



Written Public Comment
Provided for the March 17, 2022 Meeting
of the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Civilian Oversight
Commission as of 03/17/2022 at 5:00pm.

To submit written public comment for the official meeting record,
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| Agenda | Public Comment | Name |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| The neighborhood watch available for us. Then more available staff. | I think they are trying to address the people needs if any. Just making sure everything is the way it suppose to be. | Esther Diana Green Riggins |
| family impact | I want to support the officer's families with a program I'm introducing through Routledge for new research on using virtual reality virtual film sets as a part of a process of community engagement to reduce stress in families of military and police fire and the red cross which works collaboratively. The program has been shown to work with families using filmmaking in clinical trials with the military. No action is needed. This is to give an FYI to the families that we need to fund the police and support the officers' families. Future research will reflect this and we want to keep federal funding in this kind of research to continue to support families of first responders and especially the police. | Dr. Joshua L Cohen |
| La County jail guard to inmate harassment... | <p>...:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.holding guards accountable with legal consequences...ex: criminal threats to inmates from guards = 422 p.c. 2.update disposition procedure with more oversight by outside entities. | A.ndrew J.ames White |
| General comment about LASD harassment of families impacted by LASD killings | I am horrified by the stories I am heading from East LA and LA County families who have lost loved ones to LASD killings and are suffering harassment, which includes Deputies driving slowly by their houses, intimidating and mocking them and creating a fear for their personal safety. In recent weeks this harassment has come to include Sheriff Villaneuva releasing personal identifying information of the families who have lost their loved ones to LASD violence, placing the families at extreme personal risk. LASD similarly coerces protestors exercising their constitutionally protected first amendment rights-- a well known example is how protestors were treated at the vigil for Dijon Kizsee. We desperately need an amendment to LASD Charter to give us tools to reign in this illegal intimidation and coercion that is encouraged by the existing LASD leadership. Their racism, cruelty and lack of respect for civil rights and human right do not reflect who we are as Californians. We need to protect these families who have suffered so much already, and try to be a County where law enforcement protects the citizens instead of threatening the communities they are hired to serve. | Deborah Aschheim |
| Century Regional Detention Facility Confinement Conditions | <p>The Sybil Brand Commission reports significant misconduct and mistreatment of people at CRDF. SBC reports instances of racial bias against Black women, removing them from programming, prohibiting Black women from going to recreation together, banning access to books written by Black authors, and instances of serious retaliation for filing grievances and talking with the SBC commissioners.</p> <p>SBC further reports instances of illegal shackling of pregnant persons at CRDF, particularly during travel and at the direction of sheriffs at the hospital. Pregnant people may not be restrained with leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs behind the body while pregnant, in labor, or recovery, nor may they be shackled to another person during transport. Such action puts pregnant people at serious risk because they are more prone to falling.</p> <p>SBC also reports that pregnant people are required to perform a strip search, including a "cough and squat" after going to court, even at later trimesters. Not only is this humiliating and degrading, but the stress is a danger to parent and child.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Department says that it is investigating the SBC reports. LASD cannot be trusted to complete a thorough and accurate investigation. Reports of in-custody misconduct and retaliation must be investigated by an independent body.</p> | Julia Novis |

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| <p>3c • Family Assistance Program: Pilot Overview, Permanent Program Proposed Design & Office of Inspector General Report</p> | <p>We thank the Office of the Inspector General for its thorough reporting on the pilot Family Assistance Program and its commitment to families who have lost loved ones to Sheriff violence, misconduct, and neglect. We agree the Sheriff's Department must no longer be responsible for or involved in next-of-kin notifications. The very least this County can do is provide messengers who are trained in trauma-informed practices and can provide empathy and support during one of the worst days of a person's life. We support the recommendation that DMEC employ trained social workers for this task. In order for a social worker to provide effective notification, the Sheriff Department must share details of a person's death quickly. Next of kin have a right to know the answers to the very basic questions about their loved one's death. The budget proposed, however, does not sufficiently account for the funds needed for burial costs. First, the OIG estimates that 50 families will need these services every year. In 2021, 55 people died in custody, and LASD fatally shot 11 more. That is a universe of 66 families that needed financial assistance in 2021. There is no basis to estimate a lower number for 2022. We recommend that the OIG adjust the recommended budget to account for 70 burials (\$7,500 per family x 70 families), service estimates of \$5,000 per incident x 70 incidents, and \$150,000 in flexible funds for practical needs. The report also notes that money for burial services ran out some time in 2021. We recommend the OIG ask for funds to cover all eligible expenses for families who needed support in 2021. Our positive recommendations here should not disguise the fact that we need the Family Assistance Program because the Sheriff's Department is killing people and letting people die in custody. Encounters with a Sheriff's Deputy, whether on patrol or in one of our jails, must not equal a death sentence! The COC must not lose sight of its role in holding the Sheriff accountable for death on his watch.</p> | <p>Julia Novis</p> |
| <p>(2.c, & General Public Comments) 3/17/21</p> | <p>This Commission must demand greater transparency from the Sheriff's Department. The public and oversight bodies cannot effectively address issues leading to death in custody without knowing that people are dying and why - not months later when the OIG issues a report, but as the deaths are happening. COVID-19 deaths have been reported publicly as they occur; other deaths can be reported in the same way while protecting the privacy of the individual and families impacted. It is the very least we can do for impacted folks.</p> | |
| <p>2.c</p> | <p>This Commission must demand greater transparency from the Sheriff's Department. The public and oversight bodies cannot effectively address issues leading to death in custody without knowing that people are dying and why - not months later when the OIG issues a report, but as the deaths are happening. These are human lives, there is no time to waste as we let human lives be taken from us! COVID-19 deaths have been reported publicly as they occur; other deaths can be reported in the same way while protecting the privacy of the individual and families impacted.</p> | <p>Julia Rich</p> |
| <p>General Comment</p> | <p>The Commission should urge the Board of Supervisors to overhaul the entire Sheriff's Department, including a ballot measure that would amend the L.A. County Charter to maximize civilian oversight and community control over the sheriff and LASD. I'm a teacher in Los Angeles and I am HORRIFIED at the ways the Commission has ignored the brutal nature of the sheriffs department. They are harassing victims families, targeting individuals trying to hold them accountable, and acting with no checks or balances. You are their check and balance. Take these complaints seriously, as if they affected your own family. We do not need any more talk about action, we need action.</p> | <p>Julia Rich</p> |

2.c, 3.b, 3.d & General Public Comments

The Commission should urge the Board of Supervisors to overhaul the entire Sheriff's Department, including a ballot measure that would amend the L.A. County Charter to maximize civilian oversight and community control over the sheriff and LASD.

L.A. County has reached a crisis point under Sheriff Villanueva. He has enabled deputy gangs. During his term, there has been a dramatic increase in deputy shootings and killings of community members in addition to record-level unnecessary deaths in the jails.

Yet, the Board of Supervisors has not implemented policies and structures necessary to protect against serious misconduct, repeated violations of the law, and complete obstruction of civilian oversight by Villanueva and sheriffs who act as if they're above the law. But no sheriff is above the law and we must act now to hold them accountable.

I urge the COC to support an amendment to the County Charter that will strengthen sheriff accountability and create a common sense structure of checks and balances, once and for all.

The COC should recommend to the Board that it propose to the voters a charter amendment that will: (1) establish an impeachment process to allow removal of the Sheriff for serious misconduct, (2) reinforce the Board's policy-making authority over the Sheriff's Department, and (3) establish permanent and independent civilian oversight.

Andre Barrios

Public Comment

L.A. County Charter Amendment for Real Sheriff Accountability: Power to the People:

The Commission should urge the Board of Supervisors to overhaul the entire Sheriff's Department, including a ballot measure that would amend the L.A. County Charter to maximize civilian oversight and community control over the sheriff and LASD.

L.A. County has reached a crisis point under Sheriff Villanueva. He has enabled deputy gangs. During his term, there has been a dramatic increase in deputy shootings and killings of community members in addition to record-level unnecessary deaths in the jails.

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I urge the COC to support an amendment to the County Charter that will strengthen sheriff accountability and create a common sense structure of checks and balances, once and for all.

The COC should recommend to the Board that it propose to the voters a charter amendment that will: (1) establish an removal process to allow removal of the Sheriff for violation of the law, (2) more power and civilian oversight to the COC and the Board's policy-making authority over the Sheriff's Department, and (3) establish permanent and independent civilian oversight.

Carlos M. Montes