



**For Immediate Release
April 3, 2017**

**Advocates to Urge Board of Supervisors
to Support the Firing of Deputies Found Guilty of Misconduct
and Renews Call for Independent Oversight Subpoena Power**

*Dignity and Power Now and The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in L.A. Jails to
provide testimony and over 12K petition signatures*

- WHO:** Dignity and Power Now (DPN)
The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in L.A. Jails
- WHAT** Jail and sheriff's department reform advocates to urge Los Angeles County Supervisors to support changing current laws to allow for civil service commissions to discharge, reduce, promote, or reassign Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies who have been found guilty of misconduct and are not credible witnesses.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, April 4, 2017
9:30AM
- WHERE:** Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles 90012, Room 381-B
(3rd Floor)

**Los Angeles, CA – On Tuesday, Apr. 4, Dignity and Power Now (DPN) and
The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in L.A. Jails, an alliance of**

organizations who have significant interest in protecting the human and civil rights of the accused in criminal proceedings and the roughly 16,500 people held in the L.A. County jail system, will appear before the **Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors** to urge them to make it easier to fire sheriff's deputies who have been found guilty of misconduct. The group will also deliver over [12,000 signatures](#) in urging the Los Angeles Superior Court to allow the Sheriff Jim McDonnell to release the 300 personnel records of abuse and misconduct to the District Attorney's Office (Case No. B280676). The board of supervisors is expected to consider the motion at its meeting Tuesday ([Agenda Item No. 10](#)).

"We applaud the board of supervisors for their effort to assess what can be done about officer misconduct," **said Dignity and Power Now founder Patrisse Cullors**. "This is one step forward in exposing the harmful behavior of sheriff personnel experienced by our loved ones in and outside of the jails. Given the long history of deputy gangs in the department and decades of abuse, we know that there are more than 300 officers who are guilty of misconduct in the sheriff's department. We're demanding the county have a means of addressing this to protect the lives of incarcerated people, their loved ones and communities."

"There is long history of officers who have been fired for misconduct who were then rehired because they appealed to the civil service commission," added **Dignity and Power Now Health and Wellness Director Mark-Anthony Johnson**. "There is a grave need for independent oversight to have subpoena power it so we can effectively identify trends of misconduct in the department. Subpoena power would allow the commission to compel personnel to give testimony regarding practices in the department. Sheriff McDonald has been proactive in addressing his misconduct and has been met with staunch resistance by the sheriff's union. If the Sheriff himself is limited by his own department, then it is imperative for independent oversight to have the power to proactively identify misconduct. That means subpoena power."

DPN is a Los Angeles based non-profit civil and human rights organization. Its work over the last five years has and continues to be dedicated to supporting currently and formerly incarcerated people as well as their families who have experienced Sheriff misconduct in the jail system or in their neighborhoods. Specifically, DPN built a county-wide coalition responsible for proposing, creating, and implementing civilian oversight of the Sheriff's Department to ensure greater transparency and accountability for LASD personnel. This case has a direct impact on the policies and practices of transparency and accountability of the Sheriff's Department, which has been at the center of DPN's work, and is a primary concern to its members, their families, and communities across Los Angeles County.

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DIGNITY AND POWER NOW (DPN) is a grassroots organization based in Los Angeles that fights for the dignity and power of incarcerated people, their families, and communities. In doing so, DPN wages a fight for everyone because the prison industrial complex forms an imaginative limit on everyone's capacity to envision freedom and liberation. More at www.dignityandpowernow.org.

THE COALITION TO END SHERIFF VIOLENCE IN L.A. JAILS is an alliance of over a dozen Los Angeles County community organizations that are building a movement to end state violence and mass incarceration. Since its inception the Coalition has had four demands:

- Implement independent civilian oversight of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Decarcerate the L.A. County jail system
- Stop jail expansion

- Respect the civil and human rights of incarcerated people