



FOR ALL INCARCERATED PEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES



Public Fills Town Hall Meetings in Support of the Power to Subpoena the Sheriff's Department

For Immediate Release: April 16, 2015
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Next Town Hall Meeting: Thursday, April 16th, 3041 W Ave K, Lancaster, CA 93536
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Los Angeles, C.A. – The working group tasked with giving the Board of Supervisors recommendations on the future Civilian Oversight Commission's size, scope, structure and responsibilities is hosting a series of nine town hall meetings in Los Angeles County's five districts to reach out to the community for recommendations and comments. With 50 - 100 people in attendance at each of the initial three town hall meetings in Compton, Sylmar, and La Puente, there has been overwhelming public support for a commission with subpoena power and without law enforcement or retired law enforcement.

The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in Los Angeles Jails – which includes over 20 organizations countywide, survivors of sheriff violence, their families, and communities – have been calling on the county for three years to create an independent civilian oversight commission over the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department *with* subpoena power. **In addition to subpoena power their demands are 1) that it be composed of 9 members, 5 appointed by the supervisors and 4 appointed from a list of nominees identified by the community, 2) it directs the functions of the Inspector General, 3) is comprised of no current or former law enforcement, 4) it has its own legal counsel.**

The next Town Hall takes place in the Antelope Valley College Board Room in Lancaster. District 5 Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich has never voted in favor of civilian oversight and the county is currently planning to build a multi-billion dollar women's jail in Lancaster.

“Antelope Valley is at the forefront of sheriff violence concerns,” says Mark-Anthony Johnson, director of health and wellness at Dignity and Power Now. “For years the public has cried out for a commission with the power to hold the largest and most violent sheriff's department in the country accountable. That's why The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence put this issue on the map. We expect no less tonight in Lancaster – or anywhere else in Los Angeles County.”

For more information, please visit dignityandpowernow.org.

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