

**County of Los Angeles**  
**File: (SD4 Hearing\_Audio 1-3)**

**Moderator:** I want to be able to call to order, this public hearing of the Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations. This is one of several of our public hearings on policing and human relations. This one in the fourth supervisor of the district. So welcome, everyone, this morning. My name is Isabel Gunning and I'm the president of the LA County Commission on Human Relations, and I'm a professor at Loyd Southwestern Law School and I have the privilege and honor of presiding over today's hearing. So the first thing I want to do is thank all of you who have come out this morning. It's Saturday, I know that. It's cold. I know that, too. And so I really appreciate your dedication to come out to speak about these important matters. The other thing I'd like to do is I'm going to ask my fellow commissioners to go ahead and just introduce themselves briefly, personally to each of you. Starting with commissioner Mantaño.

Respondent: Eleanor R. Mantaño. We're here at Long Beach, and next door neighbor in Bloomington, but \* and I've been in this installation for over three years now.

Respondent: Leanne King, and I'm also representing the fourth district, including Long Beach.

Respondent: Suzanne Comun, I'm the fourth district.

Respondent: I'm Alina Abdulah, and I'm with the second district, I represent the second district and I am the chair of this committee.

Respondent: And my name is Cynthia Anderson Barber and I was appointed by \*.

Respondent: Hi, my name is Ashley O. and I represent district five.

**Moderator:** (Let me get this). And seated next to me is our assistant executive director, Alayna Helmord Shield. We couldn't do anything and I want to thank the staff upfront as well as others who are floating around who have made this and other hearings possible. So let me just get a little bit of background. The commission is holding this public hearing on policing issues because policing issues, of course, have been in the forefront of our county as well as national news. And our commission has been working on policing issues going really back to 1940 through Zoot Suit Riots. But we issued in court back in 1965 after the Watts Rebellion, and when the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that rebellion came up, we decided that it was important to take some stop on how policing relations were going on in our county. And to hear from community members and community groups directory about their views on the status of policing relations in their particular districts. One of our priority strat—

excuse me, strategic priorities for our three-year period is specifically to include fairness and equity in the county's criminal justice system and so today is the third of six public hearings that we've been holding and we are here today—we're here today because we want to hear from all of you. We want to hear what your personal experiences have been with law enforcement, we want to hear what your suggestions are for increasing fairness and equity in policing. We want to hear your ideas for building and/or maintaining positive relationships between the police and communities. And so after this hearing we'll have two more, and the remaining supervisorial districts, the next one is in the Watts area of Los Angeles on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> in the Watts Labor Community Action Committee and you can see our staff will also have a particular hearing just for law enforcement. Our desire was not to have law enforcement at these community hearings so we have a special one for them and if you want to attend that, again, please see our staff for the specifics of that sign up to get the information. The results of this hearing and additional information will be put into a commission report, which will include recommendations that we hope to receive from all of you and we've already been hearing from other community groups and members. It's important to know that we are an official body of the county so our role is fact-finding, and making recommendations to the board of supervisors and other agencies. So we don't have the authority to force them to do anything although we want to, and so we are really relying and leaning on all of you to take the kind of concern and interest that brought you up this morning to continue on indeed to put the pressure on the authorities about whatever recommendations that come from you through us to them. We don't handle individual cases but I'm happy to say that we have law students here, some from my own school working with the National Lawyers Guild who will be happy to help anybody who wants to file an individual case against individual police officers over any particular issues, which you've experienced. I think—I thought I saw some of the students up here—there they are. And I think the way I want to do this is if you've got concerns—is there a place you want people to gather?

Respondent: I think there's a table outside but they should flag them a law student.

Moderator: Law students, wave your hands again. Okay, there they are. So flag them because what we're going to do is try to get a critical mass of people, a couple of you together who want to do the individual complaint, and then they'll take you to another space where all of you will be able to get that individual help. After the hearings, we'll be spending time to distill and then we'll collaborate with you, and other community groups on whatever the findings ultimately will be. So this—what I'd like to do is turn the mic over to Commissioner Alina Abdulah, who's already introduced herself. She is the chair person of our policing relations committee, and really has been the driving force behind our commission's decision to organize these hearings in the community. Commissioner Abdulah.

Respondent: Thank you, Commissioner Gunning. So, welcome everyone. I'm very thankful to have you, I'm very thankful to our \* organizations also for partnering with us to have these hearings. So if you are a \*, please raise your hands. Our community works are here and we want to thank you for the work that you've done in helping us to get these hearings together. So what we wanted to do is just kind of frame what we're holding it for. With \*. We want to recognize the communities are experts in their own experiences, right? And so the goal, as Commissioner Gunning shared, is to collect your stories, collect your narratives, collect your experiences to put them into an official record of what's happening with policing in the County of Los Angeles and also recognize that LA County does have its own record on policing that has not been as well documented as we'd like it to be. So we're trying to make sure that we document it. But the second thing that we'd like to do is we are the Human Relations Commission so we really want to lift up how public safety, what your ideas are for making public safety kind of a more community engaged process. So we really want you to be visionaries, we really want you to make recommendations for any changes that you'd like to see. So that's what this space is for and that's also why we've asked—we have not invited law enforcement to be in this space because we also know people sometimes feel strained when law enforcement is present so this is supposed to be a community space where you can genuinely and safely share your stories. And so that's what we'd like to have here today so your stories and your recommendations lifted up. I want to also say that we're trying to find points of entry, where we can begin to shift policy. As Commissioner Gunning has shared, we are not a policy-making body. We do; however, make recommendations to the board of supervisors which is a policy-making body. And so that's also the goal. So the goal is not to have or kind of say things on the record but then think about how we can take your recommendations and experiences and make recommendations based on those. Does that make sense to everyone? Okay. And so thank you again for coming, we want to again uplift that if you want to file an official complaint or make accommodations around any law enforcement—oh, I should have...

**Moderator: I needed to do that.**

Respondent: Please see one of the law students and they will help you put those complaints on file. Okay? Thank you very much for coming and we hope that this is an engaging and important experience for you and we're going to start, I think, you're going to introduce them but we're also going to have folks who are experts in—community experts in the area of policing, offering their experiences.

**Moderator: Yes, yes, yes. But I do want to at least do a little bit of the ground rule stuff. One thing first is that if you want to speak, what we're asking is that you fill out speaker forms. I think they look like this. can I have this? Okay. Look like this. And I believe the staff is outside there with those forms so that and you'll see that it'll ask you for your name, and if you've got a specific incident, which is really the focus that we want to actually put down date, place, the officer or at least police department involved, that sort of a thing.**

We'll be encouraging you, if that's how you're going to testify to put that upfront right away. We'll be asking you to be here, to speak directly in the mic so that we can record because this is going to be recorded, everything that you say. The time limit—for our organizations will be coming up, we've asked them to speak for about 5 minutes. We've been asking community folks to speak for about 3 minutes. The point, of course, is to make sure that everybody gets an opportunity to share what their experiences are and their recommendations are. If it turns out that we have more time and people want to come back again, and speak, please do so. We are going to have to end at 1 because that's our contract in terms of the recording, but up until then, we want to make sure that everybody who wants to speak gets enough on the record, gets an opportunity to do so. In terms of speaking, I just want to underscore that of course I know you're here to speak on very important issues so of course we want you to be as accurate and truthful as you possibly can and most importantly, respectful. We know that these issues are going to generate a lot of great emotion, they should. And all we ask is that you maintain a respectful attitude towards us as commissioners, towards each other, even if you disagree and make sure that everyone gets an opportunity to actually speak about these important matters. Cell phones, please turn to vibrate. Which reminds me I better reach to do that myself. Again, this is being recorded. So if you don't want to be recorded, staff also has—you don't have to—you can both go to our Lawyers Guild law students if you want to file a specific complaint but if you make a recommendation, but also if you don't want to have a particular complaint filed, we also as staff have a form for you to articulate your concerns, your recommendations, even if you don't want to actually be on the record. Again, I think I mentioned already that you can see our staff to provide you information so that you can be kept abreast of what's happening. So let's start our speakers. Yes. I'm sorry. I'm about to do that now. Well, I'm about to introduce the folks who are coming forward first. I have Reverend Mitra Rahnama from the Interfaith Council. Come on down over here. Alicia Morales who is from the Immigrant's Rights Coalition. Did I get that—Long Beach Immigrant's Rights Coalition will be following here. Dawn Matkins from Black Lives Matter, L.A. Excuse me. Long Beach, of course. Black Lives Matter, Long Beach. And then Hamid Khan from Stop L.A.P.D. Coalition. So those folks will come up first, and then I'll start to call people. Once Hamid Khan comes up, I'll start giving the names of the other people that I've got on the list so that you can begin to position yourself to come forward and to speak. Okay? Go ahead, Reverend. Please.

Respondent: Thank you for holding this space of reflection and truth telling. I'm the Reverend Mitra Rahnama, the Unitarian Universalist Church in Long Beach. I'm honored, I was asked by community leaders to offer a clergy voice to help shape today. I've been in this conversation about government and police and violence in Long Beach for several years. I have as many of us felt the grief at the loss of life here and across our country. I've attended vigils and rallies about issues that range from officers acting as immigration control, to the death of unarmed youth, to concerns about gun control and various other gatherings. I've attended organizational

meetings and police community forums and watched the videos of our Long Beach Citizen's Complaint Commission and been in conversation directly with our city's law enforcement. I've also personally called upon the police when I needed help and I hope to still be able to do so after today. It's from these places that I offer my thoughts. I've heard three primary narratives from our law enforcement that I think are at the core of the disconnection in human relationship. The first and probably the most painful is this narrative that the problem is about our marketing. It's this narrative that says: well if parents and mothers would just start teaching their kids are the good guys, then we can change the culture and work together. Kids should look up to officers and want to even maybe become an officer and at the very least, don't run, hands up, and do everything an officer says. If we can just teach that, the narrative tells us everything will be okay. It does not address the permanent mark that a death in any town makes on the hearts and minds on all of us across the country. It's this marketing narrative. It's a tool of destruction, from the reality that there are deep gashes in the fabric of our society that exist and go back long before any of us were alive. Those gashes are bleeding, and I believe they must be named again, and again by our public institutions before they even become scars. The second narrative that I've heard in this is a response to people who are trying to reconcile their loss and rage and are asking for transparency. And the police and the complaint commission and over government leaders respond with some version of, we can't talk about it because we can't share personnel records. And I understand very much, in my life, the need to keep private personnel records. And I understand also that in any institution, misconduct happens. I believe that will always be true. But I think the response: we can't tell you about it, to a question about transparency completely misses the point because transparency is sharing the culture of policing with a larger community. What are the expectations to be in right relationship with people of color in this community? And how can we be part of setting those expectations as they reflect—so that they reflect that of the people? And the third narrative I want to offer up is about police rights—the rights and responsibilities of police. This is another narrative we're sort of told about. On two occasions I've heard directly from the Long Beach Police Department, including a public forum and in-person from our chief, that we just have to understand that the police have the right to take a life. This messaging I believe says more about the mindset of our officers and our police department than it does about the law. It's rooted in this belief that the path towards our community's redemption of being good is the tools of force. And more force. And escalating more force. But it's a shallow narrative, because remember, under certain circumstances, we all have the right to take a life. This has happened here, in Long Beach, in many ways. This is a shared right. Therefore, the conversation should not be about a right, rather the circumstances and how we create a system of mutuality rather than dominance. I started a timer and then my phone went off, so I'm going to skip a part. I want to also say real briefly that I witnessed organizations in our city, in meetings and small gatherings; this really new effort to reimagining policing, and security, and communities where all can thrive. It's kind of exciting, reimagining of our collective standards and making them something that people can renew again and again rather than be oppressed by. The answers are not actually there, but that energy of reimagining is there and I do not see our local governments open to that reimagining. I think that might be out of

exhaustion of trying to maintain, I get that too. But this is a different time in our world where we need our local government leaders to be braver and bolder in reimagining policing and protection that we really want. What I know, you asked for ideas, is that if our entire public system including the police choose—make the choice—maybe it could become policy or law, I don't know, that's not my world. But to put those who are marginalized at the center of our thinking and our policies and our social and physical infrastructure then everyone will benefit. Those who are marginalized and experience emotional and physical discrimination every single day, those people, you know, the people of color, people with disabilities. Those who have mental health concerns. The young and the old, lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer folks, transgender folks, immigrants, and non-citizens, economically disenfranchised, Muslims, and people who are perceived to be Muslims. You know who I'm talking about. I believe that's true. When the people on the margins are put at the center of our collective consciousness and when we make policy and do reports and problem solve at every level of our local government, we all will benefit from it. So I hope today we're salvaging the value of dignity for all and I hope you really mean it. May the outcomes of this truth telling session be the beginnings of the demanding tender care and love for each individual and ultimately for all. Thank you for listening, and thank you for honoring me by allowing me to open the session.

Respondent: Can we stay just for a second so that we can ask questions?

**Moderator: Sure, of course. Yes, questions? Anyone have a question? Anybody? Okay. We're good. Alicia Morales. Oh, she's coming. She's coming.**

Respondent: Hello, good morning. My name is Alicia Morales, I am the lead organizer with the Long Beach Immigrant's Rights Coalition. We are a \* organization here in the city of Long Beach that meets to serve the broader immigrant community, but also the undocumented—very specifically the undocumented community. I am also undocumented myself, which is why I have a very strong ties to this organization and to this movement. So I'm here today to speak on behalf of both the immigrant community and myself. Right? Someone who is undocumented, someone who comes from a family who's undocumented, and has experienced maybe a different kind of policing in this country. A lot of in the last few weeks the conversations around policing have changed a lot within our community. Most specifically because of our president-elect, who has made some very disgusting remarks on how he would deport millions and millions of undocumented people. And this has questioned our safety. It has questioned what will lie ahead for us. It questions if we can continue to speak to law enforcement, it questions whether we can trust any kind of law enforcement and it questions if we will even remain with our families for the next few months. And that's something very frightening to think about. In the past, a lot of undocumented folks have had trouble with law enforcement. One, because they're afraid of it. They're afraid of \*, right, they're afraid of not being able to share things completely because of the repercussions that may happen because of their legal status. That fear has heightened even more in the last few weeks because of what's happening at a federal level. And while it's

difficult to influence something that's being impacted at a federal level, there are things that we can do here locally. We've seen L.A. County get rid of the 287G program, which would limit collaboration between jails and ICE and create that barrier between undocumented folks being further detained. Because for us it doesn't just end at arrest, or it doesn't end at prison, a lot of our folks can be in prison for a couple of years and end up in detention centers for a couple of more. So it doesn't just end for us there. We've seen the development of the Trust Act, which created some protection for undocumented folks when it came to low level offenses, and also the way that local law enforcement can work with ICE. Long Beach PD has offered that in a written record but we haven't been able to have a sense of accountability so if they were to break the Trust Act, how would we know? How can we keep them accountable? There's nothing in place for them to do so. And then most recently we've seen the development of things like the Truth Act, which allow local law enforcement that want to get involved with ICE to have some sort of community, accountability, and community have some sort of say in how that's going to be implemented. And so those are just some of the policy things that we've been able to see, right? And we've been able to digest. Also at the county level, we're looking at universal representation, which has a little less to do with law enforcement but allows undocumented immigrants or immigrants in general to have some sort of legal representation after they've been arrested. So that's just some of the policy work that we've seen. But it doesn't take away from the very hostile experiences that our community have experienced. Especially our trans and our queer community who have reported to us several accounts of harassment, not just at detention centers but with PD. And in a time and place where people are really afraid—I mean people were already afraid of law enforcement, they're just, they're breaking down in tears every time I see them. So, I know this is brief. But in the limited scope that I have been able to share, there is a possibility of limiting—and I'm speaking because I don't know what's going to happen in a couple of months and I know this report is going to be shared with local law enforcement. I know L.A.P.D. has adopted Special Order 40, I think that would be something that can be great, adopted here, in Long Beach which can curb law enforcement asking about legal status. Again, the accountability will probably be an issue. So, that's what I'm here to share. I also want to say that in light of what has happened at a federal level and we're trying to figure out what we can do to support the immigrant community, how to protect them, I'm hoping that law enforcement really take that into account the next 3 or 4 months because that's where it's going to be extremely crucial. Thank you.

Respondent: So, I have just a couple of questions. Long Beach...

Respondent: Sure.

Moderator: Are officers asking folks about their immigration status or threatening them with deportation?

Respondent: Not threatening them with deportation, but we have heard cases of assuming their legal status. And this is aside from the case that happened with Sheriff \*. Right? He was the sheriff who was terrorizing undocumented immigrant mothers. But aside from that, we have heard officers who are very disregarding of folks who they assume are undocumented. And kind of can make very blatant statements like you know, you should get your papers fixed. Things like that.

Respondent: Finally, next question is the Trust Act, Long Beach PD. You said you want to make them accountable.

Respondent: Yeah, or start to. It took about a year or two before we were able to get a written statement from them, and that was after an account with advocacy work. And it shouldn't have to come down to that, we shouldn't have to be asking for a written statement of a law that had passed a while ago. And it shouldn't take one to two years. Yes.

Respondent: Okay, thank you.

Respondent: Thank you.

**Moderator: Thank you so much. I've got Dawn Matkins. Oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner? Can you get a mic over here so we can make sure you're on the record?**

Respondent: It's great there's so many people, and for the past 15 students, I want to really ask the law students to raise their hands again.

**Moderator: Okay. And that will be for anybody who has either an individual complaint or recommendation. They're the folks to flag, and once we get a couple of folks together, they'll be able to take you in another room so that you can actually fill out those forms. Okay? Dawn Matkins.**

Respondent: Good morning.

**Moderator: Good morning.**

Respondent: So thank you for having this. I ditto some of the sentiments that Reverend Mitra made about hopes of the outcomes of today, really holding water. And being a true step by our county, Los Angeles County, towards not only drafting up a set of proposed solutions, resolutions, pieces of work that our law enforcement agencies can be doing moving forward but can actually help enforce it. Can actually help to make it happen in whatever realms this commission can suggest to our supervisors and other officials throughout the county. Right? As we know, these incidents of police abuse is not, is not—you know, are not isolated



incidents. I think we're in a time now where everyone is finally acknowledging and recognizing that. And so my name is Dawn Matkins, I'm an organizer generally speaking but I also do work with Black Lives Matter here in Long Beach and supportive of a number of other chapters and so a perspective that I'm going to bring is for and from our families who have been impacted by police killings, the murdering of a number of residents here in Long Beach and I'm going to name them so that it's recorded, the impacts that being complacent as local government has on our entire community. So they're not just killing individuals but the impacts on their families, their immediate loved ones, the impacts on their immediate communities, the financial impacts on our local governments, right, and just the psychological impacts on our broader communities. They're enormous. So let me just start with them. Dante Jordan, who was 39 years old, killed November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013. He had his cell phone in his hand, they said he thought he was armed. He was unarmed. He had a cell phone in his hand. His mother ended up homeless after trying to cope and deal with her son being killed by Long Beach PD. During her court case, police harassed them, intimidated them, threatened them. It pushed her literally away, she moved out of state to Vegas and she was gone for a year. She just recently came back. And I'm going to move on. Tyler Woods, 19 years old. He was killed a few weeks later by Long Beach PD. He looked suspicious, he had a warrant so when police approached him he ran, near Ford Street. He ran towards an apartment building, long story short, because this is a short time, they shot at him over 40 times. I think 39 times and they hit him about 19 or 20 times all in his back. There was video recording that captured the police officers saying, and I quote: "That nigger should not have moved." They—the family sued—this family recently settled their case for about \$3 million that the city had to pay out. Noel Aguilar was another incident. Unarmed. Hector Mortejon, unarmed. He was in an empty apartment. The owner had given him permission to be there. Someone else saw him and called the police. They came and killed him. He had a spray can that they said could have possibly been a gun. His family also just recently settled for about \$3 million dollars. When I say settled, I just—it's, I don't even know if that's the right term. There's no settling for the assault that's happening by law enforcement on our loved ones so I guess just in a legal sense, settled. Nefi Aroguin was killed May 7<sup>th</sup> 2005 by Cerritos sheriff, also unarmed. Vorace Morad, also unarmed. He recently settled. Lionel Gibson, unarmed. Barry Prack, unarmed. Derrick Hunt, just this year. Devon Thomas. Devon Thomas survived. He was also shot in his back twice. He was in ICU for over a month. That was the timer for me? Another fellow who was with him who was shot at numerous times, ran. An officer ran him over in his car, in his SUV truck. Ran to his friend's house. His mom didn't know exactly what was going on in the moment, she let him in. police came down the block with loud announcements and helicopters and said for him to come out. She was like baby, come out. So they later tried to put all kind of criminal charges on him and claim that he even burglarized a random home. The mom had to go and fight and tell truth about what had really happened, that they're neighbors and she let him in. it's the criminalization, the dehumanization that police I'm particularly speaking on Long Beach police that have been committing here for a long time. There's a 3 there. I don't know if that was a timer for me or am I following that? Okay. Okay. And just numerous others, Jose Romero, Morton Hurtado, Marcela Bird, Ron Settles. This was long ago, right? Found

beaten and hung in jail, beaten by Single Hill Police. Ernest Rodriguez and numerous other beatings. Most recently, October. Just this past October another \$3 million dollars was paid out to two gentlemen who were beaten by Long Beach Police. So all of that, right? The impacts on all of them, the fact that our local governments aren't responding, right? And leaving it up to the communities who are hurting, who are in agony, who are in pain, to have to do this work. And the other community, parts of our community who aren't necessarily—it's a touchy issue. Right? Taking a leap for those of us who are doing the work, closely with the families who have been murdered and impacted. But our other general residents, our taxpayers, our entire city is suffering just this year \$13 million dollar paid out in these lawsuits. \$13 million dollars paid out in these lawsuits and then the other impact our city turn around and pushes for local legislation wanting to employ increased taxes wanting to use taxes on marijuana measures A and B, marijuana taxes towards police. \$13 million dollars a year specifically towards police. Another \$48 million dollars around measures A and B, chunks of which are going to the general fund and being applied to police. So in terms of in needs and solutions, I think in the envisioning that Reverenced Mitra mentioned is you know, I think that those dollars could be far more better used to address the actual needs and challenges. Our houseless community, you know, our young folks in terms of resources and activities and et cetera. Like we all know what those needs are but the movement around our local government to actually prioritize those needs is what is not happening so I'll stop there. There you go.

Respondent: The majority of these killings, Long Beach PD? Any other agencies involved?

Respondent: Of the ones that I mentioned?

Respondent: Yes.

Respondent: This is all Long Beach except for one. Nefi Aroguin who was killed by Cerrito sheriff last year.

Respondent: Okay, and after any of these killings, were any law enforcement officers prosecuted? Were they disciplined?

Respondent: Let me just say no.

Respondent: No, none of these officers who have been in police killings, in murdering Lionel Gibson, Dante Jordan, Tyler Woods, have been prosecuted at all but it's possible that one or two of them in different cases may have been forced to retire early. Right? Or might have to have had some other minor short-term form of discipline but not prosecuted, not terminated, and allowed to stay on the street and kill again and have a local citizen's police complaint commission who is uninformed, un-resourced—not even under-resourced—and not allowed to do the job that that commission was set in place to do. That commission was put in place right after Marcela

Bird was killed over I don't know, 15, 20 years ago. Specifically to instill some accountability on police around her murder and other murders that were happening around that time and they're not being allowed to do their job to this day and so it's community who are having to attend and press our local police, citizen's police complaint commission for them to enforce that kind of accountability. It isn't happening, folks. There's a sense of helplessness that is I think exasperating because of this lack of effort amongst our local government.

Respondent: Thank you for that, I want to ask a couple of questions. One, I just want to, \* you stated was 2005, but it was 2015.

Respondent: 15, yes. 2015.

Respondent: Okay, great. Here's what I'm hearing from you, and I'd like you to add or correct or whatever needs to be done so what I'm hearing is that there's a financial impact on cities with these settlements, right? I'm also hearing that there's a financial impact on communities and the individual families who experiences these losses and those financial impacts are kind of tied to the mental and emotional tolls that these killings have been having as well as the work. So I'm hearing the example that you gave with Dante Jordan's mother. The work that has to be done to advocate for justice for her son also kind of creates both mental and emotional—there's a mental and emotional toll to doing that work because and I think you very eloquently stated that she's in this state of grief and having to do the work but then there's also some financial toll that comes along with that. and then the last thing I heard was a diminishing of resources for community programs because there is—cities are pushing for more resources for police rather than...

Respondent: That's right.

Respondent: So can you elaborate a little bit, especially on that last point and then I have two more quick questions for you.

Respondent: Sure. On the...

Respondent: Specifically where would you want those dollars reallocated? As you already were talking about reimagining public safety, how would you like to shift things?

Respondent: Right. One example of an area where I think those dollars could be better spent. I think about our schools where we used to have school counselors, regular school counselors. There were several counselors, for each grade even. Whose job it was to support and engage with and understand all the challenges that our children deal with in our schools, right, so we can help to address and learn and prevent them from having to encounter greater challenges as they grow older and outside of school. We don't have that anymore. I think priorities have shifted from prevention and really getting at what our youth challenges are from that to criminalizing

them. right? And jailing them. and so I think one place is to restore kind of, you know, divest if you will these funds that have been given to local police and the militarization of these police forces and share of forces and shift them back to our school counseling. Right? Our school psychologists. Community psychologists. Community counseling. Right? I think if some police officers have this desire to really want to help community I think there are other ways that those resources can be spent in our community to allow people to truly help our communities so community counseling and school counseling are two areas. I think—I don't want to say restorative justice but there's another term. It's not coming to me. Someone familiar? Transformative justice. I think is another area that our organizations who are doing the work directly with our communities who are most impacted by state violence, sanctioned violence, those resources I think should go to those organizations to be able to provide addressing those challenges rather than jailing and killing people.

Respondent: And then just two more quick questions. I know we're in Long Beach but this is the District 4 hearing which would also include some of the other south based cities and I think we've all heard about the killing of Michelle Shirley in Torrance and I really appreciate that you said the names of the folks who've been killed in Long Beach. I'm wondering because I don't think we'll have another opportunity if you know anything about that case and if there is something you can speak about that case.

Respondent: So, you know, it's hard to engage with every single family and murder that has been committed by the various police departments. In Inglewood, in Torrance, in L.A., in Compton, in Cerritos, here in Long Beach, and those are just the ones that I work closely with. I have to say I don't know as many details on Shirley's case but I will mention someone who I hadn't mentioned a moment ago and it's relevant to the militarization of our police forces which was Donnell Bo Peep Thompson who was 27 years old. He was just killed this past June 28<sup>th</sup> I believe it was. Don't quote me on the date. But his—though he was 27 his family referred to him as kind of being mentally 17ish. 17, 18 years old. Quiet kid, reserved. Quiet guy. Reserved. Small in stature of maybe 5 feet, 4'11". About 140 pounds or so. And he was known to be a walker. The neighbors in his Compton community knew of him to be a walker. He would walk at night. And everyone knew him. I remember after he was killed the community gathered and they all—some neighbors who didn't even know each other all said the same thing about him offering help to take out the trash, to mow the lawn, to do little services around the house, around their home, and all he ever asked for was food. So they compared like how generous he was and how humble he was and never really asking for anything in return and this night that he was killed, some hours before they killed him there was some other incident that was happening over a mile away where supposedly they were chasing someone who had supposedly stolen a car and so in that process, moments after that other incident, they saw Bo Peep. And it isn't clear how they got word of him, maybe helicopter, possibly a phone call. It's unclear. But they traveled to where Bo Peep was and when there were witnesses who said Bo Peer immediately laid down when he heard the sirens and he was laying down still. He was—his body was still. He seemed

frightened and again his demeanor and his character was one of fear and just reservation, he was really quiet, he didn't open up to a lot of people. And he laid in a driveway on his stomach just afraid and didn't move and commands were made but being who he was, he just didn't move. He was afraid. And they riddled him with the bags---the pellets. Bean bag pellets. The supposed lesser lethal form of ammunition and he moments, maybe 15 or so minutes later, he finally just got up and proceeded to walk. There were military tanks. There's another term that they use, but they're military tanks that were on that block. And the officer who shot him was the officer that was on top, coming out of the top of that military tank and shot him as he stood and took a few steps. Why are there tanks in our neighborhoods? Right? Why is our money being spent that way? And why are they unnecessarily killing unarmed people? So, sorry, I couldn't give you Shirley but when you asked about other departments, that's another one that speaks to the militarization of our departments and where they're trying to spend resources that could be better used in our communities.

Respondent: Thank you, I think it's really important that the stories are on record so thank you for that. last question which is pretty quick, you mentioned the Long Beach police commission which is you said it's under-resourced, or there's no resources for it. Does it meet and does it have any power even though it doesn't have any resources?

Respondent: So the CPCC, Citizens Police Complaint Commission as I mentioned was established right after the police killing of Ms. Bird, Marcela Bird. And I think residents of Long Beach who even know it exists, many people don't know that it has no power. This commission was set up to create a front of accountability. People do not attend them. Most people don't know that it exists and recently we went—a number of us went to a meeting where there was no one but us, I think one other person. And they were learning about how police handles officer involved shootings and they were—this was the first time that they were hearing about what those procedures and processes are. So we have an understanding from folks who work closely with them that they don't know what they're doing. That they're often having to ask for information from the police. There's one person who has authority to decide which complaints get heard. You file a complaint with this commission. It goes to this one person and they pick and choose what will go forward to the commission. And even when it goes to the commission, they ask the commission to—they suggest to the commission how to respond to those complaints and I don't know, I can't give you an accurate percentage but probably close to 95% of them, they're just, the outcomes of their views are of no merit.

Respondent: Is the person that you're talking about a staff person, a police person? When you say who decides on who gets the complaint?

Respondent: So her name is Anetra Dempsey, and she is a staff person for the city and she works for Mayor Garcia and works directly with him. She is assigned to also kind of coordinate with police internal affairs. Which seems to me like there might be a little bit of conflict of

interest there because if you're working for them how are you ensuring that the commission is able to do their job to really look at the complaints around the murders, the assaults, the beatings, the threats, the intimidation that Long Beach Police is so known for. And so she, that position I won't just say \* but that position is set up in such a way that it is to drive how they're able to operate so they're often having to ask for more information. They're often having to ask for details about the cases, they would like to be able to make their own decisions rather than go with the suggestions that are coming from an individual and possibly from the police themselves. Right? So it's not working. And I think we're finding around the country these commissions that the ones who are fortunate to at least have one or some, they're not working. Right? So yeah. did that help?

Respondent: Thank you.

Respondent: I have a quick question.

**Moderator: Go ahead.**

Respondent: I thank you for sharing and I think you clearly established the pattern of these tragic incidents. For the first victim that you shared, you said that during the court case the police department threatened and harassed the victim's family. I was wondering if you could elaborate on that, please. Because I find that very interesting that was done when the court case was being reviewed and deliberated.

Respondent: Dante Jordan has two sisters and his mother and his other family members and they were all active in their proceedings, and his daughter's mother as well. And they found they were being pulled over all of a sudden for random reasons that made no sense. They would get random visits at their home questioning them about the incident. They felt that when some of those folks who would come to their home posing at media representatives for example, they felt like it was the police themselves who would include in their statements to them things like you know, you just shouldn't come back to court or maybe you shouldn't go back to court or making suggestions to deter them from engaging further in their effort to hold police accountable. So that's what gave them reasons to believe that, who are you really? And so it made them fearful. Yep.

**Moderator: Thank you so much. Hamid? Hamid Khan? There we go.**

## **Part 2**

**Moderator: And as Hamif is coming up I've got Joanna Diaz, Ginette Lizarro. So you 2 will be the next ones coming up after Hamif.**

Respondent: Good morning commissioners thank you very much. My name is Hamif Kahn. I am with a group called the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition which basically is a community-based organization that looks at the expansion of counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency tactic that are increasingly being incarcerated into domestic policing. Before is tart my comment is think it would be helpful for us to ground ourselves in some of the facts. In 2015 law enforcement in the United States killed every 7 hours and 51 minutes. 1,146 people were murdered by the police in the United States. Which comes to every 7 hours and 51 minutes someone was killed by cops. This year, we're already at about 7 hours and 58 minutes. Every 7 hours, so today 3 people or more will be killed in the United States. So that's—so these are the facts that we are facing. Since 2011 in Los Angeles County or all across the United States over the last 5 years, 3 LAPD has lead the nation in killing the most people. They killed 21 last year, they've already killed 19 and they're leading the country. If it wasn't the LAPD it was the LA sheriff's department that was leading the country. 3<sup>rd</sup> fact I think it's necessary for us to remember is that since the year 2000, in the last 16 years in 6 southern California counties there've not been a single conviction of a police officer. There was 1 indictment in Riverside County and that indictment was dropped as well and there was no conviction. So these are just the grounding facts. We're told that innocent until proven until guilty and due process are the bedrocks of the legal systems in the United States. But I think these, these remain a figment of imagination for many communities. These remain theories for many communities as well. Because when it comes to people of color—particularly the black community, undocumented immigrants and various other communities these practices are set aside. We've had the art on drugs, we've had the war on gangs, we've head the war on crime and we've seen the deviating impact on communities. Mass incarceration, mass displacement and billions and billions of dollars lost in, in resources which could have been spent of what public safety really means. More schools, more community centers, more health centers. But now over the last 16 years we've seen the war on terror unleashed on our communities. And what I passed to you was and to the audience was this chart—this circle that we have mapped out which looks at the Los Angeles police department but is being replicated by every other police department that this is the architectural surveillance information gathering and tracking of people. What we have is increasingly since the year 2011 that law enforcement agencies around the country with Southern California law enforcement agencies particularly the sheriff's department and Los Angeles police department and Long Beach and Santa Monica police department and Torrance police department and I can go on and on using these tactics which grants them immense amount of immunity, which grants them immense amounts of secrecy and basically a license to actually profile and a license to kill. If we look at these things, we hear about things like predictive policing. Now what is Predictive policing? All of a sudden we're being told that predicting policing is a technological-based solution, a market-based solution because computes don't racially profile. But predictive policing is based upon previous and historic crime data. So if the historic crime data is built on—is based upon racist policing. So what you're gonna have is racist outcomes of that as well. In Los Angeles we have these fancy named programs like the Los Angeles Strategic Extraction and Restoration Program. LASER Program. Where they identify people, people who may not

have committed any crime they may be on probation, they may be out there but they are put into these databases, and then they are tracked by license plate readers, they are tracked by closed circuit televisions, they are tracked by cell phone catchers and they are tracked by various other means. We are seeing programs like the Suspicious Activity Reporting Program. Where individuals are being put into these databases—I'll give you a couple examples. For the sheriff's department it's called Tips and Lead that a group of college students—an art student go out on a field trip on a photography trip. They get stopped, they get harassed. Their information is uploaded into these databases which go to fusion centers and the FBI gets to keep these files for 30 years and then their names are put in joint terrorism taskforces. Just for the mere act of taking a photograph. We're seeing audits being done on these programs in Los Angeles, where the city of Los Angeles has less than 10% black population but in these counterterrorism files, an inspector general's own audit showed that over 30% of these files identified individuals as black. That's a 3 to 1 impact on the black community. And where they had identified gender, 50% of these files were opened on black women. So in essence what we are happening is this convergence of these policies and tactics and programs that need to be dismantled. Here I'm going to give you some recommendations from the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition which is not just come out of one. It's a coalition that involves several organizations, Youth Justice Coalition, Los Angeles Community Action Network, Black Lives Matter, Innerfaith Communities United in Peace and Justice, national Lawyers Guild. And the 1<sup>st</sup> recommendation is that there has to be a thorough investigation and scrutiny of these programs and tactics. We can't explain that in 5 minutes. It is not possible.

#2. There has to be an immediate stop and a moratorium placed on these tactic and programs and an investigation has to be done where this body or other bodies need to have the power to investigation these files to see if people's human rights and civil rights have been violated. The cities are paying millions of dollars to families whose loved ones that have been murdered. The cities and the county has to take the same thing—that reparations have to be paid to people who's civil and human rights have been violated. Until that happens we're gonna continue in the circular motion.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> recommendation we have is that there has to be an immediate rejection of any new surveillance or any new program that the sheriff's department or any of the police department in the Los Angeles County wants to incorporate. And lastly, I would suggest very strongly and recommend to you—and I'll go back to it—that what we are seeing is this convergence of counterterrorism programs, of counterinsurgency programs;. Which are also giving a license to profile and a license to kill as well. You may have seen these billboards which say “see something say something.” See something say leads to do something. We saw what happened with Trayvon Martin. We say when George Zimmerman called 911 and said I see somebody suspicious in my neighborhood. So what we are seeing is that not only law enforcement agencies are invading our privacy, not only are they engaging in racial profiling, not only it's a waste of resources, not only is this police not evidence-based but there's a license to profile and kill that is being given to private individuals as well. Because see something say something promotes community involvement. It promotes communities to report suspicious behavior. So I will



stop there and see if you have any questions and will be happy to follow up at a later time as well.

**Moderator: So thank you for that. There was—you gave us some data on the number of indictments. And I think you said 6 counties.**

Respondent: 6 southern California.

**Moderator: Do you know how—because the L.A County Human Relations Commission. Do you know how many indictments in L.A County specifically?**

Respondent: Not to my knowledge.

**Moderator: Thank you.**

**Moderator: So when you say reparations must be paid and you referred to the settlements of various lawsuits received as result of police killings. You're talking about reparations for folks who've been victims of law enforcement surveillance?**

Respondent: Yes, commissioners. That's what I'm speaking about. Because I think what happens is that as we are hearing these stories we have to remind ourselves that these are real lives lost. But in the system they become a number. So we have to get beyond the statistical analysis and start looking at lives and there has to be a concerted effort to open these files, to investigate these files, to set up a commission, which is comprised of communities and civil right attorneys and human rights attorneys who look to see that if people's rights have been violated. Otherwise what we are looking at, this national security police state that is functioning with complete immunity and in complete secrecy.

**Moderator: And you want people out of the databases, right?**

Respondent: We want absolutely people to be struck out of these databases and these databases has to be expunged and these programs have to be dismantled. We cannot reform something that is based on speculation and hunch-based because it's gonna continue to be based on speculation and hunch-based.

**Moderator: Is there a name of individuals to find out if they're in this database?**

Respondent: They do not, commissioner. I mean for example the Suspicious Activity Reporting program is so draconian the Tips and Leads Program that the sheriff's department uses that we can request our file from the FBI. But we, as an individual cannot—we don't even know that we are going into these secret files. And the way they have also created more barriers

and this is all happening under the guise of national security as well. That we have to file a lawsuit, well if you don't know that you're in the secret files, how are eye going to file a lawsuit? So we have been kind of going. So I think that's another way that this commission can get the Los Angeles County to educate the communities on what these programs are and what their rights could be.

**Moderator:** So it's the sheriff that are holding these?

Respondent: It's the sheriff's department, it's the Los Angeles Police Department, it's a combination of all local law enforcement agencies, transit police, campus police, tribal police. So this is an mega, a huge apparatus that is in play. And lastly I would I say is that the sheriffs that deal direct with are the fusion centers. These are the warehouses of information gathering. These are the spy centers. There are about 85 fusion centers around the country. One of the biggest one is in Norwalk in east Los Angeles County. The sheriff staffs that, the sheriff controls that and the sheriff is directly responsible—and a lot of our money is going into it. About 80% of the budget is paid by local municipalities and counties and states. So what we are asking for you is to be very clear about it that these fusion centers need to be defunded.

**Moderator:** Thank you.

**Moderator:** Thank you so much.

Respondent: Thank you. Thanks for the opportunity.

**Moderator:** Oh, absolutely. Always helpful. Joanna Diaz, Ginette Lizarro. As you can see we now have some seats up there so you can start moving in that direction. Camela Holmes. Just as a reminder folks if you do want to speak c other folks have come in you do nee dot fill out this form so we can get a sense of the order. We are gonna try as we now start having folks who have not been in our anchor groups to keep at our 3 minutes. We're filling up. We want to make sure that everyone can have an opportunity. We will have more time for folks if there is translation involved. I do want you to know that but other than that we are trying to stick with our 3 minutes. Everybody can come in and we'll come background if we have the time.

Respondent: Thank you very much. So I actually wanted to hand it over to Ginette first if that's okay so that she can go a little bit into her case.

**Moderator:** Are you Joanna?

Respondent: I am Joanna and Ginette will go ahead and start first.

Respondent: Good morning, my name is Ginette Lizarro. I live in Long Beach California. I would I'd like to talk a little bit about my experience with racial profiling. And so I had been a victim of racial profiling in an incident that happened in 2012. It was a sheriff from Los Angeles who made appoint of taking people's cars away. This affected me very much directly. I am an undocumented mother. I have 4 citizen children who were born here and what makes me angry is that they were taking our cars away for no reason. And so that sheriff, he would target Latino women and take their cars away who all they were doing was going to pick up our children at school. I was picking up my child at school at day. I had never committed any kind of felony. I've never done anything. All I do work and I want to be in this country and do the right thing. And so this is a hard thing to remember, but you, who are able to talk to the sheriffs can do so. It's a really ugly experience to remember. And it's been 4 years ago but I still haven't been able to get over it because my children remember when that law enforcement person abused us. And there was no reason to have taken our car away. It was only that he saw that we were Latinos and it had a great impact on us. I wasn't able to get my car back because it was so much money that was being asked for it. And I want to say that on the very first day that our people were able to get our licenses I went and I got my license on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 because I want to live in this country and do things the right way. And what else can I say? I am a victim of racial profiling on the part of the Long Beach police department.

Respondent: It was the Los Angeles sheriff's department. Just to clarify. So thank you very much, commissioners for being here and our guests as well. My name is Joanna Diaz and I, along with several of our other community members began organizing around this particular sheriff's deputy named Deputy Veylupek out of the Los Angeles sheriff's department.

**Moderator: Say his name again.**

Respondent: Deputy Veylupek. And so we initially began working on this issue because we started working with a large number of parents—mothers in particular like Ginette herself in this community who had very similar experiences with this same exact sheriff's deputy. Just some brief background, he would stake out literally in front of a local elementary school where we knew and he had learned over time that there was a large number of undocumented parents who attended that school and who would be driving their children. He knew when the schedules were, when they were going in and when they were coming out. And when that school was shut down and relocated to be rebuilt, the followed them to the new location. This particular deputy was assigned to be watching over the blue line which was almost 2 miles away from where he was staking out at the time. So there's a huge number of concerned—also going in line in what with Ms. Ginette shared, but also in line with that sit that through this work we were able to work very thankfully with the National Lawyers guild to compile a report. And in that report it contained numerous testimonies from these communities' members that we were able to collect through different community forums that we held specifically for this, right? And so, from there, I just want to share very briefly a few examples. There was one mother who was striving to

apply for DACA, right? The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and she was unfortunately stopped by this particular deputy and harassed tremendously by him. And he eventually basically threatened, essentially threatened her and said you know, that there's no point in her pursuing her DACA because he could ruin that—all of that and he could get her deported. And so that was one example, another example that there was a family together in the car, and he looked over and was laughing and looking at the children and say children, isn't it funny when I'm taking your parent's car away? It's funny. It's like why don't they learn English? He's like they need to go back to their country. So that was another example. So as that, and as Ginette also touched on is that there's a tremendous amount of trauma in our community as a result of this individual and his behavior. Children—there was 1 child in particular at one of the community events who had a nervous breakdown and literally ran out for the room crying because she could not be in the same room as a police officer in one of the community forums that we were collecting testimony. So what she instead did was write a letter to the police and expressed why she was so afraid. In line with this, right, there's a lot of connections to immigration. This particular deputy understood that very deeply and he used that to his advantage to torment our community here. Literally there was an unofficial system within the community members to contact each other and inform each other when he was out on the streets out of fear, when we had a meeting with at the time, who was sheriff Baca. This deputy learned about when that meeting was going to happen. We were having it at a church and he made it a point to arrive early and sit outside on his motor cycle and shine his motor cycle in the parking lot of a church as the parents and the families were coming into that workshop. So that's a major concern that we've had, right? In the end he was reprimanded and he proceeded to do donuts on his motor cycle in a church parking lot in the afternoon. So this is the type of mentality of this particular individual and lack of level of maturity, right? And ability to handle these situations in a productive manner. So this leads me to speak a little bit more, right? About some of our very specific concerns that have arisen from this case. Overall obviously there's a lack of transparency in this process. There were a number of complaints that were inputted and were disregarded. And it wasn't until we continued to organize and have the report and made a very conscious effort that we were able to continue. From there there was no legitimacy to be able to hold the departments accountable, right? We would file these reports and there was no accountability. So there was no follow-up. There's limitations in terms of the officer's bill of rights that are presented that were a major concern for us. Because out of fear and concern we were not able to know where this gentleman was finally removed from Long Beach and where he was sent. It was by chance that we discovered that he was sent to another predominately Latino area which is a huge concern. Once we realized that and we pushed to have him removed off of the streets, it was another chance encounter that we realized that he was actually placed in the office of the department that holds and handles the towing and impounding. There was a suspicious relationship with him and the tow yard. That he would literally have the tow truck waiting already where they knew he was gonna be staking out. So they were already there when he was pulling people over. So some of the ways—and again connections to immigration is a major concern that level of harassment. Obviously the sheriff's department isn't the only one that we're concerned about. We've had 7 different deportation

cases from both the sheriff's department and the Long Beach police department. 2 of which were Trust Act violations which is very concerning. 1 that was a CSULB police officer and so that particular case, he was unfortunately considered a priority, a priority deportation case. So that also uplifts a the need for a change in the discourse and the way that we address our issues and concerns within immigration is that we really need to work away from having that police and ICE collaboration. Because the level of fear and trauma that comes connected with that really affects public safety as a whole. People will refuse to report crimes. Even domestic violence crimes, simple petty thefts that are occurring in their community. So it definitely increases the risks within our community. And so that is a huge issue where we really need to move away from the good immigrant, bad immigrant narrative and support our communities as a whole. We really need to improve accountability measures and have a form of independent review board that's not answerable directly to the law enforcement agency in question. Someone who is not funded by or supported by or a part of, connected to in any way because for us it is completely illogical to have someone supposedly try to hold each other accountable when we know already that that's not gonna happen. As was the example in this particular case. One of the things that we would love to be able to recommend is to have a form of updated trainings and especially now with the elections as one of my colleagues mentioned earlier, there is an extreme amount of uncertainty and fear that is a result of this election. And we need to make sure that police officers and deputies, sheriff's deputies are effectively trained themselves, are very knowledgeable about what the laws actually are including the Trust Act and actually do trainings to the community as a form of reaffirming that knowledge and understand. Thank you. I appreciate your time.

**Moderator:** Pleas if you've got that list in writing submit it to us. Because I know that you're part of an organization that would really be helpful. It's great to have the personal experience. Thank you so much. Gracious for testifying today. And your list of recommendations if we can get that in writing—thank you.

Respondent: Thank you.

**Moderator:** Just a quick comment on that incident that the Lawyers Guild worked on, the travesty in this whole process with this sheriff's deputy was that the punishment he received was simply moving him off the Metro line when he wasn't even working on the line. And moving him to another office where he could answer phone calls bout inquiries about how did my car get impounded or tows. So that was his discipline?

Respondent: Right. Thank you.

**Moderator:** Camela Holmes. And after her Michelle Infante and Rachel Smith. We're gonna try to keep it to the 3 minutes. I want to makes rue everybody gets a chance to put their testimony on the record. Go ahead Mrs. Holmes.

Respondent: My name is Camela Holmes. I live in South Rigley. It's a neighborhood of primarily people of color. The other day something happened, I was leaving my home and I didn't know what had happened. Later I found out there was a burglary at one of the close by businesses. But what troubled me was the police response was what I would consider basically an occupation of several blocks in my neighborhood. The thing is I've never personally heard of that kind of thing happening in any of my friends you know, white neighborhoods. But and I know there's crimes there, there's drugs there. But not this occupation that happens in neighborhoods of color. Frequently in my neighborhood I'll see multiple police cars driving around and they don't appear like they're, you know, in a hurry to go anywhere. They're not on a call. Just kind of, you know, cursing around and driving around and. This also—I also don't see this in non-neighborhoods of color. And it makes me feel like they're looking for somebody to stop and arrest. And it doesn't make me feel safer in my neighborhood. In contrast, a while ago, a man ended up on my block and he was very severely injured and so we did call 911 for the ambulance and for the police and had to actually call several times because they took so long to get there. And we found out that the police had actually delayed the ambulance in coming because they were—I don't know what—securing the area or whatever. So this man was severely injured and it took him a long time because the police delayed that. And on another note, I was involved with the effort to help pass Proposition 47 and subsequently in an effort to create a clinic to help with the reclassification. Since prop 47 passed there's been this kind of false narrative with the police and other city officials that because of prop 47 the crime rate has increased and this is what they're pedaling in our communities that come to the—I heard 1 officer at the—our neighborhood association meeting. And from my vantage point the only thing that does serve to do is kind of create this distrust between the community, between members of the community, distrust and fear of each other. So it allows them to criminalize one-half of the community and while the other half of the community kind of goes along with it and perpetuates that. That's not okay and I don't think it bodes well for relations between police and the community.

**Moderator: Do you have any recommendations?**

Respondent: Well I guess my opinion I guess the criminalization of people of color, neighborhoods of color and the idea that you know, I've been to town hall meetings where the Long Beach, the police chief has basically—it's a blame the victim attitude. Like it was said before, the problem is basically that you're not doing exactly what the police says, ignoring that you do have rights to ask questions. Cause he said you know, if you feel you're being stopped unreasonably don't question the police, basically. Just go on with it and then alter you can come back. If you need to file a complaint or something.

**Moderator: thank you so much. Michelle Infante. After her I've got Rachel Smith, Ana Garrenger. If you can start moving to those chairs back there, and then Shantel Prado.**

Respondent: Good morning. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be here. My name is Michelle Infante and I am an administrator for Dignity and Power Now. I'm also the lead campaign for the civilian oversight. We help pass civilian oversight for the L.A. sheriff's department. In 2011 I was in CRDF California Regional Detention Facility. And while I was inside there was sexually abused by staff and sheriff's department so please forgive me for the language I'm about to use but there's on way to fluff up what happened while I was inside. I injured myself and I was taken upstairs to the medical staff and while I was up there, staff came out with his pants around his ankles and he was jacking off in front of me. And when I complained about it, they cut me loose at 2:30 in the morning by myself with no shoes. All my money and everything was outside and I was let go at like, 3:00 in the morning out in the dark in a really bad area. So fast-forward to February of this year, 2016 through August I met a girl. She came to our office and she explained to me that while inside and incarcerated in there that there's still sexual abuse going on, there's medical negligence going on. She was given the wrong medication that could've killed her. And when she filed a complaint, the complaint went to the department and they came back and brought the nurse out and the nurse stated that it wasn't—she didn't do it. And it never went any further than that. While she was in there she saw officers pit girls against each other's, encourage girls to go ahead and commit suicide. the process—I've discussed this before, by which you enter the facility is in a huge garage, where you come in and your hands are really filthy and you have to touch your vagina lips and then you have to put your hands in your bottom and then you have to stick them in your mouth in order to make sure there's no contraband there. For me, it was a dehumanizing experience. It violated my human rights and civil rights. And to quickly state, one of the things that I could change and that needs to change is that it starts from the very beginning when there's recruitment. They're hiring people that don't have the mental capacity and it starts right there. Because I've been there with Marc Anthony Johnson who is a wellness director of Dignity and Power Now. We've watched the recruitment. It starts there. They encourage, they perpetuate behavior that's unbelievable and it's acceptable to the department. One of the things that the department can do is they can get what's called—if I may—it's called an MMPI. It's called the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory. It is a psychological test that assesses personality traits and psychopathology. It's primarily intended to test people who are suspected of having mental health or other clinical issues. Mental health issues are very apparent with the people that L.A. County sheriff's department is hiring. I'd like to acknowledge Reginald Thomas he was murdered by Pacinian Police Department and L.A. County sheriffs. He was tased multiple times and died. He was a father of 8 and left a family. And now his family, for many, many years to come like myself and many other people are tortured with PTSD and left without a loved one. It affects people forever. Thank you.

**Moderator: Thank you so much.**

**Moderator: I have a question. Just quickly, your own experience when you said you were released at 3 AM with no shoes. What year was that?**

Respondent: That happened in 2011. I was in from May until November.

**Moderator: Okay, so it was before Mitrice Richardson's law was passed?**

Respondent: If, I'm not familiar with that but if it was between—after November of 2011 yes, mam.

**Moderator: Okay, thank you.**

Respondent: Thank you.

Respondent: Good morning. My name is Rachel Smith. I'm an organizer with Unite Here Local 11 which represents thousands of hotel and restaurant workers throughout southern California. I would like to thank everyone that has shared and has spoken before me. I'm going to speak about the behavior of Long Beach police department in a slightly different arena. As an organizer I work with working men and women. Mostly people of color in order to improve their working conditions and provide better livelihoods for themselves and their families by forming a union in their workplaces. Currently my work focuses on multiple hotels in downtown Long Beach. I lead workers in protected activities such as picketing outside the hotel, chanting and leafleting. These are protected activities under the First Amendment. But it doesn't seem like any of the Long Beach police officers that we've had experience with have this opinion. And on multiple occasions, Long Beach police officers have showed up to our peaceful protests with 4-5-6-7 patrol cars and upwards of 5 to 10 officers for about 5 people in a protest. Immigrant men and women at these picket lines are already afraid. They're already standing up to their managers by being outside of their hotels and when the police officers show up this way, start recording them and intimidating us and trying to get us to stop doing these actions it only heightens their fear. They've recorded us like I've said, they've issued us warnings and citations. I, myself was given multiple citations just for being outside and speaking on these picket lines. At the same time they've done very little to protect us from hostile residents that have threatened us while we've been outside these hotels. 2 of my coworkers and a worker from one of the hotels were physically assaulted and it took them upwards of 45 minutes to an hour and a half to even respond to one of our calls. Myself, I had an incident with a guest and the police officer just tried to convince me not to fill out a private persons arrest form. He said it wouldn't do anything. It would probably get dropped. It's clear that we're not breaking the law and there have been times when these patrol cars that have just come out and just stood and watched us for over an hour. I feel that this type of behavior is excessive and police resources that have been allocated to deal with these peaceful, lawful protests can be better used somewhere else in our communities to actually ensure safety. And I'm really curious why these resources are being used in that way where they will have multiple officers just standing around watching us. And also someone across the street just recording us. Thank you.



**Moderator:** Thank you.

**Moderator:** I have a quick question. What were the citations for being outside and speaking on a picket line? What was the charge?

Respondent: It was a 415.

**Moderator:** 415? Disturbing the peace?

Respondent: Yeah.

**Moderator:** Thanks.

**Moderator:** I've got Anna Garenger, Shantel Prado and then Michael Salwaser. If you can begin to go in those chairs so it's kind of set up.

Respondent: My name is Anna Garenger. I'm a transgender. Most of my friends in the Trans community are people of color and they don't even feel safe coming to a place like this. I can tell you that I am intimidated coming to a place like this. I'm gonna tell you a story and I hope that beeper can just can just hold it a second. Because it's gonna take longer than those 2 minutes. I was homeless. I lost everything and I decided I was gonna transition before I killed myself. I was out apartment hurting, I had gotten help, I had gotten a slip of paper that said I could could—it would help me with an apartment. Getting a property manager to accept it was a different thing. I finally worked with a property manager and I showed up at this apartment building. And I'm looking into this vacant apartment and it's kind of cute and it's got to little grass spot kind of all to its own and that's really rare in these kind of apartments. And I fell in love with it. And from behind me I heard this voice say you're not living here. And I'm brand new to transition—I'm just scared—anyway. Okay, and is tart to turn to walk out of the complex. It's a small little place. And he runs out and starts calling me a half man, half woman and get out of here. And I scooted right out of there and he followed me out onto public property out onto the sidewalk. And I said let me stay here and talk to this property manager, please. Just let me—I go I don't want to live here obviously but let me not lose this. And he just kept on calling me a half man half woman which is an interesting slur. Anyway, he didn't stop until he assaulted me. He—I wouldn't leave. In retrospect I wish I had just left. I was desperate for a place of shelter. When the police came he took one look at me he said you, go stand over there and said to the person that assaulted me you, come here, tell me what happened, bro. There was another officer—I would like to call the good cop, except for that—this I think proves the point that there really probably aren't, cause she heard me, she listened to me and she knew I was telling the truth. He was over talking to him and then this officer comes over to me and says get out of here before I arrest you. And I said but—he goes you don't belong here. I said yes I do. I have the property manager's number.

I can prove it right here with my cell phone. And long story short, she knew I was telling the truth. She absolutely knew it. I walked away having been hit about 10 times with a broomstick handle that big. Crushed, feeling like okay, I have on safety and no place to live. And is aw her talk to this cop—this female cop talk to this other cop and say—even stick up for me a little bit. And at first that felt like something. And then I go but if that's what a good cop does is protects the ego and the disrespect of human people on that level then there's no such good thing as a good cop. Until they all start standing up and saying this is not acceptable. If I know I can get away with anything in front of me, the person in front of me is gonna protect them. I don't like to get away with stuff anymore. The point is is there's no accountability when your peers are not making you accountable and. And they don't do that and we know that that is the problem. And until we truly get some sort of accountability we do need a total restructuring. And there's no such thing as a blue life. You can take off your uniform. You can choose another occupation. There are black lives and they're in jeopardy. And why the hell when I say black lives matter is the response all lives matter? If I say save the rain forest you don't say save all forests. If I say liberate Trans people you don't say well liberate everybody. No. Black lives matter. Everybody lives matters. Equality has to happen. If we can't feel safe—if most of you probably know what it is to have a home and feel safe. But the people that don't can't even call the cops.

**Moderator: Can we just quickly have the name of the police department? Was that Long Beach PD?**

Respondent: I've had 3 different incidents with Long Beach PD.

**Moderator: And when was the incident?**

Respondent: that would've been early October of 2014.

**Moderator: And then finally, so as a result of the adult, no law enforcement officer took a police report? No report was taken?**

Respondent: He wouldn't listen to my story.

**Moderator: And you were the one with the bruises? Okay, thank you.**

**Moderator: Thank you so much for coming forward. Shantel Prado.**

Respondent: So I'm Shantel. I'm here from YJC and I just want to give you a little update on what we're doing. So currently we are reading reports on the DA's finding of the DA and their investigations on police acorns. Specifically involving shootings. A lot of the reports that we have been reading are from 2009 to 2015. And currently we're in the process of tabulating this data. So far what we've found is that the reports have similar paragraphs but seem to be

copied and pasted within several different reports. Meaning that they are not taking the time to actually dot he reports themselves. So they're not really reporting the data or the incidents accurately and a lot of this information you know, it does deal with police brutality. So they're just glazing over the loss of life when they do this. 40% of the incidents involved are people who are under the influence or have mental health issues. Of which almost none of those cases has there been called any mental health expert or issues like that. A lot of the reasons why they don't maybe call them is because we've also been finding that within those reports that police violence does happen within the first few moments of the incident. So they don't even get a chance to actually assess the situation correctly before they start using force. And this is the loss of human life. Within the next few moments that the police is called, reports often claim that it is victim—it's a lot of victim blaming based on like suicide. They often ask are you suicidal, are you suicidal? One of the cases that I saw, it was a young boy who was 22-years old and he was talking to the dispatcher. And the dispatcher kept asking the pointed question are suicidal, are you suicidal? He kept saying no no no. And it wasn't until afterwards that I realized that it was a very pointed question. Because they're asking—they're not really asking if they're suicidal. They're saying it's we're going to shoot you when you catch you so are you suicidal? That's what they're really asking when they ask this question. It's really sad because a lot of the times we do see the police then start to when they can't get that answer out of you know, other people around that are survivors. They often ask them oh, well he was reaching for their waistband. It's already like they're in the process of thinking about their reports. Howa re they gonna get away with this? How are they gonna get away with this? Because those paragraphs are copied and pasted it's simply just that they're being quite lazy.

**Moderator: When this report that you're working on—the data collection and the report, when will that be available? I know that YJC is going to work with us on the district 2 hears. Do you know when you'll be finished with this report?**

Respondent: Not yet, but we are working on getting the rest of the formula, rest of the data tabulated as fast as possible. And we do have some workings—some phases in the workings. So hopefully soon.

**Moderator: So I know that you're gonna submit a copy? Yes?**

Respondent: Yeah.

**Moderator: Thank you.**

**Moderator: We're all nodding here in agreement. We definitely want to see the written thing.**

Respondent: Great, thank you.

**Moderator: Michael Salwaser? After him I've got Pastor Q Jean Marie and Marialina Lamas.**

Respondent: My name is Michael Salwaser.

**Moderator: I understand that you're one of the community organizations. We had been giving 5 minutes. I want to ask if you can keep it to 3?**

Respondent: I'm just speaking as an individual.

**Moderator: So you've got your 3 minutes? Good enough.**

Respondent: My name is Michael Salwaser. I'm a resident of Long Beach. I live in Lakewood Village. Which is a community of overwhelmingly white. Upper middle class and upper class families. I have 3 incidents with police that I want—the Long Beach police. The 1<sup>st</sup> one was we found an open window at our home and we called the police because we didn't recall having left it open. They came out, were very respectful, surveyed the property. They didn't find anything. We thought something similar happened again we would call the police. I've had other incidents though, not in an upper class neighborhood. Where my experience has been different where I came back after 3 days of camping not having shaved or washed my hair and being pulled over by police for speeding and treated in a very intimidating and rude manner. I have had times when I was a youth and had long hair and was forced to empty out my backpack on the side of the road because someone had reported that maybe something that had happened. I have also been profiled as being a gay man, was harassed by police. These were in other parts of the county. So I know my experience of having the positive experiences that I've had with the police here have a lot to do with my socioeconomic status and the color of my skin. I have 2 other incidents though that relate more to in the area of mental health. My son when he was 18 which was 8 years ago he was not presenting symptoms of mental illness. But he was a disruptive child. We were having a lot of difficulty with him. He was acting out and breaking things in the house. We called the police—a single police officer showed up and that claimed the situation down. We felt good about having made that call. Again, I was in the same home I live now. 2 years ago my son was acting—mental illness had started, from our vantage point had started to creep into his life where his mental health was deteriorating. He was acting in ways that made us—my wife concerned and feared for his safety and her safety. I happened to be 3,000 miles away across the country. So she ended up calling the police. She told the police that he was saying things that seemed very erratic. She was—although she was concerned for him and for herself she told the police that he was tall, but lanky. There were no weapons in the home. Yet 10 police officers showed up at our house. We'd be much more reluctant to call, to reach out to the police for support if something similar to happen again. It did not escalate. Things have improved since then. But they could always sort of go back to that. That's always a possibility that looms

for us. Having 10 police officers show up did not seem like—that seemed pretty risky. That that could've easily escalated with having all those people there. It could've—my son could've responded differently than he did. I subsequent to that event went to a presentation put on by NAMI. And quickly the narrative that who did their presentation was similar to the one that my minister mentioned earlier. That the police when we're dealing with mental health with law enforcement. We have to use force and sometimes things will happen. That did not reassure us.

**Moderator: Thank you so much.**

Respondent: Good morning. My name is Pastor Cue I'm from the Church without Walls Skid Row. I want to give historical context for my personal experience with law enforcement in California. In 2000—actually in the 1990's I was signed to a record label called Virgin Records. They're on Foothill Blvd in Beverly Hills. My group and I would be driving in our BMW—4 of us in 1 car. We would get stopped on San Vicente all the time. The record label had to call the Beverly Hills police department and told them not to F with their artists. That's exactly what Gemma Colfield who was our—the person who signed us, literally had to call them and tell them this. In the early 2000's I lived right here in Long Beach. Right up the street in a place called the Carmelitos. If you know anything about the Carmelitos there's a police substation in the Carmelitos. And I was driving home. I was in an Acura Legend at the time, I was driving home with a young woman and her little nephew and he was about 12 and we were driving home and the helicopters hovered over us about 20 police cars surrounded me. And they said after the incident basically I fit the description of someone who committed a robbery. The young man has been traumatized and never looked at police the same way. In Skid Row not too long ago I'm the pastor of a church called the Church Without Walls in Skid Row. I headed—I was at the midnight mission picking up some toys for some kids. I drove, I pulled up in a white truck and police officers pulled up behind me. I was already out of the car, talking to some people on the sidewalk. Hand on his pistol. Get back in the car. I'm like excuse me? He's like get back in the car. I'm like really? He's like I said get back in the car. So I complied. If I didn't, I wouldn't be here I'm sure. I complied, got back in the car, and I bring those incidents up to say that when you think about Skid Row and the way Skid Row is policed, the reason he asked me to get back in the car, is because I didn't look like a drug addict, which means he thought I was a drug dealer. Right, so racial profiling, I mean if you take Skid Row as an example, as soon as—I mean 50 police officers for 50 square blocks. You have 1 police officer for every square block. We know just recently Charlie Africa, 2 days ago the DA came back with the report and made up some excuses of why they killed Charlie Africa. But it was covered by Jeff Charlotte for GQ Magazine and he actually repudiated what they said. He called me a couple days ago and was like I can't believe they made up a story in order to justify killing Charlie Africa. So that experience, those experiences I bring them up to let you know why someone like me cannot and will never trust the police until they're dismantled. And lastly as a pastor, in the scripture there's no such thing as police. But there were cities of refuge. If you can't find a way to get compassionate policing you're going to have a problem.

**Moderator:** Yes. Is there a question?

**Moderator:** You mentioned Brother Africa. Can you just give us the 30-second version of what happened with Brother Africa because his story hasn't been read into the record yet.

Respondent: Well, Brother Africa was basically he was a homeless man in his tent. He was from Cameroon and the story was that someone called the police over some robbery. Now, when the police showed up Brother Africa went into his tent and basically he refused to engage them. So he went into his tent, they ripped the tent open and began to engage him. And a scuffle ensued and he ended up on the ground. From what we saw in the video, because after he was shot I was there about 20 minutes later cause I got a call that someone had just been shot. So when we got there everyone—the videos everyone said there was a scuffle. The baton fell, Trishawn Carey who was a woman who was about 99 pounds, she picked up the baton. They proceeded to arrest her and wanted to give her life in prison for that incident. For picking up that baton. But with Brother Africa they said he was reaching for the gun. When you looked at the video it had been seen about 50,000 times on Youtube. There was no way to conclusively determine that he was reaching for the gun. That's their story. And they are refusing to release the body cam. This is after LAPD by the way just got \$57,000,000 approved for body cams. But they're refusing to release the body cam of that incident even though it's been a couple years. So trust the police? That'll never happen.

**Moderator:** Thank you.

### **Part 3.**

**Moderator:** If there are folks who want to file some individual complaints or commendations we've got our students. They're outside of the theater now. Are there any law students inside here? Complaints or commendations gains the police. They're here at the end. So if you want to talk with them they'll take you outside to actually go ahead and file those. I've got Marialina Lamas, and after her I've got Carly Kerchin and Jessica Quintana.

Respondent: My name is Marilina Lamas I come from Compton and the same situation has happened to me with what the police does and has always done. This is their practice, their system is a system of killing. That's what they do and they don't want us to see that but that they—when they do their practices, what they're practicing is learning how to kill, know how to do security, now how to support us. We see this in the way that they respond. I was a victim in 2012. It was an incident. There young people. They were going out. They were fighting among each other. And there was one time when a woman was having a party for some of her

children and some of those young people were at that party. And they came and battered people. They did not have a warrant to come in. They started hitting the young people that were there. There was a confrontation between the young people and the mother at that party. And we were seeing on account of that reprisals in Compton. This was at 1705 West Central and Nester Street. It was near Alondra. And after that we saw a lot of persecution. The police would come and they would search the backpacks of the children when they were coming out of schools. They would take their skateboards away. So I had a grandson and I also did have a son who was a member of a gang. But he had never been arrested. He never had any trouble with the police. And what happened was about 7 patrol cars came. They came with high caliber weapons, they blocked off the street for about 3 blocks. It was a whole command with their like 7 policemen with these high caliber weapons and they were screaming and I was so scared. And so they came looking for my oldest son, and I was so intimidated. They came because there were young people that were involved in these activities. They said open up the door or we'll shoot. So, my son, he was staying in the same room as I was at the time because I had been a widow for 2 months only at that time and he was accompanying me and they came in very quickly. They took off his shirt, they started hitting him. I asked why they were hitting him and they told me to shut up. I was hurt, my arm is hurt. I don't have any lawyer. I have no one to defend. It's not just Latinos or the black community but it's everyone who's been hit with this brutality and harassment. I believe it's like a business for them because they're criminalizing our people and there's a lack of information. They're not putting their money into the prevention programs. They do receive federal funds for those programs but they're not implementing them. So we have so much intimidation. Both in and out of the jail. My grandson was put into jail on account of the kind of kind of intimidation and reprisals that were going on for a very low level crime he got 15 years. And so all of you in the human rights commission please do something for our community. The young people they need to know their rights. They need to learn about the law and their rights under the law and under the constitution.

**Moderator: Carly Kerchin and Jessica Quintana and Sharon Catrel.**

Respondent: Good morning commissioners. My name is Carly Kerchin. I'm a boycott organizer for Unite Here Local 11 which represents hotel workers throughout Southern California. I work in Long Beach organizing hotel workers primarily at the Westin and Renaissance Long Beach hotels. Employees at these hotels are fighting for respect on the job and to provide a better life for their families. Before I share my experiences, I just like acknowledge that although I do identify as cisgender and white I believe that the experiences that I've had with the LBPD are direct result of my relationships with, and proximity to working people of color. And I would like to thank the folks who have spoken before me today. I'm here to address the behavior in LBPD in response to peaceful actions by hotel workers, allies, myself and my coworkers. Actions that are constitutionally protected under the First Amendment. I'm also facing criminal charges related to these actions. On numerous occasions LBPD has shown up to our peaceful actions in force, intimidating us, recording our activities and regularly

requiring participants to produce identification. On one occasion as worker leafleted at the door of the Westin Long Beach which is a protected action under the National labor Relations Act, LBPD officers approached them and required them to produce Ids. These primarily, immigrant hotel workers were treated as suspects, though absolutely no crime had been committed. Their information was included in a police report despite requests by workers and myself to omit their personal info from that document. On several occasions, hotel workers, colleagues and I have also experienced physical violence against us during peaceful actions. In these situations we have attempted to use LBPD as a resource by dialing 911 and asking to file police reports. During many of these instances officers declined to investigate the adults and occasionally would not even let us make a police report. Once, after a hotel guest grabbed my bullhorn off my body and smashed it repeatedly on the ground until it split apart. LBPD did not respond to my call for help for almost an hour and a half. Upon the officers arrival he told me that if I did not stop filming our interaction he would leave. Interactions like this make me frightened and have taken a toll on my mental health personally. I believe that the response to our peaceful actions by LBPD is excessive and unacceptable. Particularly when juxtaposed with the response to our calls for help. In this era of Donald Trump, the priorities should not be to stifle free speech, especially the free speech of immigrants. the workers who are fighting for respect and justice in Long Beach hotels are primarily people of color and immigrants. They take a huge risk standing up to their management and constantly battle through fear as they do so. LBPD should not add to the fear and intimidation that workers already feel on a daily basis due to both workplace issues and the politic climate brought on by Donald trump. Thank you.

**Moderator:     thank you very much. Jessica? Come on up.**

Respondent:     Good afternoon. My name is Jessica Quintana. I am a resident of Long Beach for over 52 years and I'm also the executive director of \* which is the Long Beach Community Hispanic Association. And as a nonprofit organization, we provide youth development services, reentry services, immigration services and court assistance for a lot of our youth here in the city of Long Beach. So if you can imagine being a director of an organization for over 16 years and being a resident of the city of Long Beach for over 52 years I have a lot of experiences here in the city of Long Beach. And I just want to thank all the speakers for being so brave and coming here today and telling their stories, because I echo every single thing that they said. But the point that I want to make today, and really seeking the assistance of the commission and I know that this is happening throughout the county of Los Angeles is really the racial profiling that's happening with young Latino men and our communities of color in the form of gang injunctions. You know, we have a mass incarceration of young, Latino men and in our communities who has been on a pipeline to the prison system for decades. Having this type of system in law on the record and on the books is already oppressing young people who are already experiencing, low education, low performing schools, high unemployment, violence in these communities and adding on top of that having a gang injunction in these impacted communities. So I know here in the city of Long Beach there is a Mexican gang injunction that runs all the way from north



Long Beach all the way to central to west Long Beach. There is no other gang injunction like this in Los Angeles County. So what we need assistance in is lifting those sanctions, overturning those gang injunctions, we're happy to say ACLU is already looking at this. But what we need really is the voice of the commission and others to look at this gang injunction that continues to impact young men who are trying to reach their full potential, who continue to have to go through the court system over and over again, who get tagged as gang members. But even further than that they're identified as local terrorists. Because they cannot get jobs when they're on a gang injunction. They can't pass security. Which Long Beach has one of the biggest ports and we also have a refinery. So they no longer—these used to be friendly jobs to our young men in our community, but they no longer can get jobs there, because of these gang injunctions.

**Moderator: Thank you so much.**

Respondent: HI. I'm Sharon Catrel. I've been a resident of Long Beach for 52 years. I was raised on the Flathead Indian reservation in Montana. I'm part Indian which I'm sure has a lot to do with my life's journey. Anyhow, this is my 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt of being part of attempts to civilize the Long Beach police, try to reign them in and remind them that they're only a part of our city. They're to be a part of us, not our rulers, not our tormenters, not our judges, not our executioners. And the beginning organizing was my—the Afro Americans in the 80's because they were taking the brunt of the misbehavior of the Long Beach police. And the Long Beach police hold a special position in policing in the basing which I get to. I had occasion to talk to Connie Rice about the Long Beach police once. Anyhow, the organizing was done first by the first by the Afro Americans and then there was grouped formed called Long Beach Area Citizens Involved which was primarily in the white community, liberal, professional. We began to work together. Along there I joined. And then I became the organizer. But then, nothing was done but then we got enough through the coalition that we could maybe affect the city council. And so there were 3 components then. The gay community was very brutalized by the police. So the LAMDA Democratic Club, the NAACP and Labachi were that coalition that had enough that we could get the attention of the city council. But every time we went what we wanted was we weren't knew we were part of what's going in the country. We wanted that citizen, civilian review board. Like L.A had, right? Where the citizens would have some oversight power over the police. Some way to stop them when they were outrageously acting. But every time we went and thought we had the votes they'd take it behind the rail they'd call it and we'd come out with a compromise. So the 1<sup>st</sup> time we didn't get the citizen review board we got something called the public safety committee. Because the police complained well this is not fair, you're just picking on us. There are other groups that have ease policing power and to be fair to the police we now went down to public safety committee. Which of course had no oversight. But you know, people are—we're insistent on somehow winning this struggle. So that committee turned out to do some very good things. A woman who would later become city council managed to turn that committee into forming a wonderful rape policy. Which the Long beach police brag about. And how they get international recognition for this, but they didn't willing do this. Jerry Shipy

was the one. We got several good policies out of that. But then something happened. Long Beach police are known who for being who they are and an off duty black policeman came from Manhattan Beach in a white car. He barely had come from the west across the city, council lines when he was surrounded by long Beach police as was predicted. It wasn't long before they threw him through a plate glass window. But it was a sting, and right behind him was an NBC car and so that made national television. So then the Long Beach city council said well what was it you wanted? And we went back. We got the CPCC.

**Moderator: You have a lot of knowledge about the history. Can you write down the recommendation?**

Respondent: One recommendation is you have long hearings for you to know and you're getting here. I have a question. I see this is being taped.

**Moderator: Yes, absolutely.**

Respondent: And is that going to be, is that public record? Is that gonna be accessible to us?

**Moderator: Yes it is, absolutely.**

Respondent: And so how soon will it be available?

**Moderator: You need to check with our staff.**

Respondent: Okay, thank you so much.

**Moderator: And there are 2 more hearings. And please submit your recommendations in writing.**

Respondent: You know what I think I'm gonna do? When I was thinking of trying to put these together I'm gonna have somebody videotape this. I'm gonna make a videotape, you know? You don't know what we've been through and what we done.

**Moderator: I hear that.**

Respondent: I have to tell you this. Connie Rice said, when you go to change the police department you're trying to change a culture. It's a very, very long job and she said for Long Beach police—the Long Beach police are the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst department in the city.

**Moderator: Trevor Jerard, Donte Cherry and Duane Dixon.**

Respondent: So I think a lot of what my thing is..

**Moderator: Can you identify yourself please?**

Respondent: Sure can you hear me now?

**Moderator: Yes.**

Respondent: My thing is why do we continue to play this game when we know it has already moved to the next stage? When we're talking about state sanctioned violence we have to also remember particular in California who's land we're on right now. This is Tongva land, right? And at the height of the Gold Rush the federal government was paying people—particularly paying the state government here for people who were willing to do the work of exterminating the native people. So now we look at what's happening here. And this is state sanctioned violence. This is not—the police are little more than the domestic military arm of the United States government. And so this idea that we're gonna be able to reform that system or that system is not in some way representing the interest of the actual government I think is deeply flawed. When we're talking about reform you cannot reform a system that is fundamentally flawed by design. When it says protect and serve it is not to protect and serve you, it's to protect and serve the interests of power and those who own property. If you don't own property, right? Which most of us don't, right? They are not protecting and serving you. Even talking about public safety. That's a dog whistle in itself that came out of this idea that society needed to be protected from the black menace, right? And so I just think if we're not taking—my recommendations.

#1. If we want to lift up the human rights abuses of people who have been murdered by the police, right, we need to be looking at approaching an international committee like the UN or something like this. Not trying to go to the government to have them redress what they've done in the first place.

#2. I would say we need to be talking about community defense of how we protect ourselves of from police coming into our communities.

#3. Just really quickly we need to be educating people on the fact that #1. The idea that you have rights is really nice in theory but as black people particularly in this country you have no rights, and that's why they can beat you in the face and nobody goes to jail.

**Moderator: thank you. Donte Cherry and Duane Dixon?**

Respondent: I can speak pretty loud to avoid the wait. I think the question stated like is there any way to build trust in police? Is to task is there any way to create fools? The idea that there should be any trust in a system that brutalizes you is a foolish request. To trust the people who are brutalizing you, to trust the people who are killing you, to trust the people who will continuously do so, who have not stopped, who have not made any appeal to stop is to ask are you willing to be a fool? And not only are that are you willing to be a pawn in your own

destruction? And so we're asking are you willing to endorse the people who are willing to kill you and who are willing to exterminate your people into the last one? Are you willing to do that? No. There is no way you should be willing to do that. To work with cops is to be willing to die. Not to die for any liberation policies, not to die for any freedom, but to die for the sake of dying. To die for the sake of creating a system in which you will continuously die. To die for the sake of continuously killing people. That's really what they're asking you to die for. Are you willing to die so that we can continuously kill your people? And I think to say that I would trust a system like that is to say that I'm a man fool. Is to say that I am pushing for more deaths and to me there's no difference between what's happening here in Long Beach from what's happening in LAPD or what's happening to the natives in Standing Rock. When I went to Standing Rock they asked me do you want to die in Bismarck? That's what the police asked me. I went through to the barricade. And they said are you willing to die in Bismarck? Because what the question is are you wanting to die for speaking out for liberation and I'd rather do that than to just sacrifice myself for trust in these people that are willing to kill me and willing to kill all of our people. Are willing to kill the envies, are willing to kill the blacks, are willing to the Latinos people until we are dead. And I'm not willing to practice that.

**Moderator: Thank you so much. Duane Dixon , Melita and Twahita Shaquer.**

Respondent: I'm with the Youth Justice Coalition. I would like to just tell a story that happened early September. I was taking the Metro Red Line and I was stopped by 5 police officers fully equipped in armor and utility belts. They had a dog with them as well which I thought was weird for a TAP card stop. My fare was confirmed but because the dog approached me and sniffed me the officers used that as probable cause to search me. I was fully cooperative because I was confident in my innocence but also being in no hurry I was kind of curious to see how the search process went. I'd never undergone one. They all kind of looked like they were in like military uniforms at the train station. And the dog being there kind of fueled the idea that not only are these officers being paid hero wages and given military equipment over compensate in their duties, but they are also looking to penalize other crimes and offenses in the process. I mean because last time I checked, dogs aren't usually used to check TAP cards and that would be kind of cute though. No thankfully for my fellow youth Governor Jerry Brown signed the SB882 that ends criminal penalties for transit fare evasion by those under 18. However, that doesn't mean that youth still isn't be harassed. As a very light example, that's when the story of me being searched is 1 example. A solution I'd love to see take effect is to provide free bus passes to students enrolled in school and taking police officers out of the Metro train stations and paying Metro employees for those tasks. Thank you.

**Moderator: Did he say which police agency?**

Respondent: they were wearing light brown uniforms.

**Moderator: Sheriffs. Melita?**

Respondent: My first encounter—well one of my encounters with police officers was I was laying on the grass at the Rainbow Lagoon in downtown Long Beach with my eyes closed. And an officer came over to me, startled me, and asked me what I was doing. Which was obvious. And that occurrence happened during the governor's conference which was taking place in Long Beach on that day. I've had several instances with police officers primarily at council meetings, city council meetings. I think it's past time for certain solutions you know, cops get suspended with pay. They don't lose their pensions, they don't get fired, they get to retire early. There's no accountability. We know that. I don't know what kind of—I'm curious to know what kind of psychological tests they have to pass in rodeo to get into the academy, because it should be extreme. And to my knowledge, for Los Angeles academy they only have to be in the academy for 6 months. Whereas in military it's 9 months boot camp. I'm not sure. But I think it's also an economic component that this city be branded. Long Beach is now an international tourism and trade city internationally. And I think there needs to be a boycott advocated for conferences and conventions worldwide, not to come to Long Beach to have airfares, to have rental cars, to book hotels, conferences and conventions. They have to be hit in the pocket. We don't necessarily have to reinvent that part of the wheel, it's been done before. the only time cities face up and before I forget I want to advocate that you all email the Olympic committee and have them not bring the Olympics to Los Angeles. It is not deserving. I heard Garcetti say a year ago that he was allocating \$100,000,000 towards the homeless. I've not seen it take place yes and it won't. This city is not deserving of the Olympics and what it stands for. And I think it's time for us to get sick and tired of being sick and tired and be angry and start boycotting corporations that continually uphold this—these systems that continually and will continue to abuse, brutalize and kill people of color across the United States.

**Moderator: Thank you very much, the good recommendation both the Olympics and generally about the boycott. Here's who I've got left. What's the commissioner Abdullah?**

**Moderator: It's 12:51. We've got 9 minutes. We've got Twahita Shaquer, Elizabeth Agular, Yolanda Lopez, Erma Martinez, Zahar Prezata, Kathy Jerod and John Kindrid. There's a bunch of you. So there are a lot of folks who want to say something so go ahead.**

Respondent: Can you all hear me?

**Moderator: Yeah we can all hear you now.**

Respondent: I've had a long history with law enforcement starting when I was 6-years-old when my dad was incarcerated for almost 15 years and he just got out in January. I went to predominantly black and brown elementary school where school police were regularly there. Did not see a counselor whatsoever but school police were regularly there. I went to a middle

school that was predominantly black and brown, school police constantly there. I went to a high school that was predominantly black and brown, school police were constantly there. Every single grade that I started, in all levels of school I always knew where the school police was. I never knew where the counselor was. I didn't even—in high school I think we had 1 counselor per 800 students. I could tell you how to get arrested, I could how to get displaced from your home and things like that but I cannot tell you were to go to get mental counseling. All them Elementary, middle schools and high schools I went to, were schools known to have the most arrest rates, school push out rates and also schools with the most mental disabilities and also schools with the most foster homes. Youth of color, we don't need more police because the only thing they do—the only thing school police help do is push us out, criminalize us and ruin our lives. We need more counselors, we need transformative justice. \* Justice doesn't exist. You can't restore schools if they never meant to help out youth of color. And you can't restore things in systems if these racist systems that we live in and are a part of or whatever were never meant to help us live to begin with. So there's no such thing as restorative justice. I'm saying transformative justice. We need counselors not cops. Invest in youth of color, stop locking us up, stop trying to kill us. Let us be human. So I'm calling for the end of school police in schools and all law enforcement in schools. Thank you.

**Moderator: Thank you very much. Elizabeth Agular. After that Yolanda Lopez.**

Respondent: My name is Yolanda Lopez and we are here together because we have both suffered the abuse from the school police in the department of Compton. I've been fighting for a better quality education since 2005. Since 2010 I have witnessed the police harassment. I've been a witness of several cases where has there been cases of sexual abuse from teachers against the students. I've also witnessed police abuse against the parents where you know, in order to be a volunteer for the Compton schools you have to show California ID. In order to enroll your kids you need California ID, in order you take out your kids early from school you need a California ID and the police has been using that to deport the parents. I speak a little bit of English, I speak my original language is Spanish . A little bit. So in 2014 I was—they brought a court case against me, a criminal court case and a civil court case. And this is the tactic that the superintendent uses. She's in cahoots with the police. She has harassed me, she has intimidated me, she has—I have suffered all this and this is a tactic she uses. I know she was in Adelanto before and she uses the same strategy. And I don't want this to, you know, have her moved somewhere else and you know, have them use that tactic again and again. Right now, I have a criminal record and this is not fair, because I am a citizen, a good citizen. And I'm also suffering dissemination because I am an indigenous. I belong to an indigenous group, you know? English is my 3<sup>rd</sup> language. My first language is indigenous language, 2<sup>nd</sup> language is Spanish and I just speak a little bit of English. That's my 3<sup>rd</sup> language. And I want you to call your attention to please to do something about this—all the parents, the kids. We're all suffering. I had to change my kids to the Lenox School District. But now we're seeing the same thing in the Lenox School District because they are connected to the people from Compton, the people from Lynwood,

the people from Inglewood. Right now we have the sheriff inside the schools. We want to see a change. They've been using the same tactics. We've been trying to educate the parents and they are just trying to destroy everything that we've been working towards. We need the truth to come out and we need to see as changes. So we can present all the evidence we have here. We have all the court documents, we have footage, we have epicures, we have documents, we have evidence. We can present everything and witnesses. And we also have witnesses and in court they never allowed our witnesses to testify. Now I'm going to give the mic to my friend, my sister, my confidant. She's right here.

Respondent: Hello my name is Elizabeth Aguilar. I have 2 childs in the district Compton. I'm going to speak Spanish. It's much better for me. My English is not as perfect and sometimes I am wrong for English. I would like to speak Spanish. Well, my name is Elizabeth Aguilar and I'm a mother of 2 I'm going to speak in English. In 2014 I was a witness of many civil right violation in the school district tin Compton. They were not offering programs for to teach English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language and I have also witnessed attacks against parents that spoke Spanish. Along with her we've been you know, training learning about our rights in 2014. And in 2015 the school district, they even lost a case for not providing their resources and the programs for people that wanted to learn English. So as she said we have evidence of photos, footage, to document everything that we are saying. But I also want to say the school district, they presented false testimony, they gathered false testimony and they presented that in court. They have done this without doing an internal investigation of the district. And we have here documents from the Department of Civil Rights and they even acknowledge the violations that they are not providing translation. The department of Compton is not providing translation. They don't have a translation department. So as a consequence the Department of Civil Rights they have you know, show that we are right that there were violations. They have fired the principal. And they have made some corrections. Fax some of the teachers that gave false testimony, now they're being investigated by their own union, but nothing has been done about the school board that made all this happen. So the department has you know, they have cracked down with the school police for their false investigations, they have done right in court. They have made the corrections, you know? They have fired all the police officers that they were asking us what our immigration status us. But we are asking for your help with this school board because they started all this and nothing has been done to you know, do it—get it right with the school board. They started all this.

**Moderator: Tell them to provide the documentation—copies of whatever the documentation it is for our staff people. We will definitely take that as part of the testimony. Thank you.**

Respondent: I'm trying to understand LAPD's position  
**Yes. Thank you. Thank you very much. I've got—I think I announced these names. I'm sorry. Zahar Prezata, Kathy Jerod and John Kindrid.**

Respondent: Thank you so much for giving me space to share what I need to share. My name is Zahar Prezata and I am here today representing a team of women from the Women's Policy Institute and we're actively working to protect women's religious rights in the criminal justice system. I mean, theoretically we're trying to. So I'm here today to share the story of Kirsty Powel. Kirsty is a young, African Muslim woman who was pulled over by law enforcement on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Handcuffed, she proceeded to the police station in Long Beach, donning her religious head covering similar to what I'm wearing today. As with many who enter the criminal justice system, her safety rested in the hands of the officer who brought her in. This particular mail officer stripped Kirsty of her headscarf during the booking process in the presence of other mail officers. As a woman who wears the hijab myself I empathize with what she must've felt at that moment. It's as if you're standing shirtless in front of people, embarrassed and traumatized. In response, she pleaded for her scarf to be returned and it was not just a plea for her religious covering but a cry for dignity to be restored. It was her right to wear the head covering as a woman, practicing her faith freely in the US. This is just one of many cases that CAIR has received—the Council American Islamic Relations where women have had their headscarf's forcibly removed while in custody. Lawsuits have been filed in San Bernardino County, San Diego County, Orange County and at the federal level resulting in concrete policy changes to better protect the religious rights, dignity and bodily autonomy of women in custody. Los Angeles County currently does not have such a policy in place and so our group is basically trying to recommend that a policy be put in place for the L.A County sheriff's department and probations department. Now as part of the recommendations we want that women in custody will not be required to remove their religious headware unless in a private area under the supervision of a female officer and out of the view of any men including mail officers. We require that searches and pat-downs shall be down by same gender deputy officers and women in the custody of LASD or LAC probation will be provided temporary religious headware if there are safety concerns, cause they've cited that before. And women in custody who are required to take a photo shall be permitted to wear their religious headware. Thank you so much for your time.

**Moderator: Do you have \* that you could submit to us to have a more formal?**

Respondent: We have a policy brief that we're working on currently and I'd be happy to forward that to the staff.

**Moderator: Please forward that to us.**

**Moderator: One more question, does LAPD have this policy?**

Respondent: So Long Beach police department after this case was brought against them they now are creating a policy, but Los Angeles County sheriff's department does not.

**Moderator: And does LAPD?**



Respondent: I don't know if LAPD does either. Usually they take suit from L.A County. So if L.A County does I doubt they have one.

**Moderator: Can you also give your contact information to staff? Because we may be doing hearings on women's experiences?**

Respondent: Excellent. We'd love to participate in that. Thank you so much.

**Moderator: Please do that. Kathy Jerod?**

Respondent: My name is Kathy Jerod. I am here as 3 things. I am here as a parent of a young man that was followed by police into a lonely street at least 3 or 4 cars and he was so beaten so badly they crushed his face. And he wasn't charged but he was released. I'm here as an aunt of a young man that was walking down the street to get gas, but according to the police department they could smell a gang member a mile away. He was beaten so badly they crushed his skull. They knocked out his back teeth and he was in a coma for a week. Again, no charges. He was released after he came out of his coma. I'm here as a grandmother to children that have been submitted to the terrorism of smash units, gang units. Entering their homes because their parent was on probation or parole. Having guns put to their head and being told what lousy parents they have. Because their parent is on probation or their wives—what stupid women they are for allowing this animal in their house. I am here also as a witness. For some of the statements you heard earlier from the people of Compton. Before I move into that—I'll try to make this brief, you asked for solutions—body cams and recorders have been suggested and are being given to some police officers. And that's a great thing. But it's not very securing when they're the only ones that get to watch and hear them. This information should be made public. It should be allowed that the community hear it, then accountability starts to come into place. And they have to tell us why that was used. Why the children were terrorized or where that person was beaten. It's not just a way to protect the community but it also protects those good officers that are doing their job. There are good policeman out here. they are surrounded by some that just seem to be going in another direction. And I want to make sure that you understand that we recognize—we being that I'm the Chief Executive Officer of the Latino Human Rights Coalition, we recognize that there are good officers out there. But there are rogues out here as well. And there are supervisors that allow them to get away with these things. My son told me he asked one of the captains that was sent out there to the beating to help him and he was told by that chief officer, supervisor, shut up I could shoot you here and nobody would know the difference. These are fearful things. When my grandchildren tell me they want to grow up to be police officers and I ask them why. And they tell me so they won't behave like the ones that came in their house and locked them in the bathroom as they beat their father. Now I am witness here for the city of Compton. I have been working in the city of Compton for 5 years. And this is why I think you might be able to help with this situation. There is a confusion in the community—what a

school security officer should be doing. What the school district police should be doing and what the sheriff's department is doing. The roles are confused in the city of Compton c when a parent comes to complain that their child has been molested, their child is being beaten, they are harassed and followed by school police. They are terrorized by district police, or school security, excuse me. There's a confusion on who they are and what their roles are. School police that are called into chase them off or the sheriffs that will call them and also get involved with this and then tell them they can't give them reports. I'm here to share with you very quickly that there was a classroom of 9 special ed children that were molested. 1 parent was told about it, her 6-year-old special ed children and all the children in the classroom were interrogated by the sheriff's department. California law does not allow them to incriminate or talk to children under the age of 6 or under the age of 10 without legal counsel. But that was allowed to happen. The parent went, when she was advised that this was going on, she went to the sheriff's department to get a police report since 2 sheriffs had called her to advise her that her daughter was involved in a class-wide sexually inappropriate Childs play. When she went there she was told that she was not entitled to reports. The case was closed. She also received calls from CPS immediately that were sent to her home which has happened to many parents that go and complain that this is happening.

**Moderator: You said you're the chair of the Human Rights Coalition?**

Respondent: We are the Latino Human Rights Coalition and yes I can give you documents for that.

**Moderator: That's really what we would need. We definitely appreciate the oral testimony. But the specifics that I can hear that you got. We really want that for our records.**

Respondent: We do have that and the 2 ladies that were here, one of her children was one of the victims of the child that was sat out here. I came to you because there is a need for the school districts to share with their students, their parents, with their community what those roles are. So that they aren't abused. And the parents that are followed and terrorized and harassed by police or by sheriffs, these people don't usually do this. These officers don't usually do this but there seems to be a confusion on what they can do. So you as human rights commission perhaps you can help design some type of information packaging to explain to these parents and these communities and these teachers and these educators what their roles are and when they should be coming. Compton does have a resolution that was passed. Parents of the community aren't aware of that. And I'm gonna be leaving it for you, because you should be aware of it. Thank you.

**Moderator: Thank you so much. I really appreciate it. My last person is John Kindrid. Yes, come on down. Right won it's 1:19. None of this is gonna get recorded which sit he whole point of doing this. So that's why I'm really trying to get to people to stick to**

**this. So having it being in the record is actually more being accurately done in writing now than orally.**

Respondent: My crime happened at Long Beach City College when I was a student there in 2013 which still today in 2016 I'm still being harassed about what happened. What had happened was I had—was part of student government at the time and I reported somebody—one of the advisors actually breaking the Brown Act and the Robert Rules on purpose. And when I exposed them they were mad about it and decided with their boss to retaliate against me, okay? They tried to have me kicked out of meetings and things like this because I knew the rules and the law and the fact that I had exposed them and embarrassed them they used the police to come after me. One, I was at the time I was a disabled student which I am still disabled. And behind this I was given a citation which when you read it, it says what it's for is blank. I was supposed to be served a certified letter which I never received by mail or anything. And when I asked for copies to show that I was served nobody could do so me anything. When I graduated from school, I was served by one of the people that I was accusing. And that was over the years, causing me problems. So how do you go and serve somebody when you're the person that was causing the problems and when I was served I was done being a student. I was a private citizen. I was never properly served. When I came back to the college as a public community person and spoke at a meeting 8 policeman showed up and I was arrested for trespassing on a community college when I was there invited and I have records of all of this. I told them and when I told them about my medical conditions and at the time the disabled student office was still open, and all my conditions are on record. I was arrested and hurt. My shoulder has plastic in it. And they finally noticed that I was hurt. They uncuffed me and recuffed me again by putting handcuffs together to make it wider. I was told that I would go to jail, be booked and released. I did 3 days in jail for trespassing. And when I tried to use the phone in the cell to be released under my own reconnaissance I could not. And people in jail told me somebody was really pissed off at me and using me for an example. While I was there the bathrooms were like out of a movie from a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country. And when I finally went to court, it was dismissed because people in the community came out and students in my behalf that it didn't happen. But yet though, every time I go on campus to this day, I am threatened every time. And they took my knee brace which I needed. And I fell and got hurt while in jail. I have a condition with my eyes that is so rare, MediCal and Medicare does not cover it and that was damaged too.

**Moderator: Thank you. Did you get an opportunity to speak with some of our law students?**

Respondent: No I haven't. I've tried for a year to get legal help.

**Moderator: Well and that's exactly why they're out here now. So if you can give those specifics to them hopefully you know we'll get some complaint going and it will help you. I really appreciate you coming forward to testify today. I want to get I guess Mr.**

**Warren is somebody you do know. Cause we do have to wrap this up. Please, Mr. Warren you have 2 minutes.**

Respondent: Thank you.

Respondent: The law student bought down my form and gave it someone here. I would like the form if I could have it.

**Moderator: Can you just do the testimony because we really are running out of time and we will find the right law student after we break the time.**

Respondent: No one has the form.

**Moderator: Yes, can you just do your testimony and we'll find the form after we do the close of the hearing cause we are running out of time.**

Respondent: Can you hear me?

**Moderator: Yes we can. 2 minutes.**

Respondent: Okay, my name is Peter Joseph Rosenwald. I'm currently a resident of Seal Beach but I recently moved here. I was a resident of Long Beach for 30 years. I've had relationship with the Citizens Police Complaint Commission since 2014. I've tried to get them to to—there's no inspection of the Long Beach jail. None whatsoever. There's on public inspection. The Citizen Police Complaint Commission, the last annual report is 2013. They don't keep up-to-date. They kicked out all the homeless people out of Lincoln Park in the Civic Center and this is a letter I will submit to you. I have another letter of inequality that was done about 10 years ago showing the inequality of minorities in Long Beach which is one of the causes for crime. I tried to find out how much citizen forfeiture was in Long Beach and the city would not give me the figures. I got them from Stephen Downing who's an ex-Los Angeles police department deputy chief. 4.8 million dollars over 4 years. That's never given. The long Beach police department has hardly any language in its lobby other than English. I've tried to get this corrected. I've written the letter to the Editor to Random Lengths which is San Pedro. It covers west long Breach. Hardly anything is ever been done of the things that I wanted. The Citizen Police Complaint Commission is next to worthless. These are letters that John Kindrid was sent—the gentleman that just spoke. One is from the city manager and the other one is from the head of internal affairs. They both meet and they meet and judge what's going on. It's so disappointing to have worked—try to work with Ms. Anitra Dempsey, with Mr. Arturo Sanchez the assistant city manager who never calls me back. And the person who's in charge of civic engagement her name is Karen Owens. She was on jury duty I believe at the beginning of October. I called her. I left a message. She never calls me back either. I don't get any calls

back. I wonder why. Maybe it's because I have something to say and they can't satisfy. I've been to the meetings at the churches where the police command spoke but still I get nothing. Absolutely nothing. It's a disgrace what this city does with its police department. Absolutely a disgrace. I hope all of you are able to go see a New Way of Life's gala at the Hotel Omni on Sunday and Michelle Alexander author of the new Jim Crow will be speaking with her. Are you familiar with that, mam?

**Moderator: Oh absolutely. I'm familiar with her.**

Respondent: Are you gonna be there?

**Moderator: I'm not gonna be at the dinner. But I do work with a New of Life. It's a great organization.**

Respondent: Well, I'll be at the dinner. What do I do? Submit ,these—my comments in writing?

**Moderator: Yes see that man right there.**

Respondent: I'm not gonna do it now. Do I have to write a letter or what?

**Moderator: Well just something to let us know what package we're receiving but and as a wrap up to everybody, right? Please, let staff know what your contact information is so they can tell you how to get your material to us. Alonzo Warren. Mr. Rosenwald please get your information so that you can submit copies of all the stuff that you've been talking about. Mr. Warren go ahead. 2 minutes please.**

Respondent: Thank you for letting me be heard today. I do believe it's a disgrace. I believe that the police departments cannot be worked with, there's been a history of violence, right? So now the police—before they used to whip people in the back now they shoot them in the back, right? So this is my suggestion, okay? But before that let me, I have a little bit of time on the clock. But when I was 12-years-old I was coming home, it was on Hoover and 42<sup>nd</sup> Place. I was coming home and the police stopped me. It was about 9:00 at night. They put a gun in my mouth and told me now what nigger? Ever since that time, the whole view, everything has changed as far as this system, right? This system that we wish to reform, right? This system that wish to kill us and murder us, right? This system where people choose to wear safety pins and say you know what? I'm an ally to you. A system where people used to and still even now vote for people who kill people of color, right? By having this whole meaningless reform, I don't know what you are hearing to do here. But my suggestion is that you completely work on dismantling the police departments. That's my ask to you. I want you to all work on dismantling the system of oppression. Thank you.

**Moderator:** We're closing this—the hearings . We want to be clear that we hear you all when you talk about transformation. This body is not gonna be the transformative body. However there will be a report that's generated. This is—the reason that we're working with anchor organizations and I know Black Lives Matter Los Angeles is working with us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> district hearings is so it can be a tool as you do transformative work, right? So a body that's part of the state is never gonna be the source of transformation. However, we can help provide something that is a tool for entities that want to do transformative work. So many of us have that sentiment but we recognize that this body is very limited in what it can do but we're trying to offer something. Does that make sense?

**Moderator:** I don't think it's many. It's all of us understand that. So we appreciate everybody that's come out. And as Commissioner Abdullah was saying we do have a couple more hearings. So there are other opportunities for speaking. And again, get with staff so you can find out the specifics of that. So with that I'm gonna formally close this public hearing of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission on policing and human relations. Thank you all for coming again.

*[End of recording]*