

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHEN: Thursday, October 17th, 2013 @ 11am

COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS, ADVOCATES AND FORMERLY
INCARCERATED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY URGE
SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY TO VOTE YES ON PERMANENT
CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF L.A. COUNTY JAILS

LOS ANGELES – Organizers, advocates and formerly incarcerated community members will be holding a press conference outside of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky’s office, urging him to vote “yes” on a motion to implement a permanent Citizen’s Oversight Commission of the Los Angeles County Jail system. The motion, introduced by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Gloria Molina requests that the County create a civilian oversight body that will work closely with the yet to be established Office of Inspector General. Organized by the Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in L.A. Jails (C2ESV), a grassroots multiracial organization, this press conference will be held Thursday, October 17, @ 11 a.m. at the Supervisor’s Van Nuys office at 14340 Sylvan Street.

Speakers at the press conference will include Paul Dumont, Housing Rights Advocate with the Sober Living Network, Daryl King, Educator and San Fernando Valley Resident, and Patrisse Cullors, Executive Director of The Coalition To End Sheriff Violence in Los Angeles Jails. The speakers will address, amongst other things, the concerns raised by Supervisors Yaroslavksy regarding civilian oversight, as well as what limitations abuse in the jails creates to reintegration.

“In light of the numerous investigations and seemingly daily reports of misconduct by Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department employees, public confidence demands public oversight. There can never be too many eyes and ears watching how we treat prisoners.” - Paul Dumont, Housing Advocate with The Sober Living Network

The Coalition has been advocating and organizing for independent civilian oversight over the Sheriff's Department for the past year, hosting well attended town hall meetings on the subject in both Supervisor Molina’s and Supervisor Ridley-Thomas’ districts.

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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.