



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHERIFF CIVILIAN  
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING HELD  
ONLINE AT: <https://bit.ly/2SoylOn>  
[coc.lacounty.gov](http://coc.lacounty.gov)**



**Thursday, June 17, 2021**

Attachment: [Video](#)

Present: Chair Lael Rubin, Robert Bonner, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Sean Kennedy, Priscilla Ocen, Casimiro Tolentino, Xavier Thompson and Executive Director Brian K. Williams

## **1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & CONSENT CALENDAR**

- **Call to Order**

Chair Rubin welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Rubin acknowledged the Juneteenth celebration of June 19 and announced it would be signed into law as a National holiday. Chair Rubin provided a brief overview of the agenda and announced July 15, 2021 as the next Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) meeting date. Rubin then requested staff take roll and Vice Chair Tolentino lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Rubin advised the public may submit written public comments by visiting the link at [coc.lacounty.gov](http://coc.lacounty.gov) and all submissions will be part of the official record. Following the announcement, Chair Rubin moved to the Consent Calendar.

- **Approval of Consent Calendar**

No members of the public commented on this item. There being no objection, the consent calendar was approved, including the [May 20, 2021 meeting minutes](#). Chair Rubin moved on to item 2a.

## **2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **2a. Family Impact Remarks**

Chair Rubin reported one [Family Impact Remarks](#) request was received from the family of Marco Antonio Vazquez Jr., and she introduced Christina Vazquez, wife and Leticia Vazquez, mother of Marco Antonio Vazquez Jr., who both shared their remarks. Chair Rubin thanked them both for their comments and called on the Inspector General, Executive Director and the Sheriff's Department to provide an update on the investigation. Following Family Impact Remarks, Chair Rubin moved to item 2b.

## **2b. Election of Officers: Nomination for Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission**

Chair Rubin provided an overview of the voting procedures as well as the responsibilities of the Chair and Vice Chair and opened the floor for nominations. Chair Rubin was nominated for Chair by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Giggans. Commissioner Ocen was nominated for Chair by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Ocen.

Vice Chair Tolentino was nominated for Vice Chair by Commissioner Bonner, seconded by Commissioner Harris. Commissioner Bonner nominated Vice Chair Tolentino for Chair. Chair Rubin informed Commissioner Bonner that a Commissioner cannot be nominated for multiple positions. Commissioner Bonner withdrew his nomination for Vice Chair and nominated Vice Chair Tolentino for Chair, with no second. Commissioner Harris nominated Vice Chair Tolentino for Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Bonner.

Chair Rubin called for a motion to close the nominations. On motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Thompson the nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair were closed. Chair Rubin announced the vote for Chair and Vice-Chair will be held during the July 15, 2021 Commission meeting. Commissioner Giggans inquired if nominees will discuss their plan if elected. Chair Rubin referred the issue to County Counsel to verify if it would be a violation of the Brown Act.

There were 4 members of the public who commented on item 2b.

Following public comment, Chair Rubin suggested adding the Sheriff's involvement with the Venice boardwalk to the July agenda and moved to Item 3b: Inspector General's Report.

## **3b. Inspector General's Report**

Inspector General Max Huntsman reported numerous requests have been made to the Sheriff that have gone unanswered. He referenced [this June 15, 2021 letter to Sheriff Alex Villanueva](#) and highlighted 30 requests regarding investigations of possible civil rights violations that have been denied or ignored. Mr. Huntsman reported the Board ordinance requires the Sheriff to provide information upon request. Huntsman informed the Commission that a letter was sent to County Counsel petitioning for a writ of mandate, requiring the Sheriff to fulfill all requests made by the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Commissioner Ocen inquired if subpoena power would be appropriate in any of the areas mentioned. Mr. Huntsman noted subpoena power is a long and difficult process and advised seeking a writ of mandate instead. Commissioner Giggans requested the definition of writ of mandate. Mr. Huntsman explained the writ of mandate as a "legal mechanism available to compel people to do things." Vice Chair Tolentino questioned the status of the writ of mandate and how the Commission can assist. Mr. Huntsman stated a motion in support of the action would be helpful. Commissioner Harris questioned if a writ of mandate can be filed to require the Sheriff or his second in command to be present at all Commission meetings at its entirety. Mr. Huntsman

confirmed it would be appropriate for the Commission to request County Counsel to file a writ of mandate, however, County Counsel would have to decide, unless they're directed to do so by the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Commissioner Harris inquired if the District Attorney (DA) plays a role in the delay of investigations being completed timely. Mr. Huntsman reported the DA has a minimal impact on the delay of investigations being completed.

Commissioner Harris made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Tolentino recommending the Commission request the BOS direct County Counsel to issue the writ of mandate that OIG has requested for, as outlined in correspondence from the OIG to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) raising multiple issues of deliberate non-compliance to existing policies. Chair Rubin informed the Commission that a vote on the motion will take place after public comment is heard on item 3.

Following Mr. Huntsman's comments, Chair Rubin returned to item 2c.

## **2c. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's policy and response to large protests**

Chair Rubin shared some public concerns regarding the LASD policy in response to large protests and Use of Force (UOF) practices. She introduced subject matter expert Lieutenant David Auner of the LASD Operation Safe Streets Bureau and Krithika Santhanam of the National Lawyers Guild of Los Angeles. Lt. Auner provided an overview and advised that LASD is highly trained to handle large groups during protests. Lt. Auner reported many of the incidents he received were conducted by law enforcement agencies other than LASD, such as "LAPD and Santa Monica."

Ms. Santhanam acknowledged the Vazquez family and other families who "continue to experience ongoing trauma and brutality at the hands of the Sheriff's Department." She shared a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on protests involving LASD and expressed concern of the "Sheriff Department's ongoing policing of protest activities." She advised a class action lawsuit was filed by the National Lawyers Guild and a preliminary injunction related to that case was put in place that "is not set to go into effect until after 6/21/21." Santhanam called on the Commission and Office of Inspector General to prioritize this issue and continue oversight of LASD policing during demonstrations. Ms. Santhanam also expressed concern over the Sheriff allowing deputies to cover their names and badge numbers during protest, which denies constituents the right to file complaints. She advised that penal code section 830.10 "clearly mandates that any uniformed police officer must wear a badge name plate or other device, which bears clearly on its face, identification number or name of the officer."

Following Ms. Santhanam's comments, Chair Rubin called for Commissioner questions. Vice Chair Tolentino requested Lt. Auner provide additional information on UOF incidents during protest that he stated involved jurisdictions other than LASD. Lt. Auner stated he believed deployments assigned to him from May 20 or May 28, 2021 included other jurisdictions such as Santa Monica and Beverly Hills. He stated he is unable to comment on other pictures or video due to his lack of knowledge. Chair Rubin requested Lt. Auner comment on the covering of name badges. Lt. Auner stated that he is unable to comment because the cases were not assigned to him or they are under Civil Litigation. He stated covering the officers' nameplate "was in accordance with

California penal code, but in place of the covered nameplate was their employee number or badge number which uniquely identifies them as a police officer from this agency.” Mr. Huntsman stated the information reported by Lt. Auner regarding badge numbers being replaced by employee numbers is inaccurate and there was no replacement number put in place to identify deputies. He also reported the issue was addressed in the last OIG quarterly report. Commissioner Ocen questioned if LASD policies or practices used during protests have been reviewed by LASD constitutional advisors. Lt. Auner stated his unit complies with California penal code 830.10. Auner noted all practices and deployments that resulted in UOF are reviewed by executives. He agreed to provide the Commission in writing specific dates of deployment as well as who reviewed and approved the practices and deployment that may result in the UOF. Following Commissioner questions, Chair Rubin moved to public comment.

There were nineteen members of the public who commented on item 2c.

The meeting recessed at 11:29 a.m. and open session reconvened at 11:44 a.m. Present were Chair Lael Rubin, Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Sean Kennedy, Priscilla Ocen, Vice Chair Casimiro Tolentino, and Executive Director Brian K. Williams. Following the recess Chair Rubin continued with item 2d.

## **2d. Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department Deputies in Hospitals**

Chair Rubin reported the Commission requested a subject matter expert to provide an overview of policies and procedures in place for LASD deputies in the hospitals. She introduced Captain Britta Steinbrenner of the LASD County Wide Services Division who shared historical incidents which prompted the need for security in the hospitals. Capt. Steinbrenner gave an overview of the services provided to six County hospitals and forty clinics by her division. She reported all deputies are required to complete a twenty-two week training course followed by ongoing refresher training. Capt. Steinbrenner reported visible security presence inside and around the hospital as the primary role of LASD to lessen crime and provide security to visitors and staff. Capt. Steinbrenner stated, “all personnel are responsible to follow our manual policy and procedures.”

Following Capt. Steinbrenner’s remarks, Chair Rubin introduced Mark-Anthony Clayton Johnson, Executive Director of Frontline Wellness and Dr. Hannah Janeway from Los Angeles County Olive-View Medical Center who spoke on the issue. Mr. Clayton Johnson provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the negative impact of LASD in the care setting and the need to reorganize LASD conduct in healthcare settings. Dr. Janeway shared her personal experience with LASD in the care setting, followed by a survey that was conducted on clinicians and medical staff which outlined instances of intimidation and aggression by LASD. Mr. Clayton-Johnson expressed the need to identify alternatives to the present law enforcement in the care setting and identified what the Commission can do to help. Chair Rubin requested Mr. Clayton-Johnson provide the Commission with any information related to patient rights violations. Mr. Clayton-Johnson agreed to provide that information. Commissioner Giggans inquired if hospital administrators are involved. Mr. Clayton-Johnson reported meeting with Dr. Christina Ghaly, Director of the Department of Health Services regarding the issue and feeling the recommended changes were not enough. Dr. Janeway identified clear policies and politics as part of the issue. Commissioner Harris questioned if the deputies

involved in the incident at Harbor-UCLA Hospital were part of security staff. Capt. Steinbrenner stated the deputies involved in deputy involved shootings were not assigned to her bureau. Commissioner Kennedy questioned if there is a disagreement with LASD and clinical staff regarding the policies and procedures, who prevails. Dr. Janeway noted a lack of clear policies play a major role. Vice Chair Tolentino inquired about the number of deputies assigned to Harbor-UCLA Hospital. Tolentino questioned why deputies who were not assigned to the hospital were involved in the Burgos incident, versus those who were assigned, and if they had received care setting training. Capt. Steinbrenner reported 31 deputies are assigned to Harbor-UCLA hospital with three to four deputies per shift. She reported the incident is currently under investigation and she is unable to comment further.

Commissioner Ocen inquired about the percentage of income received by LASD from contracted services, and if data is available for all incidents that occur at the contracted hospitals. Capt. Steinbrenner advised that her task is to generate revenue and suggested contacting the Department of Health Services to obtain the amount of funding allocated to LASD for security services and noted that daily logs are kept on deputy interactions, but overall data on all incidents is not available.

There were ten members of the public who commented on item 2d.

### **3. REMARKS & REPORTS**

#### **3a. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Williams shared a flyer announcing the Juneteenth celebration and resource fair being held on Friday, June 18, 2021.

#### **3c. Commissioner Comments/Ad Hoc Committee Update**

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed.

#### **3d. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update**

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were fourteen members of the public who commented.

View the [written public comments for the June 17, 2021 meeting](#).

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Rubin announced the next COC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 15, 2021 and encouraged everyone to register. The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.