



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Impartial | Credible | Respectful | Independent



CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Photo: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas provides opening remarks at the Community Policing conference on October 15, 2018.

CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

A MESSAGE FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Brian K. Williams



“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for - we are the change that we seek,” former President Barak Obama. Our Commission was forged out of the voices and struggle of members of the community, elected officials and law enforcement. Thus, we do not take our charge lightly. As we move into our third year of existence, I am encouraged by the work that we have been able to do thus far, but am acutely aware of the work that still must be done.

In our few years of existence, we have identified, evaluated and made recommendations for some of the most pressing issues facing our community and law enforcement. Some of these projects have included Body-Worn Cameras, Mental Health Evaluation Teams (MET), the Family Assistance and Communication Program, the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and Sheriff Adherence to the Trust and Truth Acts. Still there is much more work to do.

Photo above: Executive Director Brian K. Williams provided opening remarks at the County's first ever Community Policing conference. Also pictured are panelists Federal Public Defender Hilary Potashner & ACLU's Peter Bibring.

As we work to make recommendations and real change on these important issues, perhaps I am most grateful for the work we have collectively done on increasing the level of transparency and public engagement by the LASD. From the public testimony at our commission meetings to the multiple Town Hall and community meetings, to our first ever conference on community policing, the community has been involved and focused on better engaging the LASD. Our job is to continue to make it even more transparent. Working with all of our partners - community stakeholders, our elected officials, the Inspector General and others, we will continue these efforts.

Many important lessons have been learned these past years. We are a work in progress and we strive to do a better job each day. Our community is depending upon us and we will not let them down. I believe that the best is yet to come.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank the Executive Office for their support, the Office of the Inspector General for their collaboration, and the Sheriff's Department for their cooperation. We greatly appreciate the communities' continued feedback, and I would like to give recognition to the staff for their tireless efforts to advance the cause. Kudos and thanks to Starlet Atkins, Christine Aque, Jamie Chung, Daniel Delgadillo, Tracy Jordan-Johnson, Jennifer Osborn and Ingrid Williams.

The Commission stands poised ready to assist in moving forward our recommendations for reform. Together, we are going to make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Williams'.

BRIAN K. WILLIAMS
Executive Director

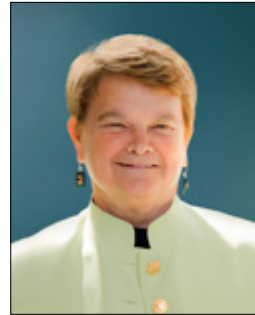
December 13, 2018



HILDA L. SOLIS
1st District



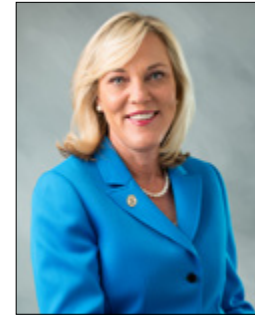
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
2nd District



SHEILA KUEHL
3rd District



JANICE HAHN
4th District



KATHRYN BARGER
5th District

DEMONSTRATED PROGRESS

Building trust through reform

PROGRESS THROUGH ACTION

The support of the Board of Supervisors has been integral to the success of the Civilian Oversight Commission. The Commissioners, who are appointed by the Board, have submitted several recommendations to the Board during 2018. Board actions regarding Body Worn Cameras, Prison Rape Elimination Act Implementation and Supporting families impacted by the Sheriff's Department have all been acted upon during the 2018 year.

In addition to presenting recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department, the Commission also reviews potential issues at the request of the Board. Namely, the Immigration Ad Hoc Committee and the Use of Force Committee have actively been analyzing Sheriff's Department policies and practices to ensure adherence to federal and state laws and guidance of the Board of Supervisors.

The importance of increasing the number of Mental Evaluation Teams (MET) to expand appropriate response to situations has also been demonstrated as a priority for the Board.

Implemented on January, 12, 2016 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Civilian Oversight Commission will continue to work to improve public transparency and accountability with respect to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

“You are unbiased. You look at each issue as it relates to the impact it has on the community. And you listen in an environment where sometimes listening is very difficult. We are in our second year, and I want to thank the commission for their commitment to this hard work.”

- Supervisor Kathryn Barger, July 31, 2018



“I commend the Civilian Oversight Commission for proposing supportive, common sense, trauma-informed solutions after hearing directly from grieving family members who have experienced loss after encounters with law enforcement.”

*- Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
September 27, 2018*

BOARD ACTIONS

Motion	Authored by	Date
Supporting Families Impacted by the Sheriff's Department	SUPERVISORS RIDLEY-THOMAS & KUEHL	October 9, 2018
Developing Next Steps on Body-Worn Cameras	SUPERVISORS RIDLEY-THOMAS & SOLIS	August 7, 2018
Establish a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Implementation Team	SUPERVISORS KUEHL & HAHN	May 29, 2018
Developing Next Steps on Body - Worn Cameras	SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS	May 22, 2018
L.A. County Sheriff's Department - Recruitment & Retention	SUPERVISORS BARGER & SOLIS	April 10, 2018
Developing a plan for Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance	SUPERVISORS HAHN & KUEHL	November 14, 2017

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Together, we will make a difference!

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has been in existence for more than 150 years and had never had oversight. Now they do, and this is as a result of the influence of progressive thinkers within the community, in government, and in law enforcement.

In our first two years, the Commission hit the ground running. With the short amount of time the Commission has been in existence, we have demonstrated great promise for facilitating changes in the Sheriff's Department – improvements that will have a long-term impact for both the Department and the communities they serve.

With support from the community and the Board of Supervisors, I am proud of the work we have done. Working with community members, the Sheriff's Department and our staff, we are determined to reduce the level of sexual violence in our jail system through the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Implementation teams. We have also seen great progress with the Mental Evaluation Teams and the Family Assistance & Communication program. These programs will help our neighbors get proper mental health treatment instead of being jailed and will provide greater assistance to families who suffer the trauma of having a loved one die as a result of a deadly use of force or while in the custody of the Sheriff's Department. The voices of the community were heard!

Our work on body worn cameras and the use of drones has been studied by oversight bodies across the country. From our regular meetings to our town halls, we have given our community the opportunity to have their voices heard. Community voices compel action – when you talk, we listen. From the issues we review to the solutions we recommend, the community is essential to determining the work of the Commission. The Board of Supervisors has been a guiding light to help focus our mission and identify significant issues for our review.

As an independent body, we see both great challenges and the potential for countless rewards. In the coming year, we look forward to continued

cooperation from Sheriff's Department leadership. We need their review and implementation of our solutions to continue being a credible, effective oversight body.

I would like to thank my fellow members of the Commission who develop thoughtful recommendations to improve not only the Sheriff's Department, but also the entire L.A. County criminal justice system. We all bring different perspectives and experiences to the table, and through the work of our ad hoc

committees and staff, we will continue to work toward the common goal of finding solutions for reform.

I want to give special thanks to the Commission staff and its Executive Director as well as the Office of Inspector General, the Sheriff's Department and the Board of Supervisors for their input and interaction with our Commission. Working together, we will achieve meaningful reform to improve both the Sheriff's Department and the public it is sworn to protect. Some people believe that law enforcement can't be reformed, I am not one of them.

We have already accomplished a great deal— and there is still much work to do. Together, we will make a difference. We can, we must, and we will!

Let's get to work!



Patti Giggans



PATTI GIGGANS, COMMISSION CHAIR

Executive Director of Peace Over Violence
Appointed by Supervisor Kuehl on 11/24/2016, reappointed 7/24/2018

COMMISSION MEMBERS

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Supervisors appointed nine Commissioners to serve on the Civilian Oversight Commission. Five members are appointed by the Board, one nominated from each Supervisorial District. Four additional members are also appointed by the entire Board.

The Commissioners' diverse backgrounds include community and faith leaders, an LASD retired Lieutenant, a former federal judge, and attorneys with a broad range of experiences—from former prosecutors and public defenders to professors and executives from legal non-profit organizations.



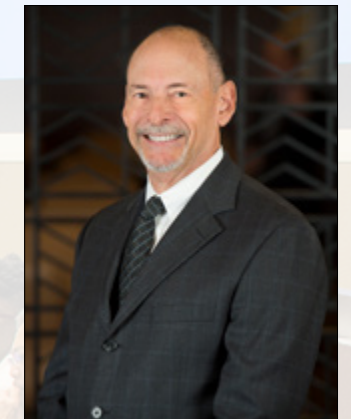
PATTI GIGGANS
Commission Chair, Executive Director of Peace Over Violence
Appointed by Supervisor Kuehl on 11/24/2016, reappointed 7/24/2018



PRISCILLA OCEN
Commission Vice Chair, Loyola Law School Associate Professor
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors on 11/1/2016



ROBERT C. BONNER
Attorney & former U.S. Attorney & DEA Administrator
Appointed by Supervisor Antonovich on 11/1/2016 Reappointed by Supervisor Barger on 7/24/2018



JP HARRIS
Former Sheriff's lieutenant
Appointed by Supervisor Knabe on 11/1/2016 Reappointed by Supervisor Hahn on 7/1/2017



SEAN KENNEDY
Executive Director of Center for Juvenile Law & Policy at Loyola Law School & former federal public defender
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors on 11/1/2016



LAEL RUBIN
Former Deputy District Attorney
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors on 11/1/2016 Reappointed by the Board of Supervisors on 7/24/2018



XAVIER THOMPSON
President of Baptist Ministers' Conference & Senior Pastor of the Southern Saint Paul Church
Appointed by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas on 11/1/2016



CASIMIRO U. TOLENTINO
Former Administrative Law Judge for the State of California
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors on 7/24/2018



HERNÁN VERA
Attorney & former president & CEO of Public Counsel
Appointed by Supervisor Salis on 11/1/2016

VISION & MISSION

SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

VISION

The vision of the Civilian Oversight Commission is to facilitate public transparency and accountability with respect to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

***“The goal of this commission is to create transparency, give the community a voice, give the Sheriff an opportunity to share with the commission concerns and views that he has, and allow the commission to make a difference.*”**

- Supervisor Kathryn Barger, July 31, 2018

MISSION

The Commission provides ongoing review, analysis and oversight of the Sheriff's Department's policies, practices and procedures. They build bridges between the department and the public, and recommend solutions to advise the Board, the Sheriff's Department and the public.

Striving to perform its duties in a thorough, impartial, and transparent manner, the Commission demonstrates credibility, and enhances trust and respect. The Commission welcomes community involvement and provides for opportunities for robust public engagement.

ESTABLISHMENT

On September 27, 2016, the Board approved an ordinance that created the Civilian Oversight Commission. The Commission is authorized by Chapter 3.79 of the Los Angeles County Code.



CORE VALUES

IMPARTIAL

Fair & Just

The Commission strives to be impartial by creating opportunities for everyone to voice their opinions and thoughts. Treating everyone in a fair and just manner promotes equality and promotes credibility.

CREDIBLE

Trustworthy & Knowledgeable

Striving to perform its duties in manner that is thorough and transparent demonstrates credibility. The Commission works to remain trustworthy, knowledgeable and respectful.

RESPECTFUL

Civil & Sincere

The Commission encourages public involvement and treats participants in a respectful and sincere manner. Providing opportunities for robust community engagement with civil, productive discourse is a priority.

INDEPENDENT

Autonomous & Unbiased

Housed under the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, the civilian team is positioned to remain unbiased and independent in their oversight of the Sheriff's Department.



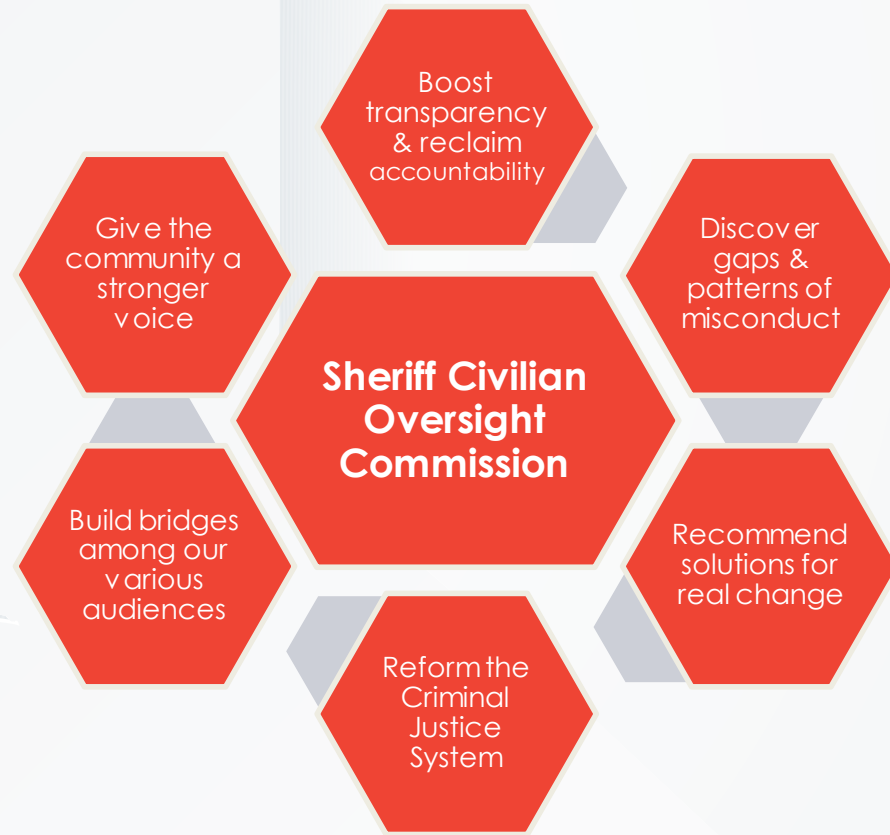
Photo top

Hall of Justice at 211 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Photo bottom

Gavel at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration on August 16, 2016.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES



OUR JURISDICTION

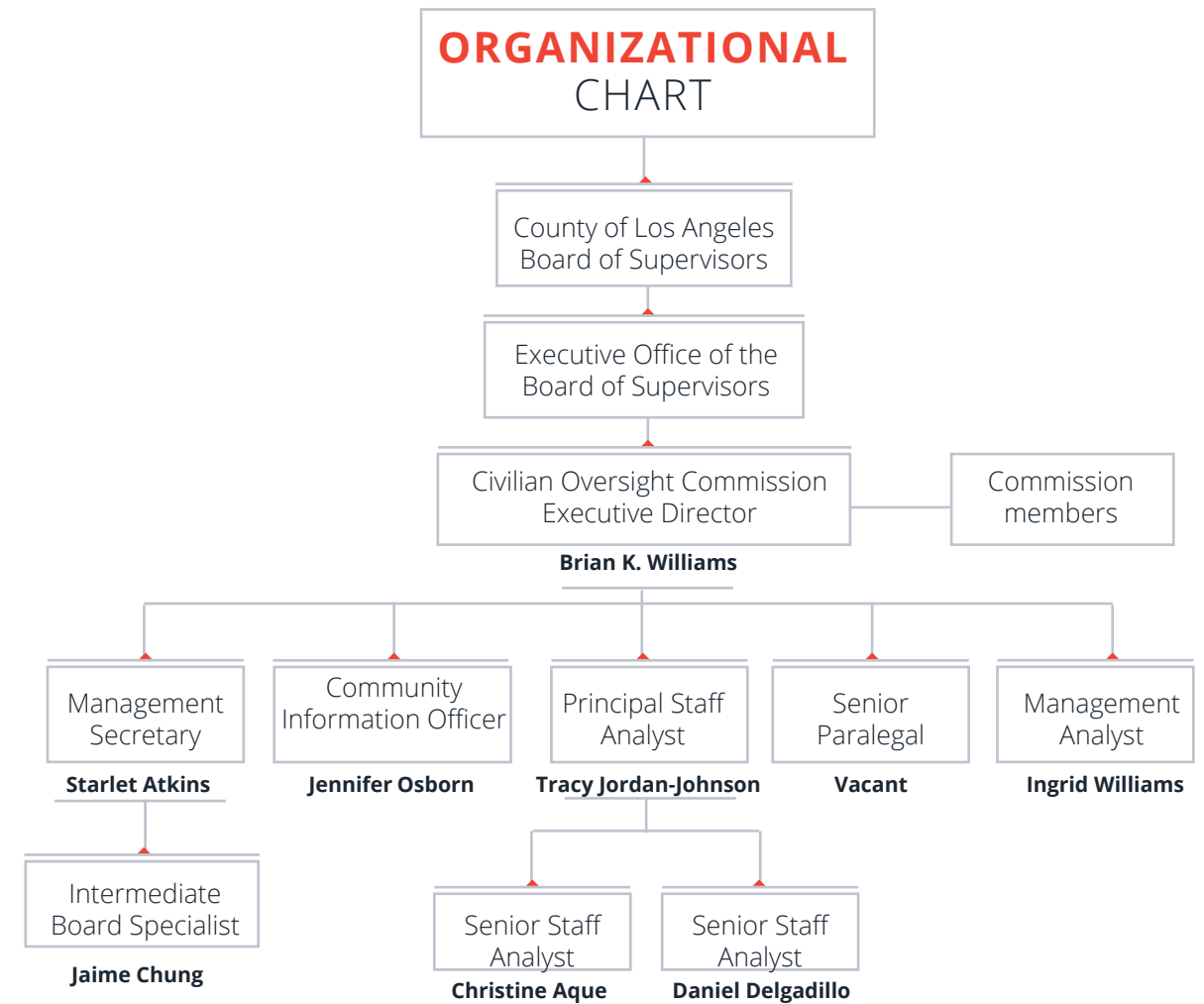
County of Los Angeles

Los Angeles County is the nation's largest county by population. A subdivision of the State of California, the County of Los Angeles is charged with providing numerous services that affect the lives of 10 million residents who live throughout a sprawling 4,084 square miles of land.

The Commission provides oversight for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which is the nation's largest sheriff's department with approximately 18,000 employees. The law enforcement agency provides services to 42 incorporated cities and 141 unincorporated communities, courthouse security for the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, and the housing and transportation approximately 18,000 inmates daily within the county jail system, the nations largest county jail system.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The Team: Staff support the mission by creating opportunities for community engagement through town halls, commission meetings, ad hoc meetings and social media. The team supports Commissioners, the Board of Supervisors and the ordinance by coordinating closely with Office of Inspector General, the Sheriff's Department and other agencies. After conducting research, monitoring issues and developing projects, staff work with Ad Hoc Committees to prepare reports and recommendations. Once recommendations are passed by the full Commission, they are provided to the Board and the Sheriff.

MILESTONES AT A GLANCE

Building bridges

ACTIONS TAKEN

- Family Assistance & Communication recommendations
- Mental Evaluation Teams (MET) progress
- Body Worn Cameras next steps
- Cooperation with Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- First ever Community Policing Conference in L.A. County
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Implementation team
- Tracking Mira Loma Women's Detention Center Project

REGULAR MONITORING

- Consent decrees
- Office of Inspector General Reporting
- Litigation costs
- Unmanned aircraft system
- Significant events, including use of force in patrol

UNDER REVIEW OR IDENTIFIED

- Complaint process
- Courtesy & professionalism
- Bail reform
- Medical care in the Jails
- Use of tasers
- Mental health training/ patrol arrests, etc.
- Recruiting, staffing & funding, including in Internal Affairs Bureau & at L.A. County jails
- New deputies probationary period & initial assignments in jails

Justice Reform	Civilian Oversight Commission
Engagement	Provided a forum for community members to discuss issues & concerns with LASD & increase the level of communication between LASD & the community through Commission, town hall or neighborhood meetings.
Transparency	Increased the transparency of LASD. The Commission has worked with LASD to increase the amount of information on their website, including use of force, discipline, & other vital department statistics.
Policy	Made substantive policy recommendations on the use of Body Worn Cameras, Bail Reform, PREA & Family Assistance & Communication.

Photos right:

Hall of Justice at 211 W Temple St, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Photo bottom

Patti Giggans, Chair, addresses the crowd at the first ever Community Policing Conference at the Center at Cathedral Plaza on October 15, 2018. The roundtable panel prepares for discussion, from left to right, Federal Public Defender Central District Hilary Potashner, ACLU's Peter Bibring, L.A. County Sheriff Jim McDonnell, L.A. County District Attorney Jackie Lacey, Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore & L.A. County Superior Court Criminal Division's Supervising Judge Scott Gordon.



BUILDING BRIDGES



The Hall of Justice is the oldest surviving government building in the Los Angeles Civic Center. The facility has a notable history as the nexus of the county criminal justice system. It is currently occupied by the L.A. County Sheriff's Department & District Attorney.



Photo above: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas provided opening remarks while roundtable panelist gear up for a conversation moderated by CNN Producer Paul Vercammen (not pictured). Panelists include, from left to right, ACLU's Peter Bibring, former L.A. County Sheriff Jim McDonnell, District Attorney Jackie Lacey, L.A. Police Chief Michel Moore, L.A. County Supervising Judge Scott Gordon, & Federal Public Defender Hilary Potashner (not pictured).



Photo above: The media panel takes a photo to post on social media. L.A. Memorial Coliseum Commission CAO & former broadcast journalist Al Naipo (moderator), USC Assistant Journalism Professor Allissa Richardson, social commentator Jasmyne Cannick, Journalist Manny Medrano, former LASD Strategic Communications Director & broadcast journalist Carol Lin, & Fox 11 Anchor/Reporter Laura Diaz.



Photos below: Attendees report back to the audience after guided conversations at each table.

COMMUNITY POLICING CONFERENCE

Giving the community a stronger voice

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

On October 15, 2018, the Civilian Oversight Commission hosted a conference on Community Policing. With the theme of "Community Policing in Los Angeles County: A Vision for the Future," this unique conference brought together almost 300 key stakeholders, including elected officials, community members, law enforcement, criminal justice professionals, academics, and the media gathered to discuss the challenges, trends and future of community policing in L.A. County.

The day began with a discussion among some of the top criminal justice officials in our region, including the Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Federal Public Defender and the ACLU. They explored challenges, trends and opportunities in local law enforcement. The conference continued with breakout sessions and an opportunity for all in attendance to engage in dialogue. A variety of issues were addressed, ranging from the use of technology in policing to the influence the media has on public perception. The L.A. County's Human Relations Commission and the Department of Public Health were conference planning partners.



Photo above Attendees settle in for the panel discussion among some of the top criminal justice professionals in the County at the Center of Cathedral Plaza in downtown Los Angeles on Monday, October 15, 2018

26 EXPERT PANELIST

Led discussions on issues facing the criminal justice system and putting a strain on our communities.

Photo above: Commission Vice Chair Priscilla Ocen moderates a panel discussion. Panelist include, from left to right, UNLV Associate Law Professor Addie Rolnick, UCLA/Million Dollar Hoods Isaac Bryan, and L.A. City 911 Operator Marsha Myers.

Almost **300** ATTENDEES Engaged in conversation & brought various perspectives.



Photo right Commissioner Lael Rubin moderates the discussion on technology and law enforcement. Panelist include, from left to right, RAND Corp's Samuel Peterson, ACLU's Jennifer Stisa Granick, Axon CEO Rick Smith and Loyola Law School's Eric J. Miller.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

In 2018, the Civilian Oversight Commission conducted its regular monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Metropolitan Water District, which is located adjacent to L.A.'s public transportation hub, Union Station.

The public is encouraged to attend all Commission meetings. As the Commission works to boost transparency and accountability, community input is vital to the ongoing analysis of the department's policies, practices and procedures. Commission meetings are publicized at the Hall of Administration, online at coc.lacounty.gov, through media advisories, email notifications, and social media.

Thank you to the staff of the Metropolitan Water District for providing meeting locations for 2018. As they move into renovations, regular Commission meetings for 2019 will be held on the fourth

517
ATTENDEES
At 11 Commission meetings

Tuesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Transit Authority at One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Bottom below: Executive Director Brian K. Williams & Daniel Delgado talk with Department of Public Work's Alicia Ramos & Luis Ramirez.

Photo bottom: Commission staff Christine Aque & Daniel Delgado monitor the meeting & process public comment requests on September 27, 2018.



THE TEAM
AT WORK



308 PUBLIC COMMENTS
Heard on various issues in the Commission's jurisdiction.

Photos on this page were taken at the September 27, 2018 Commission meeting at the Metropolitan Water District.

Above: The Commission received a presentation on Mira Loma Women's Detention Center.

Bottom left: Organizer Patrisse Cullors presented on the Mira Loma project. Also pictured, James Nelson of Dignity & Power Now.

Bottom Center: Vice Chair Pricilla Ocen & Commissioner Casimiro Tolentino listen intently.

Left: Commissioners Lael Rubin, J.P. Harris & Robert Bonner inquire after a presentation.

Bottom right: Chair Patti Giggans rings the Tibetan Singing Bowl to begin the meeting.



TOWN HALLS & OTHER OUTREACH

Strengthening the community's voice

PUBLIC INTERACTIONS

The Commission welcomes public involvement and provides for opportunities for community engagement throughout the County of Los Angeles. Coordinating with the Board of Supervisors, community groups and other interested stakeholders, the Commission organizes town halls to engage with communities who may have feedback about the Sheriff's Department.

Town halls are set up as listening sessions intended to facilitate productive, respectful conversation with members of the public, commissioners and Sheriff's Department staff. The public is invited to provide feedback about Department actions, policies or interactions.

During 2018, a total of five town halls were held in Athens, West Hollywood, Compton, East LA and South El Monte. Town halls are set up for unlimited public comments on any items in the Commission's jurisdiction. The Commission asked for feedback on topics such as:

- Immigration policy
- Potential existence of secretive "cliques"
- Family assistance and communications
- Use of force
- Bail reform
- Mental evaluation teams
- Conditions in County jails

5 TOWN HALL Listening sessions

Recent meetings have included resource booths for attendees to learn about County services from Departments such as Public Social Services, Immigrant Affairs, Public Works, Regional Planning, District Attorney and Public Defender. The Commission plans to hold at numerous town halls in the upcoming year.

To act as a bridge between the Sheriff's Department and the community, the commission has held additional meetings with advocacy groups and community members to learn about their experiences.

Outreach to over... 25 COMMUNITY GROUPS

Photo below: Community members provide public comments at the September 20, 2018 town hall in South El Monte.

Photo far bottom: Members of the public engage in conversation at the February 7, 2018 town hall in South Los Angeles.



COMPLAINTS & COMMENDATIONS

FILING A COMPLAINT OR COMMENDATION

The Civilian Oversight Commission receives a variety of complaints concerning the L.A. County Sheriff's Department through various methods. Complaints are often received through e-mail, over the phone, in person, or by mail correspondence. Monthly Commission meetings and town halls also provide an avenue for the public to provide complaints or commendations about the Sheriff Department.

Since the Civilian Oversight Commission has no investigative authority, the Commission works closely with the Office of Inspector General to process these complaints.

THE PROCESS

All commendations or complaints are forwarded to the Office of the Inspector General. Complaints are then forwarded to the Sheriff's Department for investigation, which can be monitored by Inspector General staff.

The Inspector General has the authority to undertake an inquiry and audit or monitor the situation, and they can investigate specific instances only in special circumstances. Anonymous complaints are not usually able to be investigated.

Photo top

Inspector General Max Huntsman at a Commission meeting on September 27, 2018 at the Metropolitan Water District.

Photo right

Executive Director Brian K. Williams talks with Inspector General Max Huntsman at the September 27, 2018 Commission meeting.



FAMILY ASSISTANCE & COMMUNICATION

“Hearing family members’ heartbreaking experiences illustrated that they are grieving victims, & they should be treated as such.

*- Patti Giggans, Chair
September 27, 2018*

View of downtown Los Angeles on January 11, 2018.

CHANGE THROUGH ACTION

How a jurisdiction communicates with a family following the death of an individual as a result of a fatal use of force by law enforcement or while in-custody significantly impacts the family, the community, and their relations with law enforcement. In response to requests from members of the public, the Commission reviewed the interactions between the Sheriff’s Department and family members of the deceased following a fatal use of force or an in-custody death.

ACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

During the September 27, 2018 meeting, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the recommendations of the Family Assistance and Communication Ad Hoc Committee. The recommendations were developed after the Committee assembled and met with affected families and community based organizations, as well as interviewed several representatives from County departments and agencies involved in the process of communicating with families. After thorough listening, research & analysis, the Committee identified systemic issues that prevented timely, trauma-informed and clear communication with the families.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission recommendations included a number of action items, with the top priority to establish a multi-disciplinary team to provide ongoing

support, resources & transparent communication to families of the deceased. Another priority is improving communications by withholding judgment when providing information to the media as well as making information for family members more readily available through various printed and digital resources. Recommendations also include establishing a program to assist families with trauma & grief counseling as well as funeral expenses.

After a review of the recommendations, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion on October 9, 2018 to direct the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Commission, the Sheriff’s Department and various other County Departments to report back with a plan to implement the recommendations.

The Committee’s report and subsequent Board response are a great example of how the community, the Sheriff’s Department, and the Commission can work together to address significant issues in need of review to improve the transparency of Sheriff’s Department and to better serve the communities that the County of Los Angeles serves.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

- Patti Giggans, Chair**
- James P. Harris**
- Heather Miller**
- Priscilla Ocen, Vice Chair**
- Ingrid Williams, staff member**

Inmates at L.A. County Men’s Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles on November 29, 2017.

MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION TEAMS

Real progress

Mental Evaluation Teams (MET) are co-responder teams staffed by a Sheriff's Department deputy and a Department of Mental Health clinician that work together to assist patrol deputies responding to situations involving persons with mental health issues.

ACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

The final report and recommendations of the MET Ad Hoc Committee were voted on and approved at the February 15, 2018 Commission meeting and subsequently provided to the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department. This review was in response to the Board motion passed in January 2017 requesting the Commission to identify potential improvements to the MET program to enhance the mission of de-escalating violent confrontations between law enforcement and persons with mental illness.

These recommendations resulted from the Ad Hoc Committee holding several meetings with MET program management and key members from the Sheriff's Department and Department of Mental Health. The committee obtained public feedback, participated in trainings and conducted research on similar co-response team deployment models.

The committee presented a preliminary status report which included lessons learned on MET benefits and challenges at the August 24, 2017 Commission meeting and subsequently provided a memo outlining additional actions taken at the November 16, 2017 Commission meeting.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The report included a total of 33 specific recommendations that were outlined under these four overarching recommendations:

1. Increase the number of MET teams from 23 to 60.
2. Prioritize a department-wide de-escalation training with a mental health focus.
3. Promote inter-agency collaboration with other mental health partners and stakeholders.
4. Treat MET and mental health-focused de-escalation training equally and complementary to the strategies reducing uses of force and promoting constitutional policy.

MENTAL EVALUATION TEAM M.E.T. HEADQUARTERS

The goal of Mental Evaluation Teams is to assist persons in obtaining the proper mental health assessment and treatment instead of being arrested and jailed, as well as de-escalating potentially volatile situations with patrol deputies.

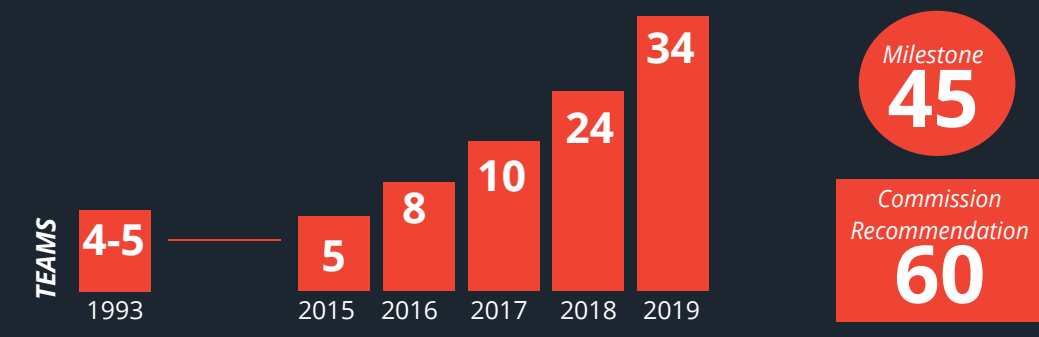


Photos above: L.A. County Sheriff Deputy Joe Miranda & at the MET headquarters in El Monte on October 10, 2018. M.E.T partners collaborate to assist law enforcement as they encounter people with mental health issues.



Photo above: L.A. County Sheriff Homeless Outreach Team works along the Whittier Narrows river bed, which many homeless call home. Sheriff deputies give notice to people living along the river & offer social services before they are evicted of area. Taken on October 6, 2017.

MET conducts patient field evaluations, assessing mental health needs and connecting patients with community resources or treatment centers, diverting them away from the criminal justice system wherever possible.



Approximate MET expansion timeline from five teams in 2015 to reach a milestone (minimum need) of 45 teams in FY 2019-20. The commission recommends at least 60 MET units to meet the needs of L.A. County residents.



Mental Evaluation Teams: Sheriff Deputy Joe Miranda & Department of Mental Health clinical worker Tina Webb respond to calls in El Monte. The Mental Evaluation Team (M.E.T) partners collaborate to assist law enforcement as they encounter people with mental health issues. The photos were taken October 10, 2018.

MENTAL EVALUATION TEAMS IN ACTION

MEASURABLE RESULTS

MET program team members presented a progress report at the September 27, 2018 Commission meeting, where the Sheriff's Department reported most recommendations were implemented, among them:

1. The number of approved MET teams increased from 23 to 45, which LASD states is the absolute minimum number of teams required to be able to handle 100% of the crisis calls. LASD expects to have all 45 teams up and running by midyear 2020.
2. More coverage is provided during the busiest times of the day, as well as coverage during the 2:00-6:00 a.m. shift, with improved scheduling
3. To enable countywide coverage, the number of centralized MET hubs has expanded from two in 2016 to nine in 2018. This has also reduced the average estimated time of arrival from 47 minutes in 2016 to 23 minutes countywide.
4. Crisis Intervention Training continues to train patrol deputies, with about 30% already trained as of September 2018.
5. Increase the availability of Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives (MILO) simulator training, including a mobile MILO unit.
6. A two-hour block of training on how to complete the 5150 hold forms in order to provide better information to hospitals is now included for deputies attending patrol school.

7. The Risk Assessment and Management Program, or RAMP, which conducts follow-up with the most chronic users of law enforcement services, has expanded to six deputy-clinician teams.

The MET program has continued to show success. In fiscal year 2017-18, the Sheriff's Department handled 6,013 crisis calls resulting in mental health holds, which involve persons who are a danger to themselves or others, an increase of 60% over the past three fiscal years. This year MET has handled 4,523 crisis calls to date, 15% of those handled by consultation alone at the Triage desk.

The unanticipated benefit of having MET is their ability to respond more quickly that precluded the need for using the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT). To date MET has had 70 calls where CNT would have responded. In the past, MET handled 64% of those calls without requiring the activation of a CNT because MET staff already had neutralized the situation.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Patti Giggans, Chair
James P. Harris
Sean Kennedy
Christine Aque, staff member



MET averages
400
Crisis calls per month



Photo above

On January 27, 2018, Operation Reclaim and Rebuild resulted in hundreds of arrests & dozens rescued by California law enforcement & the L.A. Regional Human Trafficking Task Force.

Photo right

L.A. County Sheriff Sting Operation on January 27, 2018

“ It really is about accountability & transparency, & about restoring trust on an ongoing basis between the public & those who have been sworn to serve and protect.

- Supervisor Janice Hahn
August 7, 2018

BODY WORN CAMERAS

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Xavier Thompson
Robert Bonner
James P. Harris
Sean Kennedy
Christine Aque, staff member
Daniel Delgadillo, staff member
Tracy Jordan-Johnson, staff member

Since body worn cameras show potential for reducing inappropriate use of force, the Use of Force Ad Hoc Committee reviewed and recommended implementation of body worn cameras in the Sheriff's Department. The Committee developed in June 2017 to evaluate the policy, training, and discipline surrounding use of excessive or unnecessary force by Sheriff's deputies.

ACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

The Sheriff asked the Commission to evaluate the proposed body worn cameras program by soliciting feedback from the public regarding potential policies, among other things. After an online survey in English and Spanish as well as extensive community outreach through town halls and regular Commission meetings, recommendations were developed.

The committee presented their report and recommendations to the Commission on the proposed body worn camera program as an informational item on June 28, 2018. The report and recommendations were again presented and then approved by the full Commission at the July 2018 meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission recommended to the Board of Supervisors to make body worn cameras a budget priority and confer with the Sheriff and Chief Executive Office to provide necessary funding. Other recommendations that were specific to policies addressed items such as when to activate the cameras and the training, documentation and discipline surrounding the use of the cameras. They also advised on allowing deputies' access to review the footage, prohibiting the editing of footage and releasing critical footage to the public.

The Commission also prioritizes launching a public campaign to educate the community on the benefits and limitations of body worn cameras as well as ensuring that deputies notify individuals that they are being recorded.

BOARD ACTIONS

After reviewing the Commission's recommendations, the Board of Supervisors passed a motion on August 7, 2018 directing the Chief Executive Officer, Sheriff, County Counsel, Inspector General and the Commission to engage a consultant to report on proposed policies, procedures, deployment plan, staffing levels and the operational impacts of a body worn cameras program. A cost analysis, options and cost comparisons with other similar agencies should be included.

The search to identify potential consultants and plan for the consultant's scope of work is underway. The final report will be presented to the Board with the cost analysis and cost options within 30 days of the consultant's delivery of the report to the Chief Executive Officer.

“ Body cameras have been found to be effective in reducing the number of citizen complaints, & tend to de-escalate interactions between community members & law enforcement officers. And there's a great deal of hope that they can reduce excessive & unnecessary uses of force.

- Supervisor Hilda Solis
August 7, 2018

L.A. COUNTY JAILS

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT COMPLIANCE

To eliminate sexual abuse of individuals confined in detention facilities, the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into law in 2003. PREA bars cross-gender strip searches, mandates that inmates are provided a way to report sexual abuse to an outside independent entity, and requires facilities to pass a PREA compliance audit every three years.

With nearly 15% of public comments at commission meetings being PREA-related, the Commission determined that action must be taken. In July 2017, the Commission encouraged the Sheriff to adopt PREA regulations and report on compliance. On November 14, 2017, the Board of Supervisors directed the creation of PREA Compliance Units to prevent sexual assault and rape in the L.A. County jail system. On December 6, 2017, key personnel from the Commission, Office of the Inspector General and the Sheriff's Department discussed the status of the development of a strategic plan for PREA compliance, including a grievance complaint procedure for inmates that effectively and safely allows for reporting of incidents.

“The Commission has taken a leadership role, and we thank them for that, facilitating a productive dialogue between the Sheriff's Department, County Counsel, & the Inspector General... It's through this teamwork that we can develop the most effective & efficient path to full PREA compliance.”

- Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, May 29, 2018

On May 29, 2018, the Board ordered County Counsel to coordinate and lead a PREA Compliance Implementation Team to identify the steps required to achieve compliance. The PREA ad hoc committee meets with the PREA Implementation and Compliance Team on a monthly basis to collaborate. County Counsel and the Sheriff's Department are scheduled to provide a status report to the Commission in mid-2019.

PREA AD HOC COMMITTEE

Patti Giggans, Chair
Sean Kennedy
Pricilla Ocen
Lael Rubin
Daniel Delgadillo, staff member

Photo below: Inmates at L.A. County Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles on November 15, 2017.



Photo above: L.A. County Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles on November 29, 2017.

“Rape should not be part of anybody's sentence.”

- Patti Giggans, Chair

MIRA LOMA WOMEN'S DETENTION CENTER

Advocacy groups have long opposed new jails, urging that funds be redirected to mental health, substance use, homelessness and other programs that could eliminate the need for more jail cells. The Mira Loma Women's Detention Center Project, currently receiving design-build proposals, has an estimated cost of \$136-146 million with a targeted completion of 2021. A project update was provided to the Commission on May 24, 2018, and staff from Public Works, Public Health, the Sheriff's Department and Dignity and Power Now subsequently presented on September 27. They discussed community concerns of Valley Fever and the Antelope Valley location making visitations difficult.

The project dates back to 2013, when the State conditionally awarded \$100 million in AB900 Grant funds to L.A. County to address prison overcrowding. The existing facility will be renovated to a campus-style facility where inmates will participate in education, vocational training, substance abuse therapy, mental health counseling, and self-help programs. Several Commissioners visited the Las Colinas Detention Facility in San Diego, which is a prototype for the project. The Commission will continue to monitor the project.



IMMIGRATION POLICY

Cooperation with Immigrations & Customs Enforcement (ICE)

The Immigration Ad Hoc Committee presented a draft report and proposed recommendations at the November 15, 2018 Commission meeting. The report recognized that the Sheriff's Department has made substantial improvements to ensure adherence with policies, practices and procedures associated with immigrant populations and in accordance with the California Values, Trust and Truth Acts.

The committee has thoroughly reviewed and analyzed the Department's adherence to immigration policies since the Board of Supervisor's request on January 10, 2017. The Committee conducted on-site custody facility tours of the inmate reception center release area and observed deputies during ride-a-longs.

The Committee also reviewed the Sheriff's Department public website, policies, manuals, legislation and immigration-related materials. Community feedback was secured through a series of meetings including town halls and *Community Feedback Speakers* meeting on January 30, 2018.

After working closely with the Office of the Inspector General and the Auditor-Controller, the Committee proposed 12 recommendations to be more proactive in its approach to its immigration policies. The report also includes a recommendation to examine the use of County resources involved in responding to ICE detainees and explore seeking reimbursement from the federal government for these costs.

The Commission is expected to vote on the report at the January 2019 Commission meeting. Once voted upon, the report and recommendations will be provided to the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Hernán Vera
Lael Rubin
Heather Miller, until the expiration of her commission term
Priscilla Ocen
Casimiro U. Tolentino
Tracy Jordan-Johnson, staff member

IN CONCLUSION

Photo right:
A dedication honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Memorial Tree Grove on the highest point of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area in Baldwin Hills captured on March 29, 2018.



LOOKING FORWARD

SUSTAINED PROGRESS

Civilian oversight plays an essential role in protecting civil rights, supporting effective policing and building bridges between communities and the law enforcement that serve to protect them. As we look forward to the upcoming year, and beyond, the Commission is focused on creating sustainable progress.

The Commission continually assesses trends in the Sheriff's Department and evaluates and monitors requests from the Board or Supervisors to strategically plan the work ahead. Effective oversight must be responsive to the community's values and needs. With L.A. County's vast geographic area with socially and economically diverse populations, it is important to continuously monitor current issues in the community and give communities a stronger voice in the affairs of the Sheriff's Department.

To achieve long-term improvements, we work to balance supporting public safety in our neighborhoods

and protecting the civil rights of the most disenfranchised populations.

In the upcoming year, the Commission will focus on increasing community engagement, establishing priorities for real change and developing a strategy to support the County's work to reform the criminal justice system. Continuing to collaborate with the community, the Board of Supervisors and the Office of the Inspector General, we work to create a strong relationship with the new Sheriff's administration to increase the level of transparency, accountability and public engagement of the department.

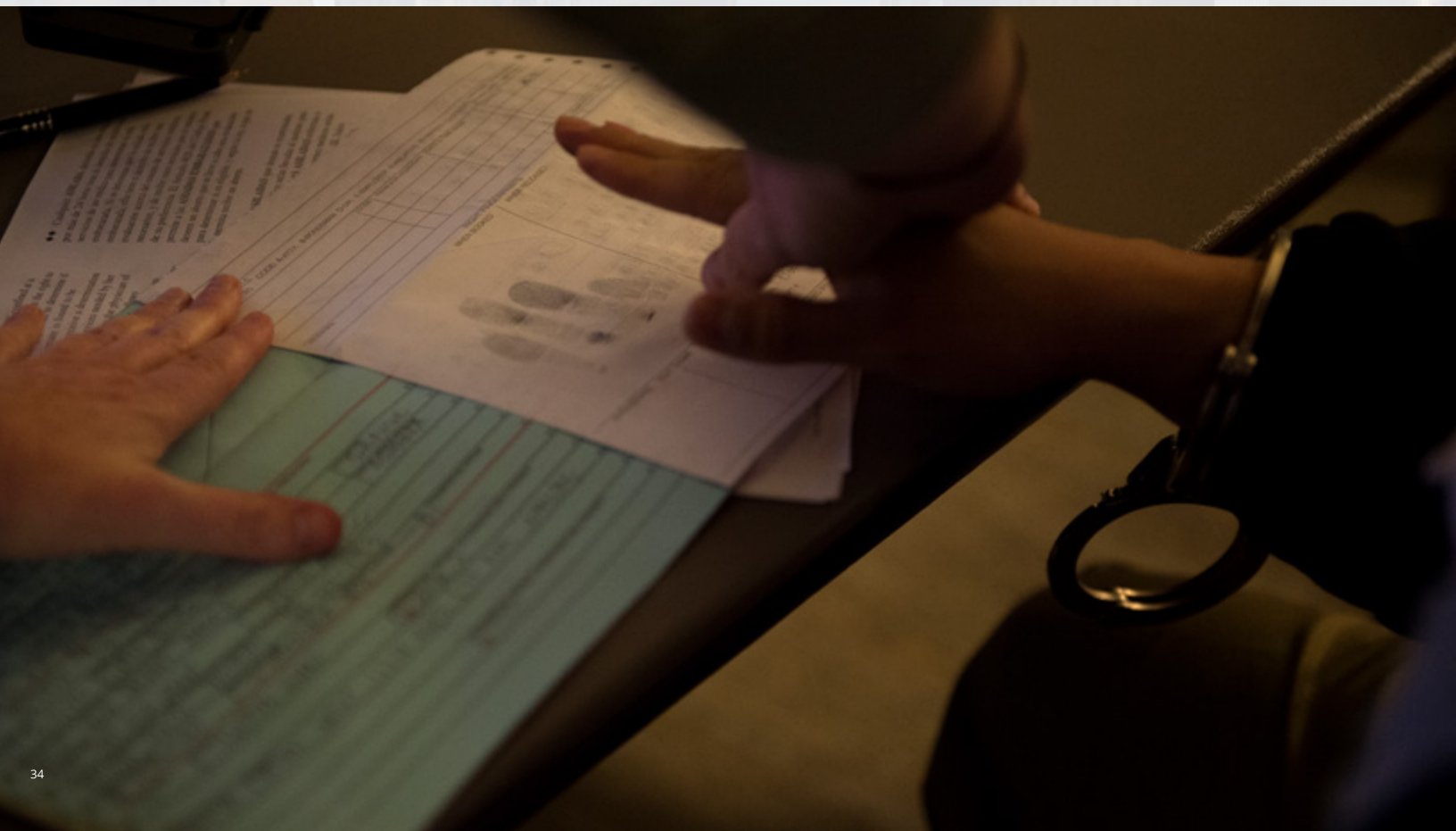
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In closing, we are extremely fortunate to have the unwavering support of the Board of Supervisors, the Executive Office, multiple County departments and most importantly the community in our work to bring effective oversight to the L.A. County Sheriff's Department. A special thank you

to L.A. County Supervisors Hilda L. Solis, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Sheila Kuehl, Janice Hahn and Kathryn Barger, and also to L.A. County Executive Officer Celia Zavala for their assistance and guidance. Thank you to former Commissioner, Rabbi Heather Miller for her compassion and contributions.

You have each put a special trust in us, and we will honor that trust. Dr. King said it best, "The time is always right to do what is right." Thank you for helping us do what is right.

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SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

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