

Public Outcry and Demand for Civilian Oversight After News That Sheriff Use of Force Inside LA County Jails Has Gone Up 11% in the Past Nine Months

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Contact:

Patrisse Cullors (213) 375-4518

Los Angeles, C.A. – Just as Los Angeles residents are preparing to take part in November’s election, a report is released detailing that use of force by sheriff’s officials in LA County jails is up 11%. The report states that in the last nine months deputies used force 512 times, including "control holds", Mace, punches, kicks, the use of Tasers or batons, “and/or any use of force which results in an injury or lasting pain.”

As a solution a comprehensive model of civilian oversight of the Sheriff’s Department has been proposed by a coalition of community organizations, including Dignity and Power Now — whose motto reads, in part, “for all incarcerated people, their families, and communities.” There are five nonnegotiable conditions for the prospective Civilian Review Board, which include there be at least nine members on the board, independent legal council, no law enforcement or retired law enforcement serving on the board, subpoena power and independent investigative power, and that the board guide the work of the Inspector General.

“The community is not shocked, but *outraged*,” says Patrisse Cullors, executive director of Dignity and Power Now. “The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department continues to commit barbaric human rights abuses even after pressure to clean up their act from the federal government and after our last sheriff resigned in disgrace. The people refuse to wait on the sidelines while prisoners are increasingly being mistreated and harmed – *we must implement a civilian review board now.*”

For more information, please visit endsheriffviolence.org.

Los Angeles, CA
(213) 375-4518
endsheriffviolence
@gmail.com
endsheriffviolence
.org