

# Survivors of Sheriff Abuse and Faith-based Leaders Urge County Supervisors To Vote YES On A Civilian Review Board

Los Angeles – On August 5th, 2014, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is set to vote on a long-awaited motion in support of the creation of a civilian-led review board of the Sheriff's Department. Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Molina put forward the motion and are awaiting support from a third member of the five-person board, the likely leadership coming from Zev Yaroslavsky.

After years and years of national level embarrassment, expensive lawsuits, and detailed county-commissioned reports of misconduct and excessive use of force, the time is now. The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in L.A. Jails has released a report with their recommendations. The former LA Sheriff, Leroy Baca; interim Sheriff, John Scott; and front-runner in the upcoming election, Jim McDonnell, have backed the creation of one. And a broad coalition of community members is coming together to urge the Board to vote yes. The latest group of constituents to join the urgent fight is fifty Rabbis and Jewish community leaders in the LA area, the majority of whom are part of Zev Yaroslavsky's district. "The LA County Sheriff's Department has lost a great deal of trust from the larger community over the years as a result of scandals and disheartening reports of brutality and abuse in the county prison system. It is time for the LA County Sheriff's Department to open its doors to

the same sort of scrutiny that has improved standards in other law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles Police Department. We call on the County Board of Supervisors to remember that ALL are created in the Divine Image, even those doing time in prison,” said Rabbi Jonathan Klein.

The press conference immediately before the vote will include community members, survivors of deputy abuse, and faith-based leaders speaking on the urgency and necessity of the creation of a Civilian led Review Board now not tomorrow or next year.

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The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in L.A. Jails is a grassroots multiracial organization bringing together community organizations, healthcare providers, clergy, attorneys, community residents, friends and families and survivors of the brutality inside L.A. jails to fight for real accountability. We are proposing a People’s Civilian Review Board that is comprised wholly of citizens, maintains subpoena power, ensures citizen complaints are reviewed and investigated, and makes recommendations for disciplinary or policy action in the department.