

Los Angeles, Ca February 25th, 2014- For the last 16 months the Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in L.A. Jails (C2ESV) has been urging the County Board of Supervisors to empanel permanent Civilian Oversight of the Sheriff's Department. Tuesday, February 25th, there was some movement towards ensuring that the County begins to start implementing such a commission. Our work has been long and hard and powerful, and we are grateful for the small but important victory.

"This is a great step in the direction of ensuring our loved ones human rights are upheld, but we need to make sure that the County does not get swept up in it's own bureaucracy that could making the public disillusioned because of the lack of action by the Supervisors," says Patrisse Cullors - Executive Director of Dignity and Power Now.

"My son almost died in Twin Towers. He has been completely neglected by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department deputies," says Patricia Russell member of C2ESV

What is clear?

1. Millions of people have been impacted by the violence that has plagued the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.
2. Community voices need to be at the forefront of decision making.
3. We need a civilian oversight body, and we needed it yesterday.

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.