

Public Launches Petition Demanding The County Board of Supervisors Give LASD Civilian Oversight Commission Power

For Immediate Release: May 11th, 2015
Contact: Mark-Anthony Johnson (818) 259-1322
Spanish Media Liaison: Carla Gonzalez (323) 394-5521

Petition: <http://iam.colorofchange.org/petitions/we-want-civilian-oversight-of-the-sheriff-s-department-with-teeth>

Los Angeles, C.A. – With the county slated to make their final decisions this month on the size, scope, responsibilities, and powers of the Civilian Oversight Commission – a commission that will be tasked with overseeing the largest and most violent sheriff’s department in the world – the community has come forward with a petition demanding that the commission be empowered with the ability to subpoena the sheriff’s department as well as third parties involved in custody and patrol operations. The petition reads in part, “This commission must have full legal authority to retrieve records and testimony, as well as assess, analyze, and report on patterns of excessive force, misconduct, medical neglect, and any other human rights violations against our loved ones inside and outside of what remains the largest jail system in the world.”

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 petition launched today and will be delivered to The County Board of Supervisors following a press conference on the day the working group reports their recommendations to the supervisors, tentatively scheduled for later this month.

“Independent civilian oversight should be the norm in Los Angeles as it exists in many cities and counties across the country,” says Mark-Anthony Johnson, director of health and wellness at Dignity and Power Now. “Our loved ones have endured unchecked sheriff violence in its many forms for long enough. We urge the supervisors to move forward with this model of independent civilian oversight to ensure transparent, humane, and accountable policing in Los Angeles.”

For more information, please visit dignityandpowernow.org.

3655 S. Grand Ave.
Suite 240
Los Angeles, CA
90003

(213) 745-7135

dignityandpowernow
.org