

## **A Year and 18 Deputy Involved Deaths Later Civilian Oversight Still Not Instituted**

**For Immediate Release:** December 7th, 2015  
**Contact:** Mark-Anthony Johnson (818) 259-1322  
**Spanish Media Liaison:** Guadalupe Chavez (323) 979-6550

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

**Los Angeles, C.A.** – This Wednesday marks one year since the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors made history by voting in favor of a Civilian Oversight Commission over the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. The year started out strong with the board’s creation of a Working Group that met bi-weekly to come up with recommendations for the commission’s size, scope, powers, and structure. They concluded their sessions in June and presented their full report with detailed recommendations, including the recommendation that the commission have the power to subpoena the sheriff’s department, to the Supervisors on July 28th. Since then there hasn’t been any mention of the Civilian Oversight Commission on the supervisor’s upcoming agenda.

According to the LA Times Homicide Report and The Guardians The Counted in the past year sheriff department deputies have killed 18 people, all but 2 were Black or Brown. In 5 cases the victims were completely unarmed, an additional 5 were only considered armed due to being in a vehicle, and 2 people were holding knives. 27-year-old Jonathan Peña was struck and killed by a deputy’s vehicle while walking in his West Hollywood neighborhood where he also worked. Not one deputy has been prosecuted for any of these deaths and the names of those involved have been withheld. In several of these cases there are security holds on the coroner’s reports. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department also has jurisdiction over the largest jail system in the world – and in custody deaths are not typically made public.

Mark-Anthony Johnson, director of health and wellness at Dignity and Power Now and a member of the The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in Los Angeles Jails, the group of organizations who have been fighting for over 3 years for independent oversight, says they’ve waited long enough. “Our loved ones have endured unchecked sheriff violence both inside and outside of the jails in its many forms for long enough. We urge the supervisors to move forward with the independent civilian oversight that was promised a year ago to ensure transparent, humane, and accountable policing in Los Angeles.”

The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence will be holding a press conference Tuesday December 8th at 9:30 a.m. on the steps of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration before giving public comment.