



2nd Annual

COMMUNITY POLICING CONFERENCE

Redefining Public Safety in
Los Angeles County

9am-4pm

Saturday, November 16, 2019

St. Anne's Conference Center

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Schedule of Events

8:30-9:30 A.M.

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

9:30-9:45 A.M.

OPENING REMARKS

- Patti Giggans, Civilian Oversight Commission Chair & Peace Over Violence Executive Director
- Brian K. Williams, Esq., Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission Executive Director
- Andrea Welsing, Director of the Office of Violence Prevention, Public Health

9:45-10:30 A.M.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

My Story: Jerome Dixon

After 25 hours of interrogation without parental notification by the Oakland Police Department, high school junior Jerome Dixon was coerced into signing an incriminating statement in a murder investigation. Even after his subsequent denial of having committed the crime, that statement was used against him in a court of law. After 21 years behind bars, the parole board acknowledged his claim of innocence & released him from custody in 2011.

10:30-10:45 A.M.

BREAK

To Be or Not to Be: An Elected Sheriff

Across the nation, different law enforcement structures administer public safety through elected sheriffs or appointed police chiefs. There have been numerous debates about which structure provides greater accountability, transparency & oversight opportunities. Highlighting the fundamental components of each structure, panelists will discuss the characteristics & challenges of each system.

Moderator: Isabelle Gunning, Professor at Southwestern Law School

Panel participants:

- Isaac Bryan, UCLA/Million Dollar Hoods
- Laurie L. Levenson, Professor at Loyola Law School
- Ray Leyva, former L.A. County Undersheriff

12:15-12:30 P.M.

BREAK & GRAB LUNCHBOX

12:30-2:00 P.M.

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Calming a Crisis: De-escalating Use of Force

Law enforcement agencies have been in the spotlight for incidents involving use of force. Exploring factors that lead to law enforcement use of force, this session will also highlight the efforts law enforcement & policy reformers are advocating to mitigate these factors. The Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives (MILO) simulator will be used as an interactive tool to provide examples of de-escalation & diversion.

Moderator: Sean Kennedy, Executive Director of Center for Juvenile Law & Policy at Loyola Law School & Civilian Oversight Commissioner

Panel participants & interactive scenario facilitators:

- Sergeant Annadennise Briz, MET, L.A. County Sheriff's Department
- Jasmyne Cannick, Social critic & political commentator
- Angelica Isaac-Palma, MET, Department of Mental Health
- Theresa Smith, Law Enforcement Accountability Network (LEAN)
- Sergeant Kevin Tiwari, MET, L.A. County Sheriff's Department

Where do we go from here?

Policing is an important & complex aspect of life in our community. The entire community must be involved in this process so everyone's voice is heard. In this session, we will gather for a facilitated conversation on what we learned & what the next steps should be.

Moderator: Robin Toma, Human Relations Commission Executive Director

Table Facilitators

- Pierre Arreola, Human Relations Commission
- Jarret Barrios, Human Relations Commissioner
- Cathleen Beltz, Office of the Inspector General
- Tory Berger, City of West Hollywood Public Safety Commissioner
- Dana Boldt, Office of the Inspector General
- Martha Carrillo, District Attorney's Office
- Ilan Davidson, Human Relations Commissioner
- Jeanette Ellis-Royston, Human Relations Commissioner
- Candis Glover, Office of Public Defender
- Isabelle Gunning, Human Relations Commissioner
- Max Huntsman, L.A. County Inspector General
- Shadi Kardan, Office of the Inspector General
- Shelby King, Board of Supervisors, 3rd District
- Preeti Kulkarni, Human Relations Commissioner
- Fritz Lacey, Office of the Inspector General
- Gustavo Mendez, City of Cudahy Public Safety Commissioner
- Guadalupe Montano, Human Relations Commissioner
- Joshua Parr, Human Relations Commission
- Raymond Regalado, Human Relations Commission
- Robert Sowell, Human Relations Commission
- Fredrick Sykes, Human Relations Commissioner

- Brian K. Williams, Esq., Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission Executive Director



Brian K. Williams

Executive Director, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission

Brian K. Williams, Esq., serves as the Executive Director of the L.A. County Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission. Williams also maintains a law practice, the Brian K. Williams Law Group. Prior to this appointment, Williams served as President & CEO of Junior Achievement of Southern California, one of the nation's preeminent educational programs for youth. During his career, Williams served as the Executive Director of the Southern California Leadership Network, one of the nation's premiere leadership development programs. Williams served for eleven years as an Assistant City Attorney in the L.A. City Attorney's office. When L.A. City Attorney James K. Hahn was elected Mayor of L.A., Hahn appointed Williams as his Deputy Mayor for Transportation, Environment & Infrastructure. Upon leaving the Mayor's Office, Williams was appointed Assistant City Manager for the City of Pasadena.

Williams, a two-time UCLA Chancellor's Marshall, earned a B.A. in Political Science at UCLA & a Juris Doctorate from the UCLA School of Law. Williams' greatest pride comes from his two sons, Brinton & Braxton.



Patti Giggans

Chair, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission

Patti Giggans was appointed to the Commission in December 2016 & has served on the Family Assistance & Mental Evaluation Team Ad Hoc Committees. She has been the Executive Director of Peace Over Violence since 1985. She achieved a bachelor's degree in Psychology & a master's degree in Nonprofit Management. A black belt in Karate & master self-defense trainer, she founded Karate Women, the first martial arts school in Southern California in 1976. Giggans also founded Denim Day, an international sexual violence prevention education campaign.

Giggans has held numerous leadership & advisory positions in the sexual assault & domestic violence arena. She is the former President of The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault & founding Board member of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. Giggans has received the California Peace Prize, & she is a Durfee Foundation Stanton Fellow, among additional awards. She has co-authored What Parents Need to Know About Teen Dating Violence, 50 Ways to A Safer World & When Dating Becomes Dangerous: A Parent's Guide to Preventing Relationship Abuse.



Jerome Dixon Anti-Recidivism Coalition Board of Directors

As a high school junior, Jerome Dixon was arrested by the Oakland Police Department as a suspect in a murder investigation. Unconnected to the crime, he was questioned without parental notification. After 25 hours of interrogation, he was coerced into signing an incriminating statement. Even after his

subsequent denial of having committed the crime, that statement was used against him in a court of law. He was then known to the State of California as a “term-lifer.”

Twenty-one years later at his parole hearing & after numerous appeals to lawyers, journalists & judicial stewards, the parole board acknowledged his claim of innocence & released him from custody in October 2011.

Since his release, Dixon has acquired a recurring role speaking at high schools in the Silicon Valley with respect to juvenile justice, racial profiling & self identity. He has also been touring the country speaking about his ordeal, social reform & how he harbors no animosity towards the system for what has happened.



Isabelle R. Gunning Southwestern Law School

Isabelle Gunning was motivated to study law during the civil rights movement of the 1970s when she saw that “some very positive things could be accomplished through the courts.” Following a clerkship with Chief Judge William Bryant of the U.S. District

Court for the District of Columbia, she served as a Staff Attorney with the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C. & later with the Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Professor Gunning taught for six years as a member of the faculty at the UCLA School of Law before her appointment to Southwestern in 1992.

Active in the larger realm of legal education, Professor Gunning served on the Board of the Clinical Legal Educators Association & was one of three editor-in-chiefs of the Clinical Law Review. She also served on the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Gay & Lesbian Issues. Under the auspices of the ABA’s African Law Initiative & other entities, she has traveled to Ethiopia, South Africa & Tanzania to speak on clinical legal education & trial advocacy.

Professor Gunning was appointed as a Commissioner in 2015 & elected President in 2016 of the L.A. County Human Relations Commission.

Panel Discussion



Isaac Bryan
UCLA/Million Dollar Hoods

Isaac Bryan is a policy shaper & published scholar. His work has helped to advance activist led movements & policy change around issues of racial, economic & social justice.

Currently, Isaac serves as the founding Director of the UCLA Black Policy Project, head of the Public Policy Division for the Million Dollar Hoods Project & as the Director of Public Policy for the UCLA Ralph J. Bunche Center.

He also co-chairs the Los Angeles Unified School District Task Force on Youth Diversion & Development. He also serves as a senior advisor to California Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager.

Formerly, Isaac served in Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office of Reentry & CENTCOM Unit where he co-authored the City's first report on the holistic needs of Angelenos with past justice system involvement.



Laurie Levenson
Professor of Law, Loyola Law School

While in law school, Laurie Levenson was chief articles editor of the UCLA Law Review. After graduation, she served as law clerk to the Honorable James Hunter III of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

In 1981, she was appointed Assistant United States Attorney, Criminal Section in Los Angeles, where she was a Trial & Appellate Lawyer for eight years & attained the position of Senior Trial Attorney & Assistant Division Chief. Levenson was a member of the adjunct faculty of Southwestern University Law School from 1982-89.

She joined the Loyola faculty in 1989 & served as Loyola's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 1996-99. She has been a Visiting Professor at UCLA School of Law & a D&L Straus Distinguished Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University School of Law.

Professor Levenson currently leads the following programs at Loyola Law School: Capital Habeas Litigation Clinic, The Fidler Institute Annual Symposium & the Project for the Innocent.



Ray Leyva Former LASD Undersheriff

Ray Leyva is a public safety executive with a combined total of more than 40 years of distinguished leadership & experience in the the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department & the Burbank Police Department. In 2006, Leyva ran for sheriff.

Ray Leyva began as a reserve officer with the Los Angeles Police Department in 1975, then going on to work for the Burbank Police Department in 1976.

In 1981, he transferred to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which would be his home for the next 32 years, until his 2016 retirement. He came out of retirement to serve as the second in command of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department & then retired from his post as Undersheriff in 2019.

Ray holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Pepperdine University & a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from California State University, L.A.

Interactive Discussion



Sean Kennedy Executive Director, Center for Juvenile Law & Policy at Loyola Law School & L.A. County Civilian Oversight Commissioner

Sean Kennedy is the Kaplan Feldman Executive Director & Professor for the Center for Juvenile Law & Policy at Loyola Law School-Los Angeles.

Prior to teaching, he served as the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California from 2006 through 2014 & has also served as Chief of the Federal Public Defender Capital Habeas Unit.

As an adjunct professor for more than 15 years, Kennedy has taught Appellate Advocacy & the Death Penalty Law Seminar at the Law School. He currently serves as a commissioner on the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.



Sergeant Kevin Tiwari L.A. County Sheriff's Department

Kevin Tiwari started his law enforcement career 18 years ago as a L.A. County Sheriff's Department Explorer & then became a Sheriff's Department Community Service Officer (Intern) while attending Cal State L.A., pursuing a Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

Sgt. Tiwari then became a Deputy Sheriff, where he worked various assignments. He started his deputy career in the custody

environment before transferring to patrol, where he worked the field, special assignments, gangs & as a Field Training Officer. After 10 years as a deputy, he promoted to the rank of Sergeant, transferring to Compton Sheriff's Station.

After working Compton Station for two years, Sgt. Tiwari transferred to the Mental Evaluation Team (MET), where his duties include being a field supervisor, a lead in the L.A. Found Project Lifesaver, a Force Options Simulator & De-Escalation instructor, in addition to training/scheduling.



Angelica Isaac Palma L.A. County Department of Mental Health

Ms. Angelica Isaac Palma is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of California. She works as a Mental Health Clinical Supervisor at the L.A. County Department of Mental Health.

She has been with the Department of Mental Health for eight years. She has worked as a Sheriff's Mental Evaluation Team clinician, Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT) clinician & liaison for the Wraparound Program within the Department of Mental Health Children's Administration.

She has more than ten years of experience working as a clinician, Therapeutic Behavioral Specialist Program Coordinator & Assistant Clinical Director within the private sector. Angelica is a certified Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainer.

Ms. Isaac-Palma trains communities in stress management & meditation. She earned her Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of California L.A. She received her Masters of Social Work degree from University of Southern California.



Jasmyne Cannick

Social Critic & Political Commentator

Jasmyne Cannick has developed a strong national following for her willingness to take on uncomfortable & hard to discuss issues around race, politics & society & tell it like it is. Jasmyne is known for bringing attention to stories that would have gone under-reported, overlooked or just ignored. She has won numerous awards for her op-eds & reporting & is a frequent on-air contributor.

Among her many accolades, Jasmyne was named one of ESSENCE Magazine's 25 Women Shaping the World, one of the Most Influential African-Americans in Los Angeles Under 40, one of Los Angeles' Most Fascinating Angelenos by the L.A. Weekly & most recently Journalist of the Year on the Out100 list.

A forward thinker with the ability to tackle hard to address issues from an unapologetically Black point of view, Jasmyne continues to challenge & shape public opinion while encouraging civic engagement for positive social change & advocating for underrepresented & marginalized communities.

She continues to be a popular speaker at colleges, universities, conferences & events discussing the intersection of politics, race, social issues & LGBT civil rights for the 21st century.



Sergeant Annadennise Briz

L.A. County Sheriff's Department

Annadennise Briz has been employed for 18 years by the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, where she was promoted to Sergeant in May of 2010. She is currently assigned to the Special Operations Division-Mental Evaluation Team & oversees a team of highly trained deputies that respond to patrol's request when they encounter people in the field that suffer from mental illness.

As a collateral duty, Sgt. Briz has been a hostage/crisis negotiator for 17 years, due to her having had experience working as a Licensed Psychiatric Technician for the Department of Mental Health before becoming a deputy. Annadennise was a mental health worker for the L.A. County Sheriff's Department Mental Evaluation Team for five and a half years.

Prior to promoting, Sgt. Briz has worked within custody facilities on the Jail Mental Evaluation Team as well as a federally funded grant item. She has worked as a Bailiff in the Mental Health Court & has worked a field patrol assignment & returned to work as a Bonus Deputy on the Mental Evaluation Team.

Sgt. Briz is a mother of three grown daughters, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services & currently lives in Diamond Bar.



Theresa Smith

Law Enforcement Accountability Network

Theresa Smith is the Founder & Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Accountability Network (LEAN). She is also the mother of Caesar Cruz, who was shot 15 times in the back by five Anaheim Police Officers while he was strapped in his seatbelt. After the execution of her son, she began her fight for justice & accountability. Two days after her son was killed, she started protesting in front of the Anaheim Police Department every week & continued to do so for the next two and a half years. In doing so, it brought out not only awareness but also brought together other families affected by police brutality. She then decided there was much more work to be done.

She started attending council meetings & met with local elected officials & community leaders to continue to learn about policies & procedures. She worked along with others in getting a Police Oversight Board in Anaheim & changes within the Police Department. She has traveled throughout the country to network & support other mothers who have lost their sons & daughters to police brutality. She also lobbied for SB1421 The Right to Know Bill & AB392 An Act To Save Lives, which both were passed.

She is on the advisory board of the Justice Team Network & the Statewide Coalition that holds District Attorneys accountable. She is one of the co-founders of the STOP Coalition. Her advocacy for accountability continues because of the love she has for her son & for all who have had their lives stolen by law enforcement.



Robin S. Toma

Executive Director, L.A. County Commission on Human Relations

Robin S. Toma is Executive Director of the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations Commission, based out of the Department of Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services. Under his leadership, the Commission is working to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice & hostility into peace.

Prior to working at the Commission, Robin was a staff attorney at the ACLU of Southern California & litigated a wide range of human rights & civil liberties cases in federal & state courts. He was also lead attorney in a lawsuit on behalf of Japanese Latin Americans which led to redress & a Presidential apology for being forcibly imprisoned & used in prisoner exchange during WWII.

He received a B.A. in Sociology & Economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz & a J.D. & M.A. in Urban Planning from UCLA. Robin is fluent in Spanish & was a public school teacher.

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This conference has been designed by a joint planning committee of the Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission, the Human Relations Commission & the Department of Public Health.



Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission

Working to boost transparency & increase trust between communities & the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, the Commission aims to provide robust opportunities for community engagement, ongoing analysis & oversight of the department's policies, practices, procedures & advice to the Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff's Department & the public. For more information, visit: coc.lacounty.gov.

Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission

Dedicated to promoting positive race & human relations in an increasingly complex & multicultural county. The Commission works to develop programs that proactively address racism, homophobia, religious prejudice, linguistic bias, anti-immigrant sentiment & other divisive attitudes that can lead to inter-cultural tension, hate crimes & related violence. For more information, visit lahumanrelations.org.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Committed to protecting & improving the health of over 10 million residents of L.A. County, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control & community & family health. Nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the L.A. County Department of Public Health is comprised of nearly 4,100 employees & has an annual budget of \$1 billion. For more information, visit ph.lacounty.gov.