



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**HALL OF JUSTICE**

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



October 3, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Williams:

## **FALSE AND IRRESPONSIBLE ALLEGATIONS MADE AT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

On September 23, 2022, the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) conducted another special hearing on "deputy gangs." During the hearing, Attorney Bert Deixler introduced information he stated was relayed to him by Captain Angela Walton. Attorney Deixler publicly stated as fact, an unknown dark colored Nissan sedan had been parked on the street directly across from Captain Walton's residence on September 20, 2022, the day she appeared in front of the COC.

Attorney Deixler went on to state Captain Walton recognized the vehicle as an "*undercover sheriff's vehicle*." Attorney Deixler then publicly displayed two images. The first image depicted the driver's side profile of a dark colored sedan. The second image depicted the rear tailgate of a Scion XB with the California license plate displayed.

Attorney Deixler stated Captain Walton told him, "... *she would not be intimidated*." A statement which denoted Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) personnel were actively surveilling her because she had testified in front of the Civilian Oversight Commission. This accusatory sentiment was later picked up by the news and on social media.

211 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

*A Tradition of Service*  
— Since 1850 —

The Department initiated an inquiry soon after these allegations were made. The inquiry has concluded, and the findings revealed the vehicle Captain Walton suspected of being involved in surveillance of her, absolutely does not belong to the Department, absolutely was not connected to the Department in any way and was in the vicinity for reasons which absolutely were unrelated to Captain Walton in any way.

The manner in which the Department was portrayed by Attorney Deixler to the COC and public was irresponsible and unethical. A simple vetting of the information through ANY law enforcement entity could have brought forth the same results as we have provided to you. All parties involved were aware of the fact a public forum was not the venue to make those statements until they could be confirmed or disproven. Although, it is highly likely these irresponsible statements were intentionally made, in line with the COC's demonstrated mission of attacking the Department. By introducing "gossip" during your meetings and offering it to the public as reliable information, you show your commission to be unprofessional, unreliable, and desperate disciples of confirmation bias.

Additionally, there was no "full disclosure" of the fact Captain Walton, and her attorney Vincent Miller, stand to significantly gain monetarily by continued portrayal of the Department in a negative light. If the COC is now a tool for civil attorneys with multiple lawsuits against the Department to strengthen their cases, please disclose this fact. If not, then stop acting like you are. I demand the COC issues a public statement correcting the record on every one of your social media platforms.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact my Chief of Staff, Commander John Satterfield at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alex Villanueva', is written over a horizontal line.

ALEX VILLANUEVA  
SHERIFF