



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



January 25, 2021

Brian K. Williams, Executive Director
Civilian Oversight Commission
World Trade Center
350 South Figueroa Street, Suite 288
Los Angeles, California 90071

Dear Mr. Williams:

**ATTENDANCE REQUESTED AT THE FEBRUARY 18, 2021
CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING**

I am in receipt of your January 25, 2021, correspondence wherein you requested my attendance at the next monthly Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) meeting scheduled for February 18, 2021. Due to the numerous demands on my schedule, I may not always be available to attend every meeting. Unfortunately, I have prior obligations scheduled on February 18, 2021, and I am unable to attend this COC meeting. The Los Angeles County ordinance recognizes the strain on the Sheriff personally attending every meeting, since it allows for a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) representative to attend on my behalf.

I fully recognize there will be occasions when the COC needs to hear directly from me on my visions, policies, and overall plans for the Department. I welcome oversight and I believe it is important to have a good working relationship with the COC. As such, I will commit to arranging my schedule once a trimester (every four months) to attend the COC meetings and respond to any individual policy questions. As you know from the last meeting, I am not always the person with specific details and I rely on my knowledgeable staff for that information. If the COC will provide the Department, in advance, with the questions and/or areas of concern they need information on, I can then arrange for the person most proficient on those topics to be in attendance.

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January 25, 2021

As you know, I accepted your invitation to attend the December 18, 2020, meeting to discuss your concerns about deputy gangs. I also offered to stay an extra 30 minutes to discuss your concerns regarding COVID-19 matters in the jails. At the December meeting, the COC was not able to get to the COVID-19 matters and you had to conclude after an hour without discussing that topic. I agreed to attend the January 21, 2021, meeting to discuss COVID-19 in the jails. I stayed at the meeting longer than I was scheduled. I am disappointed the COC feels it did not finish this topic, but as was evident at the meeting, the questioning was largely about details and specific data. These questions were better answered by Assistant Sheriff Bruce Chase, who had the most current data. I was prepared to discuss broader topics, such as where I planned to go with my leadership of the Department. In fact, there were very few questions about my visions, practices, and policies.

I look forward to setting up another visit during the second trimester of the year. I would appreciate your providing me with advanced notice of the topics and concerns the COC has about my visions, practices, and policies.

Please contact me at [REDACTED] to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ALEX VILLANUEVA', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ALEX VILLANUEVA
SHERIFF