

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

For Immediate Release: April 30, 2015
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Next Town Hall Meeting: Thursday April 30th, West Hollywood Library
625 North San Vincent Blvd. West Hollywood, 90046, 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 eight town hall meetings in Compton, Sylmar, La Puente, Lancaster, Hacienda Heights, Arcadia, Exposition Park, and East LA 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 final Town Hall takes place tonight in Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's district 3 at the West Hollywood Library. Sheila Kuehl made headlines last year by voting in favor of the Civilian Oversight Commission as one of her first motions as supervisor. She has not yet publicly addressed the community's demands.

“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,” says Mark-Anthony Johnson, director of health and wellness at Dignity and Power Now. “That's why The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence put this issue on the map, why Sheila Kuehl supported it, and why there's been overwhelming support for our demands at these town halls. We expect no less tonight in West Hollywood.”

For more information, please visit dignityandpowernow.org.

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