

## **Civilians Demand a Say in Civilian Oversight Commission**

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**Press Conference:** Tuesday, July 28th, 9:00 a.m. outside Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 W Temple St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Los Angeles, C.A.** – With the controversial in-custody death of Sandra Bland making national headlines and the Black Lives Matter movement sweeping the nation, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is slated on Tuesday to take the next step in establishing LA’s own Civilian Oversight Commission – a commission that will be tasked with overseeing the largest and most violent sheriff’s department in the world. The working group that has been tasked with coming up with recommendations for the commission’s size, scope, mission, and powers will be presenting their report to the supervisors. Community members that have been present and participated throughout all of the working group’s 13 public meetings and 9 town halls have come forward 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.

“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,” says Mark-Anthony Johnson of Dignity and Power Now (DPN) and the Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in Los Angeles Jails.

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.**

DPN’s Director of Health and Wellness Mark-Anthony Johnson continues, “Our loved ones have endured unchecked sheriff violence in its many forms for long enough. We urge the supervisors to move forward with independent civilian oversight *with power* to ensure transparent and accountable policing in Los Angeles.”

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

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