



FOR ALL INCARCERATED PEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

## **Sentencing Baca is Not Justice, Effective Civilian Oversight Is**

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**Press Conference:** Monday, August 1st, 9:00 AM, in front of the United States Court House, 312 N Spring Street 90012, **nominees will be available to speak to press**

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**Los Angeles, CA** –When someone searches the news for “Los Angeles County Jail” they are bombarded with articles not only about Baca’s conviction, but about racist emails from a top sheriff’s official, deputies being convicted of assault, Former Undersheriff Paul Tanaka’s conviction of obstruction of justice, and the unnecessary and negligent deaths of Matrice Richardson and Wakiesha Wilson. And while Baca’s sentencing Monday is historic, **the Los Angeles County Jail system has seen a 40% increase in use of force in 2015**. Lee Baca’s conviction has not turned the page on corruption and misconduct in the sheriff’s department, and many think that true justice is an effective Civilian Oversight Commission with the power to subpoena the sheriff’s department, made up of independent Black and Brown community leaders and those who know firsthand the conditions inside the jails.

Dignity and Power Now and the Coalition to End Sheriff Violence, the organizations responsible for the initiation of civilian oversight and largely for Baca’s conviction, stand with incarcerated people and their loved ones as they’ve announced a slate of nine highly qualified nominees who have been active participants in the movement to end civil and human rights violations inside the county jail system. The nominees are community and labor organizer **Akili**, Co-founder of the #BlackLivesMatter National Network **Patrisse Cullors**, **Rabbi Heather Miller** of the world's first LGBT founded Jewish congregation, Associate Professor of Law at Loyola Law School **Priscilla Ocen**, Vice President of the The National Police Accountability Project **Samuel Paz**, **Lloyd Wilkey** of the Museum of Tolerance, the Youth Justice Coalition’s **Dayvon Williams**, and Dignity and Power Now Civilian Oversight Campaign Leads **Steve Rogers** and **Michele Ynfante**.

The County Board of Supervisors have released the initial application and begun the process of choosing commissioners. Communities across Los Angeles continue to 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.

“As someone who was formerly incarcerated I understand that Baca’s sentencing might give some validation to the many individuals and families who continue to deal with the trauma inflicted under his regime,” says Michele Ynfante, Campaign Lead and Administrator at Dignity and Power Now, “but *true justice* won’t be achieved until we have civilian oversight with the people and the power necessary to hold the department accountable at the first signs of abuse – long before the sheriff is sent to federal prison.”

For more information please visit [dignityandpowernow.org](http://dignityandpowernow.org).