

L.A. Nonprofit that Originally Exposed Problematic Sheriff's Deputies Urges DA Jackie Lacey to Followthrough on Examinations

3655 S. Grand Ave.
Suite 240
Los Angeles, CA
90003

(213) 745-7135

dignityandpowernow.org

For Immediate Release: January 12th, 2018

Los Angeles, CA – This past summer Dignity and Power Now – a local grassroots organization dedicated to the dignity and power of all incarcerated people, their families, and communities –launched theproblematic.org, a website that exposed 22 problematic deputies that are still employed with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Similar to the LA Times investigation released last month, theproblematic.org urges the county to take action by allowing Sheriff McDonnell to provide prosecutors with a list of 300 deputies with a history of misconduct. Dignity and Power Now also orchestrated a petition in support of releasing the list that was signed by over 12,000 people and delivered to the County Board of Supervisors in April of 2017.

Although Dignity and Power Now, a Black and Brown organization led by formerly incarcerated people, has been leading the push to take action on the list of problematic deputies for almost a year now, DA Jackie Lacey has responded with "surprise" to the LA Times investigation and today has stated that her department will be "reviewing cases in which deputies have testified after committing misconduct."

Patrisse Cullors, DPN's founder and board chair whose book *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* is released this week says, "Dignity and Power Now and the Black and Brown communities experiencing sheriff violence have urged the DA to take action for years. This is a victory, but only in the case that there is **actual followthrough** including overturning convictions based on these deputies' testimony and continuing to expose and investigate misconduct within the LASD. All of our eyes are on Jackie Lacey."

DPN Civilian Oversight Campaign Lead Michele Infante continues, "Let's not forget that Sheriff McDonnell has documented at least another 276 problematic deputies. Due to their testimony and misconduct *people have been imprisoned* and it's Jackie Lacey's responsibility to not only fix that, but **prevent it from happening ever again.**" Michele and DPN advocate for the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission to be empowered with the ability to subpoena the sheriff's department.