator: And the criminal case is still pending?**

Respondent: It's still pending. It's just shocking. It's taken time out of my life, my family's life, bring my mother there and family and I showed it to many people and it should've been a DA reject. And even with the fake test it was a .005. that's on alcohol. That was a fake test. And the test that I took with a .05, .06 was to today I still think it was incorrect. I wasn't drinking.

**Moderator: Thank you.**

Respondent: Thank you very much for your time.

**Moderator: Lindy Williams. Articia Hickman and Mathew Weeler.**

Respondent: My name is Lindy Williams I been in Lancaster 20+ years. Grown up out here with my dad being in the air force. I just believed a person, a human being. I had a horrible experience that changed my life with the sheriffs. It was probably late 2010. Short version the answer that I got, I was charged with a felony assault with a deadly weapon—had some people lie on me. And the answer that it got from the Sheriff was if it's in L.A County and it's 2 against 1 it's probably true. So even though they say I hit somebody—look how big I am—with a hammer. The answer was in L.A County and it's 2 against 1 it's probably true. Had I not been a child of God, had the parents that I had, because of the laws, the amount of time that the detective who is now a sergeant needed to file to get that taken care of after taking to her, the answer was well, I kind of skimmed through it. I kind of looked it over. But basically it was if it's L.A County it's 2 against 1 it's probably true. So you're trying to take my freedom because you didn't read, because I'm not important enough for due process, and if it's L.A County and it's 2 against 1 it's probably true and that's the answer. Took me over 18 months, the grace of God, handful of people at the sheriff's department to help me clear my name, because once that happens—once you're charged, it doesn't go away. So you can't have it expunged. You have that charge, and if anybody ever runs your name you have that charge. Felony assault with a deadly weapon. Because of that I actually started volunteering with the sheriffs. I'm a CAC member. So it's community advisory member, because prior to that, I talked to people in

my neighborhood, I said hey, guys look what happened. But with the fact that it's the sheriff I had my now neighbors tell their children, well, we don't know what she did so stay away from her. So my name, my reputation, my work came in question - because it was he sheriff's department. And if it's the sheriff's department they can't be human. They must be correct. I do see things changing but I'm damaged and had I not had the Lord and help to clear my name oh you best believe I'd be on TV and it would not be good.

**Moderator:     thank you so much for your testimony. Articia Hickman?**

Respondent:     I'm Articia Hickman. My organization is called United Undivided. I've been in Lancaster since 2007. I initiated coming up here because of the fact that my grandmother passed away...

TASCAM\_0037 SD5

Respondent:     When I got up here I rammed at. I got hit so hard, they had to tape my head down. I just want to touch on something too. I've been working with TCal, the Nation of Islam in regards to the young man who was murdered—a couple weeks ago—Will Settles on the east side of Lancaster. And for Coronado to say that everything's okay and that we're agitators. Nothing is okay, and we're just agitated. We're not agitators. Get it correct. I just want you guys to understand, you say that you guys put together Lancaster Community Appreciation Project. How did that man get murdered if that's the case? When you go to the west side of town and run through those buildings and walk through those buildings as an African American woman, I'm getting sweated by every cop in there. But when you go to the east side of town, LanCap is not there. they let our young children get murdered and do nothing about it. I, prior to Mr. Settles being murdered in that Park Circle apartment building made a complaint, because I seen a young man get beat up by a young man who I already know is going around the community hurting people. I called Lancaster Sheriff department, they told me as a citizen I can't make a complaint—that the victim does. Well, how is that work? Okay, because when you got gang members don't want to do snitching and stuff on each other but you got people like us in the community willing to get the people out that's hurting our young children today, you get an officer telling me I can't report it. So what's the problem with that? I hear no comments. That's another issue I have, okay? I understand that you guys aren't from here and it's sure obvious and crazy to me that I don't see a LanCap or a Lancaster officer sitting at your table to addressing what I'm speaking about. So, my question is what is LanCap impact for? What are they doing for our community? We are forming 10,000 fearless AV through the Nation of Islam. We're getting together our community—fearless members, ex-gang members, drug dealers, killers and everything to address issues that you guys are failing to do so. Maybe eye can address that. What is LanCap? When are they going to come the east side of town? After Will Settles got murdered, I asked them could you guys put a car over there and park it? No one could answer that. how can an officer tell me that as a citizen I can't report somebody getting beat up in my

neighborhood? This guy was beat so bad, he laid on the floor with a black eye, I'm crying like I don't know what. As an advocate it hurts me to walk out and see this. I'm 42-years-old, okay? The children are being murdered are children from my community that I can be a mother to. So understand, that you're not from my community. So how can you sit up here and say how we feel? That we're agitators. We're agitated.

**Moderator: What is LanCap?**

Respondent: Why are you asking me? LanCap. Is there a Sheriff. Lancaster Appreciation Project. Tell us what they supposed to do. What do LanCap supposed to do?

Respondent: That's not us.

**Moderator: We're not LanCap. We're the Human Relations Commission.**

Respondent: It's human relations.

**Moderator: So the issue for you—one big issue is you're not allowed as a citizen in this...**

Respondent: When I see my now people trying got kill each other.

**Moderator: We're going to address that and when we have our final hearing it's gonna be law enforcement facing off—talking to civil rights lawyers, community advocates and organizers like you where you can ask those questions.**

Respondent: One more thing just to get out of here. You guy's take this man's information—the guy who just spoke about being set up by the officers. He has only obvious information but your district attorney is still filing a case against him, are you serious? Come on. What is wrong with that?

**Moderator: That sounded outrageous.**

Respondent: It did. Welcome to America for us. We go through this on a daily basis. No one is there to make it happen. I got people right now sitting in jail for things they didn't do. You guys prosecuted a mental health patient, gave him 13 years. A mental health patient. Welcome to our side of the world, okay? You guys can sit there with your high jobs, and not respond, take my information and act like you gonna follow up with it but let me see your follow up. Guess what? It's gonna come from me because I'm taking the complaints from my community along with every other...

TASCAM\_0038 SD5

Respondent: That will walk with me. Yall ain't gonna do it. takes this information all you want to. Let me see what you want to do. mark, let me know if they settle it, and watch. If they don't, you come to me and I'm gonna take your complaint and we're gonna follow up with it.

**Moderator: thank you.**

Respondent: You're welcome. I don't want on sheriffs at my door setting me up. Being advised that my house is under surveillance audio and video.

**Moderator: Thank you very much. Mathew Weeler? I have Viana Friss and Juan Blanco.**

Respondent: Good afternoon, my name is Matthew Weeler and I want to first and foremost say I stand in solidarity with my sister Artesia, with 10,000 fearless and the Antelope Valley as well as the Antelope Valley People's Coalition. I want to touch on something that Miguel Coronado said and she touched on it as well. As well as referring to us activists as agitators that is perpetuating the problem and it's just making us feel more and more that we're not being listened to and that is the problem in this community. You may be looking at me saying oh, what does this white kid know about racism in this valley? But I gave been a victim of racial profiling by the sheriff's department being pulled over in what they call a G ride because I was with some friends over here on K and 10<sup>th</sup> Street West, we were turning left and they said that we supposedly swerved a little bit. the car, that we were in was a late model 80's Chrysler New Yorker. They take us, they take every single one of us out of the car, the search us, demoralize us. It is December. Clearly you guys aren't from here but it gets very cold up here in December. I'm sitting on the street corner demoralized with—not even doing anything—not even driving the car, and as I'm getting back in the car, the officer says tell your friend to get rid of the G Ride. What, exactly is that supposed to mean? And why are sheriffs using racist language like that? Because you thought that it was a late model New Yorker Chrysler and you noticed a car full of black men that you're gonna be able to arrest and perpetuate this systemic racism that's in this valley? I may have the complexion for the protection but I see my brown brothers and sisters being demoralized and marginalized by the sheriff's department out here and they do not feel that they have a voice. That is why when Miguel Coronado comes up here and says that they have a thing that we can go to. I have lived in this valley since e1989 and I have never known that there is an organization that I can go to, to complain about the sheriff's department out here. So what are they talking about when they're saying that things are changing? Because I don't see it. Anybody that's serving our tyrannical mayor is looking at this community through rose-colored glasses. They're not sitting there and they're not in the community and they're not seeing what is effecting the people in this community. We are a marginalized community. We're a low income community and people from L.A don't understand what we go through up



here. We need to see some action. Just so Mr. Coronado knows, there are organizations that are being put together as we speak to hold them accountable because we are sick and tired of the way that they are treating us. We are sick and tired of the mass incarceration of black and brown people. We are sick and tired of the pipeline from schools to prison. We are sick and tired and we are going to start holding them accountable and you know, they need to wake up and they need to start serving our communities cause we're sick and tired of it. That's what I got to say. thank you.

**Moderator: Thank you so much. Viana Friss, Juan Blanco and Omar Ruez.**

Respondent: I'm Viana Friss. I've lived out here since 1947. I came here as a 5-year-old. I was watering the little trees out there and living in a garage house and we had an outhouse and we had loving, kind...

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Respondent: People. I went through the school system. I want to give you some background out here. We did have Sundown laws. In the 1940s the Dust Bowl moved out here. Most of the people on this town are farmers from the Midwest. We had those sundowner laws. I had one Asian fellow in my brother's high school. He still comes to the old timers reunion and he's the only Asian in this whole valley and I speak to him every time because he knew my brother. This place is filled with racism. The bus service is racist. The bus service to the county offices where the poor are and the Antelope Valley court system is 1 every hour. It's been like that for 30 years. I've sat here and saying why is it 1 hour when all the other buses are every half hour? I sit here and they're trying to kill us on that bus. I just took them to small claims court because I fell off the ramp. They're not maintaining the ramp. I lost my case. They won't even pay for my doctor bills for my broken foot. We have Edwards Air force Base out here which is the base of the space program. I mean, we have intelligent people here and the county treats us like desert rats. You don't give us any respect. I was born in Burbank. My father worked at Union Station. We would travel every summer. That union station I like to have a sidebar. That union Station has turned racist. I'd like to see you people clean up your own union station. They've roped off the chairs. It's a hateful place. There's racism right in there. You're yelled at by those clerks, the police. That was my fist introduction to democracy was at Union Station and look what you people have allowed to do. the L.A Times is a disgrace. I've called in the past 2 years trying to get someone to talk about Union Station. All that's going on here in north county, but that Union Station is a police state. They yell and abuse us. You used to have little chairs sitting around. Now you're roped off like a prison. I'm really ashamed of Union Station and you L.A people. This mayor is tyrannical. You want to hear some more? In 2010 this tyrannical mayor tried to condemn my house and I had to fight L.A code enforcement. He hates the poor. He put 8-foot steel fences around the Metro Link Station. You open your eyes and look around. There are these

10-foot steel fences around. That's his solution to the poor and every problem in this city. That's his attitude. He's hateful. Thank you. L.A times is a disgrace.

**Moderator: Juan Blanco and Omar Ruez.**

Respondent: Good afternoon everyone. My name is Juan Blanco. I'm a Palmdale resident. Some of you folks may know me. I want to say thank you to my dear friend. This is something that's long overdue. I want to speak quickly on authority. I know you guys are here, I know you're listening. As a former member of the Antelope Valley Human Relations taskforce I've been involved with community affairs since 2000. We've worked very hard to improve our community. We've had many, many difficulties as you can see from the testimonies. You have a lot of angry people here because of the circumstances. Around 2008...

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Respondent: the Antelope Valley Human relations taskforce which w serving as a buffer for the commission was kind of dissolved because the mayor of Lancaster didn't see the validity. And the commissioners didn't stand up and say we want to keep this taskforce in operations. It was a taskforce of regular residents in the Antelope Valley. We got 0 support and now we have 2 organizational structures between the city of Palmdale and the city of Lancaster that has a committee who are supposed to listen and transmit this information back to the sheriff's department. I'm not saying they do a bad job. They do a good job. But there's only so much any individual can do. I would like to know where this is going? You're here, you have authority to do what? that's my question c. I appreciate you being here listening but the bottom line is do you have any authority to make any changes. I'm here for change. We have a sheriff's captain from Lancaster here. he's here to listen because he's made a commitment to help make change here but he can't make change alone. He needs help. We need help. Are you help us or are you here as eye candy? That's my questions. You may have questions because I've been doing this for a really long time or you may not. You may want me to go sit down and be quiet. I want to know what your plan is for being here and what do you plan to do to help us make a difference—a positive difference in this community?

**Moderator: Got it. I want to—we still have more people to speak and we do have a time limit on the space. GO through the speakers, awe may have some time, and certainly as we break it will be fine to talk a little bit more informally. Right now our purpose is to hear from you. Omar Ruiz. Ruth Sanchez, Edward browning and Viana Friss.**

Respondent: Good afternoon. My name is Omar Ruiz president of Oble Group. The 6 years I've been able to have the opportunity to serve the Latin community, it's a great pleasure for me to be able to work with and represent the community that speaks limited English. This event was created so that we could come here and support the community and not create more barriers.

6 or 7 years ago I'm not too sure \*, the DUI checkpoints, the proposal for the Golendo family, It was requested on behalf of the officials to come up with a solution of what would be done with a person without a license. The proposal was that the official would make the decision and take or impound our vehicle very prolific business. I don't know if they're going to see Mr. Coronado or Ms. Golendo what the proposal is. I asked them to focus beyond the community not to fill our pockets, not to speak or talk about us. Please, families are here present and you've heard the young people. Thank you very much.

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**Moderator: Many of you and others have been \*. We're going to collect data and information and everywhere. Not just speaking for myself but can you please explain the problem with the vehicles?**

Respondent: I along with Cynthia 6 or 7 years ago started to work on this issue. they supported us and helped us to start in the community. That vehicles would not be impounded from Latin people. That it was really just individuals who did not have a license to drive. The checkpoints were not made with that intention for the DUI checkpoint. It was too catch people who did not have insurance or drivers .licenses We have videos that if you're in Lancaster in darker areas where the checkpoints were placed. Instead of the places where it should be which was a lighted area and visible. In reality it wasn't done that way. We actually tried to have— propose the questions to Sergeant Nelson to ask him those questions. That's the reality on what Mr. Coronado said. I'm asking you that the support not be so much for us, but the people who need it. So I work together for Ms. Cynthia for 7 years now to help the people who have vehicles impounded for 1 or 2 days. You not only listen to everybody who is here, to fill their pockets and only representing the sheriff's station. They tend to put on a pretty face like they do all the time. Thank you very much.

**Moderator: now that in California you can get a license without documentation is it still helping?**

Respondent: Unfortunately there are officials where officers are still doing it. I've seen myself people who do have a license and vehicles are still impounded. Still even when they pay for the fees for the impound they're still sent to collections. Who's business it is and what business is for and who supports that business? Thank you very much.

**Moderator: Thank you very much. We are at 1:00.**

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**Moderator:** I want to comment. If you have spoken or have more things to say or haven't had a chance to please see our staff and they'll help you write out what you want to communicate.

**Moderator:** Ruth Sanchez, Edward Browning and Viana Fris.

Respondent: Hello again. I want to go ahead and piggyback what my partner Omar Ruiz had stated within regard with the car confiscations it's still existing in the Antelope Valley. Even though they do have the driver's license there's still a process the DMV if you had a driver's license prior to 1991 then they want you to go ahead and bring that driver's license number. And you go through a second hearing with them. So it is people that are still waiting 6 to 8 months and still not able to get those licenses even though they are ready—had gotten to the written test and the driving test. They don't have those driver's license. the sheriff department and I spoken with both not with the captains but with the actual officers they stated that you know the law has passed and there's plenty time because they're already been over a year that they should have their licenses. What they fail to understand is that this has to do with the DMV. Now with the closure of our DMV out here in the Antelope Valley it's gonna be even make it complicated. So that is the issue that still stands as to why cars are still being confiscated. It is true, both sheriff's department conduct every other week a DUI checkpoint. And they're all mainly done on the west side which we know is the lower income families. We normally go to these DUI checkpoints and see what happens. I know one incident about 3 DUIs ago. We enter the Palmdale DUI checkpoint, my husband was driving. We gave them all the drivers silence, registration and insurance of the vehicle but because my husband wouldn't answer the question whether or not he has been drinking—he exercised his right. they wanted him to put the window down and they detained him. Right away the next day I did get a call from the captain from the Palmdale Sheriff station asking me if everything was okay. Because it wasn't until they realized who I was they let us go but they did said they were gonna go ahead and detain him. My other issue I want to go ahead and bring up very briefly is Mr. Coronado spoke on the issue that the activists out here were nothing but trouble or problems. However, that is not the case. There is the community advisor. That is true. We have 2 individuals from—both from Lancaster. Nobody from Palmdale. However, these individuals are friends with the same people that are the same people that are the problems which is the sheriff department. Mr. Coronado in the past has made statements in Spanish and in different in English. The community does not trust them. And that is the reason why they won't go to them. And they need to realize if we are able to bring all these testimonies out here is because we actually work in the community for the community. And they don't get the statements is because here is on trust. Because the fact is that they're out there holding hands with the same people that we're having problems with. Thank you

**Moderator:** We don't have our audio recording and our childcare and...

Respondent: My daughter was driving her car to work...

**Moderator: Tell me your name again?**

Respondent: My name is Salina Colman. My daughter was driving my car to work her license had been suspended. I didn't know but she also had a licensed driver in the car with her when she was pulled over. They didn't give her the option to let the other person drive. They impounded the car. It cost us over 1400...

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Respondent: to get our car out of the impound because they put it on a mandatory 30-day hold and then I want to speak about the L.A County jail reform. IN 2008 the board of supervisors granted \$682,000,000 for this project and in that same meeting they denied 800,000 for mental health temporary housing. To me our money is going in the wrong places. Currently it's 3.7 billion dollars to redo these—the L.A County jail system. Instead of putting this eMoney into the jail system we need to look at if not all of it some of it and to our kids, schools, our after school program. It costs me \$845 for my niece to participate in cheer. Lucky me and my husband both are L.A County employees. But when we were on public assistance and w head 6 kids in our home 3 of our own and 2 nephews and a niece we couldn't afford that. We had to do fund raisers and that type of stuff. When you're trying to put kids in sports or activities to keep them out of trouble. It's not fair to the poor, you know? it's sad when you go to school that you—the programs that should be paid for by schools with all this funding we supposedly have for our schools that they can't participate in because they're financially not capable. As the commission and the sheriffs I just hope you guys have the authority to have some of this eMoney or at ;least the influence to our board of supervisors so some of this money can go to our youth. Because it's very much needed. Especially out here. I do a radio show and we ask people all the time, what program do they have for the kids? 75 to 80% don't know about any free programs. Even our parks and rec charge for their little programs. If it's \$25 or \$50 and you're living off of 600 or \$540 or \$660 a month how can you even afford \$25 of your kid to have a curriculum? Is ay that because I am in social services. And I know that when they're on public assistance the money is so short. Thank you for your time again.

**Moderator: your daughter when she was driving the car, a licensed driver available to drive her car, but still the car was put on a 30-day hold? What law enforcement agency?**

Respondent: That was Lancaster sheriffs. Thank you.

**Moderator: Jason Zinc and Anna Luce Garcia. Keep your comments.**

Respondent: Jason Zinc. I have a couple complaints here - keeping people in the back of police cars too long. You're talking 2 hours sometimes and you're not even involved in the

incident at all. Somebody might be a friend of yours. You go to the store with, he gets in trouble and stuff but you're an innocent, be a law abiding citizen because you're with him, that happens you had nothing to do with it and he has a record. Why should I have to be in the police car for 2 hours when I have to go to the bathroom? It's not right.

**Moderator: Lancaster or Palmdale?**

Respondent: That happened in Lancaster. Also my friend got pulled over and he had a Marijuana card and a bag of pot. The cops confiscated it. Next day, I told him—he said the cops stole my bag of pot. I says you got a medical marijuana card. Why did they take it? Call the sheriff's department. I'm gonna call them right now and find out where your bag of pot is. I called them and they had no record that he had ever been pulled over or anything. What happened to that bag of pot, you know? the other thing I was just driving along the other day and the Sheriff car just pulls up—this black guy—he's walking down with a black bag on his back. the cop says, hey what are you doing? What do you got in the bag like that? I was like wow, that's harassment in my opinion. I've never been stopped like that in my whole life. That's another thing. We're tired of our people being shipped down to the central jail in L.A...

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Respondent: They lose all their personal belongings because they come back to court up here. they let them out up here. So you got your personal belongings down there. Plus when they let you out how you gonna get back up? it puts a hardship on the people in Antelope Valley. I want a central jail built next to the court house where people can be stationed there. they can talk to their lawyer. This is a joke what's happening. You go to court. You get to talk 30 seconds to your attorney. How do you defend yourself? It's not right. We want our now central jail here in the Antelope Valley. Thank you so much for your time.

**Moderator: Anna Luce Garcia?**

Respondent: Sorry for my English. I'm here because my son have car accident in December 5<sup>th</sup> in Cape West. The car was total damage. Both driver pass away. No witness. No people around there. But the car supposed to be total damage in the front, but the back side, the TV and the newspaper show this picture. The bad car is perfect condition. But \*. Firs the back part is—break. It is easy to see \*. The computer is in perfect condition. Here, my son have money because he worked the security, work in the social security. The person who stole money, doesn't touch the gun. I call the police to come pick up the gun, because the gun is not for my son. It's part with the uniform. Somebody have to return to the company. When I ask to the impound who was the person to abuse, to open my son car? Nobody. I go to ask to the police help me and refuse. He say remember, how your son—when your son live with you. I like to see the picture. I like to listen somebody who they found. I didn't say goodbye. It's great to

listen who is the Epsom to call the police. They refuse. They say it's not allowed to give it to me for the person call. Why? Because the police he ambulance make me stay. They can go in the \*. He go to the west side, and this happened on the east side. Supposedly 20 minute later, they be there. When I go, I go by myself. And when I ask the department the fire, the rec crew, whatever you call. They say the person in charge is not in the moment at building. The person is on vacation. Anyway, I call a month ago, and say why you can't and they say it's too late. It's very frustrating. Somebody has to help me, please.

**Moderator: Thank you very much. We do have folks outside who can talk to you more specifically about taking down a complaint. Please talk with them.**

Respondent: The one I like to say, the person is Hispanic, it's accident \*, if it is American, has to investigate. Nobody give me son body, because they do the autopsy, but autopsy, never do it—why? Please help.

**Moderator: What police department?**

Respondent: In Lancaster. Sierra Highway.

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Respondent: The person in charge.

**Moderator: She's gonna take down the information. We are so out of time. I apologize that I can't let the couple of you do a second go around.**

Respondent: I'm going to deviate from what we've written. As you plainly go ahead and see—we have a microcosm, for the people here in the Antelope Valley. I came from the San Fernando Valley. I spent 35 years down there. I was born in this country, I was educated in this country. I know what the constitution says, I know what my rights are. Never in my life—I'm almost 65-years-old, never in my life have I seen or witnessed what I see here in the Antelope Valley in relation to the people of color here. Now it's starting to go effect poor Anglos as well too. I have friends that have been shot at, I have friends that have been beaten. I made it a point when I came up here because I could not believe what was going on, I made a point to start doing research. All it takes for the commission to go ahead and invest a small amount of resources, research what has been going on up here in the Antelope Valley for the last 35 years and you will see for yourself what's going on.

**Moderator: Thank you. That is what are hears are about. It's doing that research. Thank you everybody coming out here. We're closing this meeting officially. Thank you very much.**

*[End of recording]*