

Dignity and Power Now and C2ESV Continue to Push for Subpoena Power

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Los Angeles, C.A. – As the county appointed working group convenes tomorrow to begin crafting the functions of a civilian oversight commission, the county should draw lessons from a recent report by the NYPD inspector general. The report shows us that recommendations to discipline officers for the use of illegal choke holds were intentionally and repeatedly ignored by the department. The resulting death of Eric Garner by an NYPD officer reminds us that civilian oversight cannot rely on the leadership of law enforcement to end patterns of excessive force. Similarly, the new inspector general in charge of oversight of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has not yet been given full access to LASD personnel records. This a bad sign for a department that has had too much to hide with regard to systemic abuse and lack of discipline.

The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence is calling on this working group to create the most legally empowered oversight body possible, starting by ensuring it is equipped with subpoena power. Drawing lessons from the failures of the NYPD, it is clear that an oversight commission that can only request information and offer advisement will not produce long term protections against the rampant human rights abuses that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department has become known for.

"Creating a commission with subpoena power is the fundamental first step in a long path towards ensuring that the community has all the tools necessary to end the abuse of our loved ones in the county jail system." – Patrisse Cullors, DPN Executive Director

The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence has already developed a framework in collaboration with the UCLA Human Rights Clinic, formerly incarcerated members of the community, and the survivors of sheriff violence and their families. We urge this current working group to use this document as framework and starting place for crafting the commission. We look forward to working with members of the working group and the county supervisors to prioritize the creation of a commission backed by a legal structure that places the power to protect the community in the community's hands.

For more information, please visit dignityandpowernow.org.