

Coalition Demands Community Leaders Oversee Sheriff's Department

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Press Conference: Wednesday June 8th, 9:30 a.m., outside the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple Street 90012

Los Angeles, C.A. – One day after the primary elections Los Angeles County still has a major decision to make; who will oversee the largest sheriff's department in the country running the largest jail system in the world. For over three years The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in Los Angeles Jails has fought for effective civilian oversight of the sheriff's department. Tomorrow the coalition of over 30 organizations countywide are calling on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors – and all entities involved in the vetting process – to appoint nominees from the Coalition to End Sheriff Violence's slate of nine community leaders. Their nominees are as follows:

Akili 45 Years experience as a community and labor organizer, Akili has dedicated his work to building a just and equitable society for marginalized people, including the successful campaign to change LAPD's use of force practices in the wake the 2005 shooting of Devon Brown

Patrisse Cullors Founder of Dignity and Power Now and Co-founder of the #BlackLivesMatter National Network, Patrisse has long history of building mass movements and leading successful campaigns that prioritize the leadership of communities directly impacted by law enforcement violence and mass incarceration

Rabbi Heather Miller Part of the world's first LGBT founded Jewish congregation, Beth Chayim Chadashim, Heather is committed to justice at the intersections of race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status

Priscilla Ocen Associate Professor of Law at Loyola Law School where she teaches criminal law, family law, and a seminar on race, gender and the law, her work examines the relationship between race, gender identities and punishment

Samuel Paz Vice President of the The National Police Accountability Project (NPAP) providing broad support for grassroots and victims' organizations combating police misconduct

Steve Rogers Civilian Oversight Campaign Lead with Dignity and Power Now, Steve Rogers uses his experience as a formerly incarcerated person to end law enforcement violence by advocating on the local and state level

Lloyd Wilkey 25 years of community work to prevent violence and improve community and police relations, Lloyd directs a youth leadership program, trains law enforcement at the Museum of Tolerance, and engages in activism to push for accountability, transparency, and constitutional policing

Dayvon Williams A young organizer with the Youth Justice Coalition, Dayvon directs his experience as a formerly incarcerated person into campaigns that counter the criminalization and incarceration of young people

Michele Ynfante Co-Lead of the Dignity and Power Now Civilian Oversight Campaign, she has used her experience being incarcerated in the women's jail to advocate for an end to medical negligence and abuse there

As the County Board of Supervisors continue to vote on their criteria for vetting commissioners, communities across Los Angeles voice strong opposition to the supervisors' decision not to restrict former law enforcement, demonstrating that in order for this commission to have credibility it must be reflective of those most impacted by sheriff violence. The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence stands with incarcerated people and their loved ones as they announce a slate of highly qualified nominees who have been active participants in the movement to end civil and human rights violations inside the county jail system.

“The credibility of civilian oversight will largely depend on who is appointed to sit on this commission,” says Mark-Anthony Johnson of Dignity and Power Now. “If we are going to prevent the type of abuses exposed under Former Sheriff Baca and Former Undersheriff Paul Tanaka's watch this commission must be shaped by independent Black and Brown community leaders and those who know firsthand the conditions inside the jails.”

Nominees will be available to speak to press.

For more information please visit dignityandpowernow.org.

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