

LA COUNTY CITIZENS' COMMISSION ON JAIL VIOLENCE



COMMUNITY FORUM

**Unedited Draft – Partial Transcript of CCJV
Community Forum held on May 30, 2012**

Transcription of CCJV Community Forum May 2012

Judge Baird	<p>That will help us then be able to come to the conclusions that we hope to come to and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Now I'm going to give you a little preview first of all here of tonight's agenda. Initially Ms. Krinsky, our Executive Director, will provide a brief overview of the background, the work and the timeline of the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence. This evening is intentionally dedicated not to us talking to you, but you talking to us. And all of you, we will be listening very carefully because you have taken the time to join us tonight. We want to hear your comments, your concerns and perspectives regarding the issue of the alleged use of excessive force by deputies against inmates in our Los Angeles jails. We want to hear from all concerned members of our community, that's the purpose of tonight's event. All of you here, citizens, perhaps inmates' families, law enforcement representatives and interested organizations are all encouraged to address this Commission and be heard. Now I'm going to ask Reverend Murray and Mr. Busansky to introduce themselves and tell you a little bit about what they are doing if they choose.</p>
Rev. Cecil Murray	<p>Thank you. I'm a minister retired at First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Reverend Cecil L. Chip Murray, presently at the Center for Religion at USC where they've been kind enough to take this old footed preacher and name the Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement after me where we are struggling to do much as this commission is doing to serve the underserved communities. It is a pleasure to see many of you again and to meet those who are strangers. Thank you for your presence.</p>
Mr. Alexandar Busansky	<p>Good evening, my name is Alex Busansky, I am currently the president of the National Counsel of Crime and Delinquency. NCCD is an organization that's been around for about 107 years and we promote just and equitable social systems for individuals, families and communities through research, public policy and practice. We are based in Oakland California, but we do work all throughout the state of California and around the country. Prior to joining NCCD I worked for an organization called Vera Institute of Justice and ran for them what was called the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons. A national commission that looked at jail and prison conditions in a variety of places and came up with a whole host of recommendations. As I said we are based in Oakland and I actually live in Berkeley and it is a pleasure to be able to come to Los Angeles to join this esteemed body and spend time with people like Judge Baird and Reverend Murray. Thank you.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>I would like to take a moment to ask Ms. Krinsky, our Executive Director, and also Rick Drooyan, our General Counsel, to introduce themselves to you.</p>
Rick Drooyan	<p>Good evening, my name is Rick Drooyan, I am the General Counsel for the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence. I'm an attorney at Munger, Tolles & Olson, one of the firms downtown. And my responsibility has</p>

	<p>largely been to organize the investigation through a number of different law firms in town that have been gracious to provide their pro bono legal services and the lawyers who have been working with me to conduct interviews, to review documents, present witnesses to the Commission, and hopefully help find some solutions to some of the problems in the jail. Thank you.</p>
<p>Miriam Krinsky</p>	<p>Good evening, and thank you all for coming this evening. My name is Miriam Krinsky, I'm the Executive Director of the Citizens' Commissions on Jail Violence and it's my privilege to have the opportunity to work with our General Counsel Rick Drooyan and with the tremendous members of our Commission in trying to make a difference in regard to these issues. We also have some phenomenal volunteers and staff who are here this evening. You can spot them by the hanging name tags and actually I know a few of them are in the room. If they could maybe stand so that they can be identified and again we appreciate all of their hours of work. Before I provide a bit of a backdrop for this evening that Judge Baird asked me to do, I did want to note that we do have representatives here with us from some of our Board of Supervisor offices from Mark Ridley Thomas' office, as well as Zev Yaroslavsky's office, and we would like to thank them and all of the members of the Board of Supervisors for their support as the Commission's work has been ongoing.</p> <p>Thank you for coming here this evening and for giving up precious hours of your evening to have a conversation with us. Our task tonight, as Judge Baird indicated, is to have the opportunity to come into our community and listen. Something that the Commission thought was extremely important as our work is underway. We want to hear the perspectives of all of you, of members of our community who are impacted by and care so deeply about the issues that we've been looking at. And we hope that through what we hear tonight, as well as all of the work that we've done, that we'll have the ability to further our fact finding and our investigation into allegations of alleged use of force and violence against inmate in our county's jails. Your comments and input will be of invaluable help to us as we move toward crafting our recommendations and final report to the Board of Supervisors. A report that we expect and intend to have issued this fall.</p>
<p>Miriam Krinsky</p>	<p>Judge Baird asked that I provide a bit of a background in regard to the work of our Commission. Our Commission was created at the end of 2011 by the Board of Supervisors. The Board created us with a mission and a mandate to investigate alleged inappropriate use of force by deputies assigned to our county's jails. They told us it was our job to make necessary recommendations for corrective action in a final report to issue to the Board of Supervisors at the end of our work. And they also charged us with endeavoring in ways such as this and other ways to restore public confidence in the Constitutional operation of our counties jails.</p> <p>In terms of the process that we've used to carry out that mission, we were fully staffed as of the beginning of this year and have now met 9 times. We meet downtown in the Hall of Administration and our meetings are</p>

	<p>open to the public and we would encourage you to come and join us at those meetings. I know we have some here who have been to our meetings. We have an opportunity for public comment at our meetings and we welcome comments from members of our community.</p> <p>We have 7 distinguished members who are devoted public leaders and public servants and as you heard from our Chair Judge Baird, that 7 member body created a sub-committee that are the 3 members of our commission here with us this evening. Over the course of meetings we've heard from witnesses and will continue at upcoming meetings to hear from witnesses, including members of our clergy, former inmates from our jails, personnel from the Sheriff's Department, expert witnesses, groups that monitor our Sheriff's Department, and others. Working with the General Counsel are, as he indicated, over 50 pro bono lawyers from throughout our community in 10 different law firms. We interviewed dozens of witnesses with more to go, looked at scores of documents and visited jail facilities throughout our County and in other parts of our country.</p> <p>Let me make a few notes in regard to what the focus of our work is: we have no legal or law enforcement authority, we're charged with collecting information, with listening and recommendations. It's not our charge to enforce or take action in regard to individual cases. We do have representatives here with us this evening from groups that have a different charge than ours. If your concerns relate to individual cases or enforcement action, we would encourage you to reach out to them. We have individuals here with us from the Special Counsel's office, our terrific Special Counsel Merrick Bobb and others from his office and I would ask them to stand. We have the head of our office Mike Gennaco and Mike if you could stand along with any other members of your office, I think there are others from your office. And we have individuals here with us from the ACLU of Southern California who have also been involved in regard to trying to monitor what goes on in our jails and help improve conditions, so if they can stand as well, Peter Eliasberg and others in his office.</p>
Miriam Krinsky	<p>And we've also been very fortunate throughout our work to have had the full cooperation and support of our Sheriff, as well as his Commander Management Task Force, and I know we have with us at least one of the representatives and perhaps others from the Commander Management Task Force -- Commander Guyovich and if there are others if you could stand.</p> <p>So returning to all of you who have not stood; your voices and your input are critically important to us. We thank you tonight for your participation, for your candor. We realize that there are many issues and challenges facing our jail and our justice system that are of interest to our community. Let me stress again, our focus is not all things jail related, rather our focus is what relates to the allegations regarding the inappropriate use of force in our jails.</p> <p>If you choose to come forward, and we certainly hope that many of you will, realize that your remarks will be recorded, they will be made part of</p>

	<p>our record, there will be an audio of this meeting available for those who weren't with us tonight who might want to listen in on what transpires and we intend to make the record of what happens in this evening and conversation we have available to all 7 members of our Commission. I know we do have representatives of the media here this evening as well, so again if you choose to come forward and speak, just realize that your names may also appear in any coverage that they choose to give of the proceedings this evening. If you prefer to give us comments that aren't for attribution, we encourage you to do that as well. You can fill in a card and indicate that you would rather not come forward but we still want to hear your perspectives in what ever manner you might choose to convey them to us. So thank you again for joining us this evening and let me turn it back to Judge Baird to walk through the process for the evening.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>I'm going to go through the process with you so that it might make it a little easier for you who are really going to be the stars of tonight's show and that is those comments the public is going to be making to us. As you may know or may not know, speaker cards are available for all members of the public who wish to share a comment or a question with our Committee. As Ms. Krinsky mentioned if you wish to convey a comment or question to us but do not wish to speak publically there is a box in each card indicating that you do not wish to make a public comment. If you have not received a speaker card and would like one could you please raise your hands. Anyone has not received a speaker card who would like to have one? Ok, well if you change your mind the 3 volunteer staff that just stood up a while ago will have those available to you. Now if you have filled out a speaker card and have not provided it to one of our volunteer members, is there anyone that has their card that hasn't passed it on as yet? Please raise your hand. The gentleman over here in the white; anyone else have a card that you have not passed on? Ok. Well, you know who these ... And I said 3 volunteers and actually I think we have 4. Please contact them as the evening goes on if you discover that you would like to speak. Now, I'm going to begin by reading the names on the cards and calling forward the first 5 community members who wish to address the forum. If your name is called one of our staff volunteers will guide you in forming a line, I believe right along this side of the room near the microphone and the podium, right over here in front of you on your right side. If any of you have any physical limitations of any kind please raise your hand when called and a staff volunteer will bring you a wireless microphone. After the first group, at least most of the first group, has spoken I will call the names of the next group of 5 speakers and continue calling you up in groups of 5. This process will continue as long as time allows us to. Each speaker will have 2 minutes and I'm afraid 2 minutes only, to offer their comments. After 1:30 minutes, 30 seconds before your 2 minutes are up our timekeeper will notify you to finish up. At the end of 2 minutes our timekeeper will sound a chime, please return to your seat and allow the next speaker to speak in order to continue with hearing all of those individuals that do wish to be heard. Because we certainly want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to speak and ask that you respect this time limitation. Now as some of these things Ms. Krinsky had mentioned to</p>

	you but I think it's ... yes
Audience Member	[inaudible question being asked from audience] I can speak louder, 2 minutes is not really going to be enough for people to actually give you the what you are trying to do, is actually testify as to what is going on and so I just offer that to you, 2 minutes is not enough madam.
Judge Baird	I understand, it is very, very short. Unfortunately it's now past 6:30 it's about 20 minutes to 7:00 and in order to be able to let everyone have an opportunity we'll do our best. If we finish up early then we may be able to have people to come back. But I think at this point I would like very much to ... and I appreciate your comments. Just very quickly, I want to make sure that you know that everything that we say is being recorded and will be available for the general public to hear. The record will also be available to the Commission which is most important for our work for consideration in formulating our conclusions and recommendations. Second, please note that members of the media are present and may approach some of you for comments or interviews. Whether you choose to speak to the media is entirely up to you. We have an adjoining room I believe which is, where is that? There is a room that is identified apparently as Media and we'd like to have the interviews that media does in that room in an effort to avoid disrupting our being able to hear the attendees that wish to address us. And I ask that the media conduct any interviews in that space for that purpose. I'm going to call up the first 5 speakers and they are ... the assistants will assist you in lining up and the first one is Joshua Kim, Mr. Kim; the second one is Aaron Walker, Mr. Walker; the third is Susan Burton, Ms. Burton; the next one is L. Ricky Ricardo, Mr. Ricardo, I believe that's the name of a very famous somebody who appears on afternoon television. The last of the 5 is Steven Rochelle. Ok, we are ready to start and the timer will go on, thank you.
Joshua Kim	Thank you for your time and I'm glad to be the first to actually talk about this issue because I want to frame it in a way that may not be apparent or obvious to the panel here, the Commission here. Because the issues that the Commission is addressing is interconnected with issues outside of simply the issue of jail violence and I want to bring up the issue for instance, for example of the voting rights of people who are convicted of crime. In a way explain who the physical violence is in fact leading to political violence of depriving people of actual right to vote of their right to vote. I think the Commission is very well aware of the number of people going through our county jail system. Back in 2008-2009 about 2.5 million people went through the system and of them 12% 289,000 in fact were in jail for more than 120 days based on non-felonious filed and of the felonies filed 1,600 were in jail within 90 days. This is about 300,000 people over a period of 2 years and of these people the LA County Register Office has confirmed that fewer than 440 people have registered to vote from the county jail system. This year in 2012 only 80 people have registered from county jail. We have serious problem here because in fact of this 150,000 people per year in county jail the majority of them are in fact entitled to vote and have been clarified in League of

Unedited Draft – Partial Transcript of CCJV Community Forum held on May 30, 2012

	<p>Women Voter v. MacPhearson that they in fact retain the right to vote despite their conviction. So as the Commission moves forward, I hope that the Commission can in fact, keep in mind context of the work that you are charged with and realize the political consequences of the violence in jail. Thank you very much.</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>Thank you very much Mr. Kim. The next speaker I hope I have it right, Mr. Rochelle, Mr. Rochelle, Steven Rochelle. Ok I guess I have you mixed up with ... Mr. Rochelle.</p>
<p>Steven Rochelle</p>	<p>Thank you, to frame our situation I would just like to say mental illness, African Americans, disproportionality, criminal justice system. My son Matthew Rochelle is a 24 yr old African American male who was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 2006 during his senior year in school. After some stabilization in November 2008 he stopped taking his medications and was arrested and accused of breaking and entering and resisting arrest by LAPD. While awaiting his trial, Matthew was housed at Twin Towers jail facility in Los Angeles. My wife and I visited him every weekend, talked to his attorney and social worker every day. Our hope was to get Matthew stabilized and admitted to Patten State Hospital so he could get the help he needed to face his charges, get better and return as a viable member of his community. Regrettably because of the conditions that existed during his stay November 2008-2010 and brutal treatment that he was subjected to, Matthew Rochelle's mental state deteriorated so much so that he was involved in an incident that caused the loss of life of another inmate. The following are 3 specific abuses that my son and other mentally ill patients were subjected to. 1. Constant taunts and humiliation by Sheriff deputies, they made fun of mental patients, calling them pieces of shit; mentally ill patients would be taken to the outdoor recreation yard and embarrassed by being made to get naked, bend over and expose their buttocks; deputy on prisoner abuse and assaults, Matthew arms were pulled through his cell door slots; tied to the outside of the door and he was left this way for several hours. Sheriff's stopped feeding my son for several days and shot off the water to his cell in an attempt to starve him. Deputies broke my son's left pinky finger, he received no medical treatment for this. He was then locked in a cold cell with no mattress and no blanket and not given food for days. Sheriff orchestrated prisoner on prisoner fights; Matthew was locked in a room with a gang member that deputies knew had a problem with; Matthew was beaten up and he required stitches to his forehead. On another occasion Matthew was escorted to a hostile gang member's cell, locked in while deputies watched them fight. We believed that Matthew's constitutional rights as a US Citizen were violated. The Supreme Court held in 1994 that a correctional officer may be liable for failing to protect the safety and wellbeing of prisoners if that officer knows that the prisoner faces a substantial risk of serious harm and disregards that risk by failing to take reasonable measures to obey it. The culture of violence, degradation and humiliation that our son, my baby was subjected to, we believe was immoral and illegal. In August of 2009 while awaiting a bed in Patten State Hospital to stand trial for breaking and entering, Matthew was placed in a cell with another severely mentally ill African American</p>

	<p>male. A 56 year old man named Sedrick Walton, both inmates because of their mental condition and the violent conditions of their incarceration were at substantial risk for serious harm. In fact, during the time Matthew was suffering from extreme delusions and paranoia. He had just been returned to his unit after spending a week on the hospital floor suffering from dehydration and decompression. An altercation occurred between these two inmates and unfortunately Mr. Walton lost his life. After waiting almost 9 months for a bed to become available in Patten State Hospital, Matthew was then immediately sent to Patent. All of a sudden a bed became available. Every attempt was made by the District Attorney's Office to convict my son of First Degree Premeditated Murder and send him to the county jail for the rest of his life.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Mr. Rochelle could you ...Only because there are several ...</p>
Steven Rochelle	<p>I understand but this one is just, this is ... What you all want me to do ... [Audience says to keep going]</p>
Judge Baird	<p>No, I ... I believe Mr. Rochelle why don't we see and if we have time .</p>
Steven Rochelle	<p>I can wind this up in 30 seconds.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Depending on how many if we have time we will call you back. We have another. Well, alright very well as soon as we get to that that will be fine, when your card come in you can do that. Thank you Mr. Rochelle. Aaron Walker.</p>
	<p>[Audience: He said he can wrap it up in 30 seconds]</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Ok, can you do it in 30 seconds Mr. Rochelle?</p>
Steven Rochelle	<p>Yes madam.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Ok, thank you.</p>
Steven Rochelle	<p>Don't start, let me get to my page. So the records regarding accountability for monitoring the inmates with mental patients is missing. It seemed to my wife and I that they were circling the wagons. That Matthew was going to be a scapegoat here. It is our opinion that based on the facts of the case that the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department of Corrections was at minimum negligent and at most culpable in this tragic and unfortunate case to quote the judge in my son's case in the preliminary trial he said "There are two victims here. This shouldn't have happened." The judge said that. He was found not guilty by reason of insanity in 2011, sentenced to 15 years to life in Patten State Hospital. We're grateful that ordeal in Twin Towers is over and that he will not be sent to the penitentiary and we're requesting a full and complete investigation of these accusations. We believe that as a citizen he had a right to be seen as innocent and afforded the protection guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.</p>

Unedited Draft – Partial Transcript of CCJV Community Forum held on May 30, 2012

Judge Baird	Thank you very much Mr. Rochelle. Aaron Walker?
Aaron Walker	How are you doing madam? Thank you for this time. My name is Aaron Walker, I'm a former inmate of Los Angeles County Jail, it just brought flashbacks to me when this man was talking because I really haven't been physically abused by any Sheriff Deputy but ... I've seen like he said, you know, squatting, call finish shine to your head, I did that and I just wanted to thank you for having this committee to do something about it. I'd like to thank that ACLU, I'll give you a story ... Sitting in the county jail when the deputies hear that the ACLU is coming they start cleaning up. They start making sure everything is clean. They make sure everything is shined and everything is in order because the ACLU comes through there and shuts things down. But I just wanted to say, thank you for having this committee and I you all can do somethin' to fix the county jail. There's a lot of inmates in the county jail. We break the law, we do our time and that's fine, but the way we get treated in there is, you know, we get treated bad in the county jail and I just ...
Judge Baird	Thank you very much for your remarks Mr. Walker.
Aaron Walker	Ok, thank you.
Judge Baird	Susan Burton
Susan Burton	Hi, Aaron is my nephew and you know he did not talk about the man that was kicked in the nuts because he was looking at the female guard, but we've been talking about the time that he spent there and it's horrible what happens inside the jails. But I also have a brother who was just released last Wednesday and I sat and talked with him last night about what his experience was while in county jail and he talked about a cell, a dorm where older inmates were put and in that dorm of senior inmates that guard would put 5 or 6, what he called, rebel rousers in there and they would rebel rouse the older inmates, younger men, and you know, I guess that might be a classification issue or maybe a guard placement issue but the other thing he brought up as well while they're rebel rousing older inmates that there's no cameras inside the jails to actually be able to sufficiently monitor what happens in dorms. In other dorms, other parts of it there is like ganging up on certain, on one person and them getting beat. Again there are no cameras in these dorms that can be monitored by sheriffs to stop any type of violence. So what I'm talking is the older inmate issue being harassed by younger men and the fact that what would it take to install cameras to insure the safety of a dorm setting.
Judge Baird	Thank you so very much Ms. Burton. And I'm going to call the next 5 individuals so they can line up here. Mr. Ricardo is going to be coming up next, and the names are Connie Albert, Renee, Dr. Sandra Moore, Noreen McClendon, Royce Esriss.
L. Ricky Ricardo	This Commission, ladies and gentlemen this is kind of new for me but I'd like to say one thing to the brother who spoke about his son. I don't

Unedited Draft – Partial Transcript of CCJV Community Forum held on May 30, 2012

	<p>understand those things. People have to understand, especially the Commission, that prison mirrors society. Only on a smaller level. What goes on out here, goes on in there. The violence is some ... I've spent 36 years of my life in prison, some of the most notorious prisons you can think of in the United States. It's not a cake walk, it needs to be addressed. We're trying to form a committee to go in and maybe start with the county jails and all the way up to maybe stop racial violence that is going on. And it only goes on when you see men stabbed with hunting knives bought in stores, men shot with guns, we didn't bring them in through the visiting room. We didn't sneak them in through our butts, swallowed the guns, the bullets, the knives, you know these violence's something that goes on in prison and it needs to stop, especially the racial violence. But it's also an economical situation and the Commission needs to know the people out here need to know the real, it's ugly and I've been part of the ugliness. Maybe we can form something along with Ms. Moore and other people of CAB to formulate something to go in and try to help with that. I appreciate the time.</p>
Judge Baird	Thank you very much Mr. Ricardo. Connie Albert
Connie Albert	My name is Connie Albert, I'm a member of the Citizen's Advisory Board with Dr. Moore and also a paralegal and I basically work federal criminal law. Actually, I've been in your court Judge Baird.
Judge Baird	I hope it was pleasant.
Connie Albert	Not as a defendant though ...but I have been in court as a defendant, I will say that. I concur with Mr. Ricardo and Dr. Moore in that the violence that is permeated in jails and prisons sort of centers around a racial thing in that as the gentleman spoke about his son being put in a cell with another adverse gang member who attacked him, well if you take away the ability of the Sheriffs to be able to initiate that by creating some type of common truce amongst the inmates to have respect for each other then the inmates more or less control the sheriffs rather than the sheriffs control the inmates. So if inmates are looking out for each other regardless of their race, creed or religion, then the sheriffs can only do so much. And I believe there is only a few bad Sheriffs for the most part, I think sheriffs do a good job. But you've got some bad apples, I mean I could tell you about some atrocities in the Sheriff's Department that are unknown to the public but that's another story. But I do think that if we as CAB can go in and speak with the "shock collars" inside the jails to create a racial harmony basically between Hispanics and African Americans, because that's predominate population of prisons. And get them to come together in such away that there is some harmony, then that may decrease the effect that the sheriffs have on inmates overall. Thank you very much.
Judge Baird	Thank you very much Mr. Albert. Mr. Davis, is that Renee Davis.
Reeve Davis	That's actually Reeve Davis.

Judge Baird	Alright, thank you Ms. Davis.
Reeve Davis	<p>My name is Ms. Reeve Davis and I'm currently going through the recruiting process with the Sheriff's Department and I learned of the opportunity through CAB so I'm part of their physical fitness boot camp right now and it's been a pleasure. I just wanted to say that, you know, it's no secret that the Sheriff's, the department is having some problems with it's image and I think it's commendable that their taking steps to work with CAB in the community so that, they can rebuild the persona because it's, you know, often an us against them kind of a persona. So part of what CAB is trying to bring to the table is a link back to the community so that the community can get a sense of ownership in the law enforcement area, law enforcement arena. You know, we've heard the stories, often you get these images of African American men in cages and then a whole bunch of non-black men standing around them with sticks and things like that so CAB is trying to help foster diversity in the Sheriff's Department. You know diversity is not about race it's also about thought processes and personalities so you know bring in a different kind of fresh perspective can help the Sheriff kind of rebrand it's image. I'm hoping that CAB can help the Sheriff's Department to create a sense of ownership and trust within the community. Ownership and transparency, that's what we are looking for too. Not so much secrecy.</p>
Judge Baird	Thank you so very much Ms. Davis. The next is Dr. Moore.
Dr. Moore	<p>To the distinguished Commission I am Dr. Moore and I am the Chair Woman of the Citizens Advisory Board. The acronym is CAB. In 2005 Chief Attorney Michael Gennaco appointed me to be a civilian advisor to Office of Independent Review. I'm not going to give you a long history, I did bring some newsletters if you'd be interested. I'll leave them with you but I'll tell you what we are doing now. I started a group called Solutions, I believe every problem has a solution, so in that vane when this broke in the news I came to Sheriff Baca, who I've known since 1998, and we began to initiate new programs. Under CAB there is now a CAB civilian recruitment program, we recruit and screen from the community and we also graduate them from screening into the CAB Physical Fitness and Training Boot Camp where we provide them with personal trainers so they can pass the agility test that's required by the Sheriff. We provide ... CAB has created a job training and job placement pre-release program, if the prisoners has pre-release why not the jails after AB109. We have a 60 days in, we go in and train, and 60 days out then continue their training in the CAB offices and then they are placed on a job, what they've been trained for. Some is furniture refurbishing, some of it is arts, putting pictures on the furniture. We also have some sponsorship from Addias and Nike so we can manufacture tennis shoes, and not tennis shoe would be over \$35, made by inmates. Also, have placement on these jobs 2 weeks after they complete their 60 days of training, actually 120 days of training. Last think we have the CAB Shock Collar Unit. That's where as Connie Albert said, and Mr. Ricky Ricardo, they would go and meet with the Shock Collars and change ...</p>

Unedited Draft – Partial Transcript of CCJV Community Forum held on May 30, 2012

	it's about change and improving the community so we have the community and the jail's a community.
Judge Baird	Thank you so much Dr. Moore.
Dr. Moore	You're welcome.
Judge Baird	Noreen McClendon.
Noreen McClendon	<p>Thank you, good evening. My name is Noreen McClendon and I'm the Executive Director of Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles and since I only have 2 minutes the first thing that I think needs to be addressed is the unsanitary conditions that are in the jails which also helps to create poor health, when you are not feeling well, your attitude is not good which also can lead to violence. But my son was arrested at 24 years old, he was taken to jail, luckily he didn't have to spend very much time but when the deputy was verbally abusive and he actually raised a concern about being verbally abused he was hog tied by his feet and by hands and taken to a cell way down at the other end of the cell block. Luckily for him his senses occurred to him and he didn't say anything else but there were 5 deputies in that cell with him, ok, where there were no other inmates and all because he told the deputy "don't tell me to shut up, don't talk to me like that." So where respect goes deputies are clear that want respect but deputies don't give respect and when the respect is not given they are physically and emotionally abused and also what happens to people, the legal discrimination that occurs against people once they are released from prison, not being able to vote, not being able receive food stamps, not being eligible for public housing, all of those things create violence on the outside, make the people angry and it causes recidivism and now we have a vicious cycle of people going in and out of the county jail because they have so called paid their debt to society that debt is a lifelong debt that they never get to pay. But respect goes both ways and I think you can address that, that would be great. It disturbs me that your Commission wasn't given any really teeth in terms of doing anything about anything but I do applaud you for your efforts in taking the time to listen and report.</p>
Judge Baird	Thank you very much Ms. McClendon. Royce Esriss.
Royce Esriss	<p>Hi, I'd like to thank you for having these meetings because they are very good and prove a point. The Mayor of Compton appointed our National Association for Equal Justice and Merit to conduct crime committees in Compton. The results of that would offer it's independent review with the FBI. We would have these meetings every first Monday in Compton. The murder rate was 85 and we got it down to 12. The police brutality was ... every time we turned around at our meetings, every first Monday in Compton, was about police brutality, it was about the jails, the whole bit. The results of that ...of course we got some attorneys...a number _____ have sued them and quite naturally it gets their attention. We don't have too many police brutality case but we have a case as soon as I leave here I have to go and meet the family. A mentally ill person was let</p>

	<p>out of jail and guess what he got killed on his way home. As a mental problem in the medieval of the 18th century is the way that those jails are in the county. We get complaints all the time at our crime committee meeting every first Monday. These meetings are good that you are doing because the results of our meetings every first Monday we have reduced the crime, we have reduced police brutality and I feel that by you having these meetings you will probably reduce the brutality in the jails. Meetings are very good because the people have a chance to come and explain what's going on. When I get back I'm going probably be a...we're going file a complaint because we want to know why this young man, he's a 5150 let him out of jail. As soon as he got out of jail Matrice Richardson case, another case we had about 200 people with all the independent review there and we had about 200 people and Matrice Richardson case I think you are doing a great job and believe me the citizens have opportunity to express themselves and results coming from what we are doing is good. So keep it up.</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>Thank you very much Mr. Esriss. I'd like to call the next 5, Douglas Crane, Joseph Rosenwald, George Buseti, Nina Rochelle, Gerald Grant and Kevin Michael, all right? Mr. Crane.</p>
<p>Douglas Crane</p>	<p>Hi, thank you very much for letting me speak here. I'm a former inmate. I spent almost a year in the county jail. I did my bouncing around from Twin Towers, PDC Southeast, Supermax, I did all that. I've seen a lot things, there are a few bad apples in there. The Sheriff's Department from my perspective is actually truly trying. I've sat down with Sheriff Baca, with Chief Yim, Lieutenant Lindy, Commander Cooper, I'm part of a little known program that's called the Merit Program. Maximizing education reaching individual transformation. I chose to stay in this program, I chose to stay incarcerated because there was something there that could actually change my life. No let's face it, you know, being an inmate most of my life, I've done wrong. So a lot of the things that a lot of us hear, I'm a liar, you know, I'm a manipulator, I'm a cheat, I'm thief. That's what I am, but I have a choice now and I don't have to be that way. That program showed me that I don't have to be that way. So, there is violence and there are a few sheriffs that actually push the limits at a lot of things, but there are things that are trying to be done. I meet every Monday for a thing called the Continuum where I help other inmates that are getting out, get their start outside. You know, I meet with Dr. Weintrob, Dr. James Beard, I meet with Sergeant Clyde Terry, I mean these are individual that I actually truly keep in my life because they are showing me a new way of life instead of the repetitive thing that I did. I think the woman that spoke prior, that said that the real problem is when you get out, everything if you've paid your debt to society, you still have a debt to pay. I've gone tried to get food stamps, I've tried to get GR, I've tried to get all of these. These are roadblocks because I have a felony on my record. Well they're telling me to stop, but that's what truly needs to be changed. There are things that are being done and Sheriff Baca I've met with him and he truly is trying to do things. We have a choice in there. You know, there are a few individuals, you know in a small group of them, the mentally ill individuals they are not allowed to be in that</p>

	<p>program, and I'm sad to say, you know, because they have issues. And I feel for you, I'm so sorry about all of that. But all the other individuals that are grown men and grown women. We have a choice and we need to do it. Thank you.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Thank you very much Mr. Crane. Dr. Rosenwald.</p>
Dr. Rosenwald	<p>I have several issues and several cards will I just have this one time?</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Just one time so you can speak quickly.</p>
Dr. Rosenwald	<p>Ok...My name is P. Joseph Rosenwald, I live in Long Beach, I'm a member of Facts Families to Amend California Three Strikes and I received a community activism award from them. There was an article in yesterday's Los Angeles Times about Susan Burton and a new way of life. One of her people that she helps was back in April, actually it's a 6 week old story, but finally the LA Times published something about it. Thelma Morris was handcuffed in front of her mother and all of her neighbors and the rest of the world by 3 LA uniformed policemen and women. There is no administrative law apparently about AB109. I don't understand how the California Code of Administrative Regulations has not been implemented to give police guidance throughout the state not just the LAPD and the LA Sheriff's Department. What if someone lives in Beverly Hills, does the Beverly Hills Police Department go and check on the people? I don't understand how it works, but certainly there is no administrative law, the way that this law has been applied is extremely careless. One other quick thing, I live in Long Beach, Cambodian American Victims of the Killing Fields and Po Pot came to the United States when they were very young and their parents brought them. As they grew older some of them committed crimes, they joined gangs, etc. Because they were undocumented they were susceptible to Three Strikes Law prosecution, and deportation. When the family unit is threatened and there is great deal of frustration, violent response by inmates could just come about. Immigration Law, Secure Communities has contributed to this. It's maybe beyond the role of this Commission but when you get someone in the jail that is so frustrated, there is no way around it.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Mr. Rosenwald your time is up. Thank you so very much.</p>
Dr. Rosenwald	<p>That's fine. Thank you.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>The next person is George Busetti. Mr. Busetti.</p>
George Busetti	<p>George Busetti, Director of Policy - Congress for Racial Equality of California. Celeste King the fourth would have been here, only he has spent the last year and a half in Sacramento living, fixing 109 criminal justice system and education. We work with Dr. Moore and the Sheriff Citizens Advisory Board 'cause Sheriff Baca is, believe it or not, probably the most progressive sheriff in the United States. He and his top staff are totally approachable. You can watch the last Citizens Advisory Board on my YouTube spot at George1LA. It's all there uncut. You can</p>

	<p>see, listen, hear staff talk. You can listen to how the people speak about, like what this man was talking about. And in my opinion, any sheriff in that jail who promotes violence should be treated like a person outside. Prosecute 'em! That'll stop it real fast. What's the difference, really? [scattered applause] Now on the AB109 alignment, we have a real problem. They're putting long-term prisoners in these jails. You cannot put long-term prisoners in a cage. So we've come up with a concept of possibly and we've been behind the bond, okay, against a lot of resistance. And this new jail, if it's built, needs to be designed to hold long-term prisoners because you cannot put people in a cage for long-term. These county jails aren't built for this. This is a bond. Now, Baca is putting in...they wanna stop humiliation by putting in scanners so they don't have to strip search people. That's a big thing. He's putting in education. I would refer you to what I saw on <i>Russia Today</i> the other day. The largest jail in Asia has reduced its recidivism to 16% by treating people like human beings. And this is the part, now there's some real animals out there, okay? And I understand the sheriffs sometimes gotta, like, get down with animals. But what this man was talking about, no. let's treat those animals that were, you know, do the violence. Let them have a taste of their own game.</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>Thank you very much Mr. Buseti. [applause] Miss Rochelle?</p>
<p>Nina Rochelle</p>	<p>I just have a simple question. Who monitors the monitors? Who is checking the sheriffs to make sure that they are behaving in an appropriate manner? Why don't they have cameras so we can see what's going on between the inmates and the sheriffs? That would sort of help us to understand what's going on. And why isn't there better training for them so they know how to deal with people who have serious, mental health issues? They may be being trained, but it's not adequate. And that's really all I have to say.</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>Thank you very much. [applause] Mr. Grant?</p>
<p>Gerald Grant</p>	<p>Good evening. My name is Gerald Grant. I've also been incarcerated in the Sheriff's Department at least 20 times. I've been in prison at least 7 times. I have to, I have to give the Sheriff credit on his education-based incarceration. Because the MERIT Program taught me that I wasn't the mistakes that I made and I can't solve a problem with the same mind that created it. My condolences to the Rochelles. But, there exists a lot of violence within the jail system. All of the violence that was perpetuated against me out of my 20 plus times in the county jail was either from my peers or in a racial riot. I never had a problem with the sheriffs, me personally, because I understood if I didn't do what they told me, what was gonna happen. I understood that. I understood that. But out in society, they wasn't there to tell me what to do, so I did what I wanted to do, so that made people like you in the audience vulnerable because I didn't care about you, because I didn't care about myself. But once I had a chance to be educated and my mind to be opened to understand that I have options, that I don't have to live like that, that I can do other things. You understand what I'm saying? I can be a different person. Now,</p>

	<p>today I'm a different person. I have 3 years sober. I haven't smoked a joint in 3 years, haven't drank a beer in 3 years because of what I learned in the MERIT Program. So credit has to be given to the education-based incarceration. But at the same time, that education should extend past inmates. That education should also go towards the staff and the sheriffs. But, Merit is an acronym for Maximizing Education and Reaching Individual Transformation. It's for an individual. See, I can't convince the employer that I'm not the person who I was when he looks and sees I have a felony and I get the door slammed in my face for gainful employment. But as long as I'm convinced, I'm okay because that way I can succeed. [applause]</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>Thank you very much, Mr. Grant. Mr. Key, I'm going to call up the next 5 just before you speak. Mike Chatton. Stephen McKnight. Stephen McKnight? Felis Monroe. Felis Monroe? Joseph Mexslich. Pamela Burton. And Sheldon or Sheila Ward. Sheila Ward? Alright, thank you. Mr. King. Is it mister? I'm sorry. Yes.</p>
<p>Mr. Key</p>	<p>Key!</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>Key. Mr. Key. Thank you, thank you. [laughter]</p>
<p>Mr. Key</p>	<p>I'm sorry. Good evening. I took my hat off because I wanted the gentleman from the Vera Institute to see that I'm a grey beard now. I'm originally from New York. And when the Vera Institute first began the OR Program, I was a recipient of that. Unfortunately or fortunately, all my adult related skills are, professional skills are criminal law related. I'm a former criminal defense attorney. I'm a former defendant. I have a felony conviction. I'm also a member of the world's largest recovery community, Skid Row - Los Angeles. So, I'm of service. I'm a member of CURB, Californians United for a Responsible Budget and critical resistance. Lets be real clear, in my 40 years of going back and forth to jails, as long as you have jails, as long as you lock men and women up in cages, you're gonna have violence. You're gonna have them perpetrating violence upon themselves and clearly, clearly, clearly the Sheriff's Department is going to also quickly resort to violence. That is the nature of the business. That's what they're taught. That's what they do. Quickly, CURB has 3 demands that we wanna end prison and jail expansion in LA county. We're asking that AB109 realignment funds be reinvested into the community. We're seeing what's happening. California is number one in prison and jail construction. We're #50 in public education K-12 spending. There's been 3 reports, the Vera Report, the recent ACLU Report, the Austin report. All speak to ways that we can impact and shut down the county jail system. We don't need to expand what is already the world's largest county jail system. We need to take this money. When the folks talked about, "What are you gonna do when you get out of jail?" I've got a J.D. degree. I practice law. But when I check that 'Have you ever been convicted of a felony' box, I couldn't get a job making cold phone calls for the so-called liberal LA Times. I know my time is up.</p>

Judge Baird	It is.
Mr. Key	But what I would say to you is this. Is that the only way that we are even going to have an impact on this is #1 understanding that violence is part of culture when you lock men together in cages and increasingly women. And secondly, on the way out, we've got to find a way to reinvest our dollars. And I'd like to invite everybody in the room and particularly our preacher Mr. Chip Murray, there's an even June 23 rd at Zion Hill Baptist Church and we're calling it "The Real Deal about Realignment." Thank you for your time.
Judge Baird	Thank you so very much. Mr. Chatton?
Stephen McKnight	Good evening and thank you all who are assembled here today. My name is Master Sergeant Stephen McKnight of the Citizens Advisory Board, Los Angeles Division. I am active in the CAB Fitness Program and I'm also personal trainer for the CAB Fitness Program as well. Through this program I have extracted many positive qualities that align with the responsibilities expected of the other recruits and I as we embark upon our careers with the law enforcement agency in this nation, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The footprints were set long before this current set of recruits. The example was shown to us as to how we should maintain our physical, mental, as well as social well-being while in a position of great responsibility which CAB allocates to each of its recruits before sending them to the Sheriff's Department. Programs have been established for the affiliates of CAB to increase as well as maintain their physical fitness in order to meet requirements set forth by the LA County Sheriff's Department within these reputable fitness courses a lot more is being established than just fitness. We are also absorbing a substantial mindset that we'll utilize upon successful entry into the department; dependability and one self-determination as well as others who are basically in CAB as well. Okay, 30 seconds. We are all leaders with one common goal and allocated responsibility to CAB. We present ourselves helpful to others at all times. We respect one another tremendously through our ability to adjust, to benefit the team's objective. We present integrity by keeping ourselves accountable as well as others for positive and negative actions that defers from CAB aim. And we use wisdom and common sense when sanctioning those actions in a fair and justable{sic} manner including exhibiting the courage to stand up for what is right when holding members accountable for things which dissuade what CAB is all about on all levels of chain of command. These are minor points of reliability compared to what we will encounter on the daily, in the LA Sheriff's Department and its correctional institutions. But our major points in evaluation of a person's complete—
Judge Baird	Mr. Chatton.
Stephen McKnight	—character and values when situations are satisfactory as well as unsatisfactory.

Unedited Draft – Partial Transcript of CCJV Community Forum held on May 30, 2012

Judge Baird	Time is up.
Stephen McKnight	Thank you.
Judge Baird	Thank you so very much. Thank you, Mr. Chatton. Stephen McKnight?
Female	That was him.
Judge Baird	That was you? Where was? Did I call Mike Chatton?
Mike Chatton	Yeah. Here I am.
Judge Baird	Alright.
Mike Chatton	<p>Good evening and thank you for the panel in front of me. My name is Mike Chatton and I work in the area of dealing with reforming incarcerated people in the city of Compton particularly. And what we've been finding is that there's a lot of inmates who come out from the courthouse and they are scared to death to go back because of the fear of retaliation, the fear of officers who are in gangs, meaning the gang of 3,000. The gang with the swastikas and the cards that have been in the LA Times. Going back to get their own possessions because they fear for their lives. You have inmates taking deals just to get out of the county to go to Forth__ Prison because of that issue and we're seriously upset behind this because these gangs that you call us as Blood and Crips and all that are existing in the jails as deputies. What are we gonna do about them? We should fire them and prosecute them accordingly. These gangs are contributing to the ultimate custody of violence as well as making all this, this perpetualness{sic} of not one to be corporal about our sentences but to fight that because that's all we know if we gonna survive. So we need to deal with these officers and get them fired accordingly. Don't have no more mercy for this. Your commission now is in force. He got his commission already in force. We've dealt with him for many years. Michael Gennaco, right over there. Alright? And he's come to many meetings and we're tired of having to just make another commission, another commission. When are you gonna show some bite? I heard about your score as well as your mission to try to go out there, but you just gonna make some recommendations. You got to show some bite. And until you do that, I don't see what the outcomes gonna be.</p>
Male	That's right.
Mike Chatton	<p>That's really what I'm concerned with. And I'm sorry to have to say that, but it's sounding like a feel good session again. So, when you get to that point, holler at us. Let us know. Then we'll come in there and get 'em. Thank you.</p>
Judge Baird	Thank you so very much, Mr. Chatton. Talise Morrow.

Unedited Draft – Partial Transcript of CCJV Community Forum held on May 30, 2012

<p>Talise Morrow</p>	<p>Good evening, everyone. Good evening, panel. My name is Talise Morrow. It's an honor and a privilege to stand here before you and represent the CAB program. I am a recruit of CAB, Citizens Advisory Board. I have been screened by CAB and I've graduated from the program into the physical fitness training boot camp. Due to my participation in CAB, I have been promoted into a position of Squad Leader. Within that position, I am responsible for several recruits. One of my main duties is to gather daily activity reports from other recruits which basically, they will tell me what they have been doing to keep themselves physically fit and from that information I compile my own report and I submit that to the Master Sergeants that are above me. Through these activities I have learned how valuable leadership skills are to a team. I have also learned how to display them as well. In closing, I have found that working with the CAB physical fitness bootcamp, I look forward in becoming a Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputy and not only make a difference but an impact within with department and the community as well. Compassion, understanding and determination are key qualities that I do bring to the department. So, I thank you for your time and I appreciate everybody who was listening. Thanks.</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>Thank you very much, Miss Morrow. Joseph Mexslich.</p>
<p>Joseph Mexslich</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Joseph Mexslich. I'm a member of a couple groups that were mentioned Californians United for a Responsible Budget or curb prison spending and critical resistance. I'm also a marriage and family therapist. And I've done a fair amount of work over the last 20 years with victims of crime. And I was for a brief period an inmate of the LA County jails myself before I went on to, I don't know about bigger and better, to the federal prison systems for a couple of years. But I'm here, well one thing I want to do and I've got copies. I can give it to your Executive Director for everyone.</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Joseph Mexslich</p>	<p>It's an article that I wrote after I interviewed an unhappy deputy in the jails and it describes many of the things. It is chilling. I have to say, I read what I wrote and I say, "Oh, no." Describes a lot of these problems. Only difference is this was written in 1967. When I interviewed, I believe Deputy Huckabee was his name. I didn't use his name in the story. One of the things that he mentioned there, I want to start with a couple of substantive points here. One of the things that he mentioned was he was unhappy as a jail officer because that's not what he wanted to be when he trained to be a sheriff and this is a problem. You've got, all those deputies that are running the jail are they career correctional officers? No. They're sheriffs. They wanted to be sheriffs. They wanted to be out in the community patrolling, doing all of that crime prevention and things out in the community. Does the state of California with its Department of Corrections have, does that have Highway Patrol or State Police running the prisons. No. They got specialty offices. Now, I'm not saying that's the solution for everything. Federal Bureau of Prisons got their own</p>

Unedited Draft – Partial Transcript of CCJV Community Forum held on May 30, 2012

	<p>officers, not FBI, not US Marshalls. Let's distinguish between jobs that are substantially different. Substantially. Custody means care also. Of course there's overlap. That's going to be one thing. Deputy Huckabee's unhappy about it. He said his colleagues were. And the bad attitudes that came in part from being in a place where they didn't want to be reflected in bad behavior both ways. Couple of other things, watch out. You may be under pressure to talk about doing something about jail crowding. Undoubtedly that will contribute to problems and violence. But, I want to advise the commission, let's uncrowd it in a constructive way using programs from the Vera Institute, for example, has a very good report on that. 'Cause people stuck in a place where both the deputies and the prisoners know most of us should be on bail, except bail is ridiculous—</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Thank you, Mr. Mexslich. You are going to give us a copy of that, I believe. Thank you very much. Pamela Burton.</p>
Pamela Burton	<p>Good evening, Honorable Chairman Baird, Vice Chairman Reverend Murray and all of the distinguished men and women on the board. My name is Pamela Burton. I have been a member of the Citizens Advisory Board since September 2011. I have been inspired and encouraged by everyone I have come in contact with. I'm a 52 year old young woman who believes that I can and will make a difference as a custody assistant for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The mindset of our jails has to change in order for the jails to become an even more functioning entity in this city. I have worked hard to get to this point and I will continue until I am wearing the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Custody Assistant uniform. I believe that a change and a difference can and will be made. The recruits that stand before you today are those men and women. Thank you.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Thank you very much, Ms. Burton. I'm going to call up the next 5 and then I will hear from you Ms. Gordon. Norman Fagon. Is that correct? Norman Fagon?</p>
Norman Fagen	<p>Fagen.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Alright. Mary Sutton. Mary Sutton. And Yvonne Rojo. Yvonne Rojo. Alright. Thank you very much. Ms. Ward, go ahead.</p>
Sheila Ward	<p>Greetings in the spirit of the most high. I'm Sheila Ward. I work with most of the organizations in this room including the Sheriff's Department with Community Day, with Sheriff Baca and Bishop Edward R. Turner. Anybody interested in coming tomorrow, it's 4700 Ramona Boulevard that would like to be a part of the Sheriff Clergy, you are welcome. I'm here to speak on the behalf of my spiritual children once of which is a black writer with Tamboui(?) that was in jail and when he was in jail he got out, he came to the _____. And he told me he ran into someone else that I know that's in jail that's another big, buff brother that's a spiritual child. He was placed in a cell with that person to do him bodily harm. They both stared at each and went through that man thing and then they found out that they both knew LaMerc Park and they both knew me, they</p>

	<p>became friends, spoke about me for the 2 weeks instead of fighting. Now Tamboui's in jail because he's a black writer. What is a black writer? It's a black person that's conscious about who he is or she is. It's not a bad person. It's not a person that's trying to do mayhem or any of that. It's a person that's concerned with 38,000 children being in foster care and these are the children. This is our future. These are the children that are fighting in prisons, I mean in the schools 7 years ago, 10 years ago. Now they're grown adults, 22, 23 and they're writers. I mean, I don't have a momma. I don't have a family. I don't have anybody to help me, so they come to me, the Great Mother. A lady who started LaMerc Park from her mother's backyard. So, you, I've done this before with other organizations, with RICE. And at the end of the day, you people go out and you terrorize people that we give you the information on analyzing what's going on. And so, if you're going to make a solution, we need to make a peaceful solution in the community opposed to taking this information, going back to the drawing board and saying, "Okay, this is what they're doing. So, we're going to do this to counter act it." What happened to the information Connie Rice gave you for the same situation? You took the information, went back to all the gang members, found out where they were, busted them all, put 'em in jail and went through this thing again. Now the youth are like, "Oh, this is my future?" They don't want to do this. They wanna, let me tell you. Okay, so we don't, I don't wanna live in that world. So let's please, let this be a real commission and that you really do something about it. We don't have another world to live in.</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>I hope so. Thank you so very much, Ms. Ward.</p>
<p>Sheila Ward</p>	<p>Here's my business card.</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>Norman Fagen.</p>
<p>Norman Fagen</p>	<p>How you doin' Board members? You know I think, when I look at, I do facilitation in the County jail. I do instructions also for inmates and our goal there is for to get inmates for once they get out of society for to think different and to not go back there. But I one heard a lot of stuff here. You know what I mean? I sympathize for your son. I done heard a lot of stuff here. But it's a bad thing when we sit back and when we blame folks for what they is doing right. Now, we don't want criminals to be on the street so we send them to jail. Once we send them to jail, we tell the sheriff how to handle them. That's a bad thing. And you say, "Well, why did you get up here?" Because I done been involved with the sheriff. And a lot of stuff that I done heard that people say, I sense that is not _____. He told me, "Well, why did you go in there?" He told me, he say, "Fagen, I'm responsible for keeping inmates here." But he say, "God is responsible for they mind." He say, "I wanna make this out a college." What he can do. Now see, he gonna retire _____ being a policeman for to keep people locked up. But he got on my _____ say I won't give him an education where when they get on the street they can concede and stay. But because we don't get on the inside and we don't see that, we put up bad pictures. That's a bad thing. That's a bad thing to do. Yeah, it got</p>

	<p>bad cops. It's got 10,000 of them. How can you scrutinize all of 'em out? All us sitting in this room, there's something bad with some of us too. There's something bad with us. How many of us will stand up right here and say what it is? We're not goin' do it. We not gonna do it. But we'll lay there and we'll point the finger. That's what we doing. But see, I went in for myself and I seen the _____. And I say, "How can I help make a change within this." That's what I did. Let's make a change and stop blaming folks.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Thank you very much, Mr. Fagen. Mary Sutton.</p>
Mary Sutton	<p>My name is Mary Sutton. I'm a member of Californians United for a Responsible Budget, CURB. We're a state wide alliance fighting prison and jail expansion across the state, particular now county jail expansion in regards to AV109. Just to give folks a little history, in 1980 there were 20,000 people incarcerated in California's prison system. Today, now it's gone down a little bit but in 2007 there was almost 180,000 people incarcerated in California's prison system. And this is not because the crime rate went up. The crime rate has actually gone down. We've built 22 prisons since 1980 and 1 state university. We filled all those prisons; doubled the capacity and the county jail system along the way. And this had to do with the changes in the laws. We went from indeterminate to determinate sentencing. We started incarcerating youth as adults. We increased association and conspiracy charges. We have criminalized people who are addicted to drugs. We have criminalized people with mental health issues and this is the majority of people who are incarcerated in the county jails. We have 2,100 people in the county jail that are detained in the ICE. There are too many people in the jails. We need to go back to the sentencing laws of pre-1980. We need to stop locking up young men of color, the gang injunction laws. It's totally a conspiracy and association charges. I will not speak to the Sheriff Baca. He is accountable. He is accountable for all the violence. His education programs, may they work. But he only serves 400 people. There are over 15,000 people in the county jails system. We are down at the Board of Supervisors meetings fighting. The Board of Supervisors is in charge of the county jails system. They are in charge of the budget and what goes on. So, the Board of Supervisors needs to be accountable for everything that's going on. We need to start, stop incarcerating so many youth. And I hope all of you can work on that level. We need to connect the dots. Thank you.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Thank you very much. Yvonne Rojo.</p>
Yvonne Rojo	<p>Hi. Good evening. My name is Yvonne Rojo. I have recently been appointed the Squad Leader for the San Fernando Valley CAB Division. One thing I did want to say in here is although we are training the new recruits that are coming up for the Sheriff's Department through physical fitness is giving them, enlightening them and encouraging them with determination to be focused and respect for everybody. Aside from that, what Dr. Moore has formulated is we would also be working with offenders, helping them get education for jobs and setting them in jobs</p>

	<p>when they come out so they don't return back into the system. All this is gonna be done with officers who are gonna be new recruits potential sheriffs. And this is all gonna be conducted in an non-hostile environment. So, in my opinion is something that's really good and as it expands, will show us a different type of deputy inside the jails because this is something that you learn in life. It's a life experience. It's nothing that can be taught in any books, at any price. And we hope will allow this new deputy to have a respect for humanity in everyone, in everywhere he goes and everywhere, he's gonna go out there to try to lay the law right and justice.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Thank you very much, Ms. Rojo. I'm going to ask now, we are getting close to closing, to invite my fellow commissioners for any closing remarks they might have. I'll start with you, Commissioner Murray.</p>
Commissioner Murray	<p>You are so beautiful. And you ask how do we know that you are not fluff? It's a good question. Check us in the Fall of the year when we submit the report to the County Board of Supervisors and they themselves will not be fluff on this issue. The Supreme Court has ruled that our prison system's cruel, inhumane treatment. Our jail system is overcrowded and creates health problems. So there will be nationwide release in large measure of many non-violent criminals. Our basic question is who will protect us from our protectors? Who will defend us from our defenders? Lord Acton made sense when he said power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Prison power is power. Police power is power. And while we commend those who walk the chalk line of justice and decency and legality, we must find a way to stop those who offend those virtues. We a commission of 7, plus our 2 experts in justice and law. We will very definitely stand by your expectations. Thank you for caring.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>Thank you very much. Commissioner Busansky.</p>
Commissioner Busansky	<p>I never liked following Reverend Murray.</p>
Judge Baird	<p>That's right. I agree.</p>
Commissioner Busansky	<p>But in all seriousness. I do want to thank all of you for coming out here tonight. This has really been a fantastic opportunity to get to hear from you. If you came to our meetings that we hold at the Board of Supervisors Hall and some of you have been there. It's a big hall, there's lots of seats but there really aren't that many people and we felt it was important to come out, into the community, to have an opportunity after work hours – after the 9:00 to 5:00 day – to allow people to come, to hear from them about their experiences. We didn't know what we would hear and really, tonight, we've heard a diversity of voices. But, I think there's been a couple of common themes and the one that I sort of take away is that there is this heartfelt, strong desire that we, right, that this Commission do the best it can, right. But, more importantly that we work to make sure that our Sheriff's Department does the best job they can.</p>

	<p>That people we love, people we care about, our own selves sometimes end up inside of that jail and we want to make sure that people are handled, and cared for, and taken care of in the way that we expect our leaders and government agencies to do that. Listening to the Rochelles at the beginning, my heart can't not go out to you, I think, in the same way that you touched everybody in this room. But your story is just one story among many that we've heard over and over again. And for all the good things that we hear about what happens inside of the jail, and all of the good dreams and aspirations of many of the people who have come to the department to work, there's clearly something going on inside of that jail that has required our attention and the attention of others. As Rev. Murray said, we hope that we will make a difference and we will see in September, approximately, what that – what that difference will look like. But we really do thank you all here for coming tonight and sharing your stories and your experiences with us. Thank you.</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>And in closing, I do want to thank you all for your attendance and your stories were heartfelt and very moving. I echo both Rev. Murray and Mr. Busansky in their remarks. A few things I'd like to just mention to you and that is that I want to remind you that you can keep up with the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence on our website. It is ccjv.lacounty.gov. I believe we have some fliers outside that has the website and tells you a little bit about it. And you are also, as Commissioner Busansky just said, you're invited to attend the Commission meeting – they're open to the public. Our next meeting is scheduled at the Board of Supervisors Hall of Administration on Temple Street, in Los Angeles, on July 6, at 9:00 a.m. It is the Hall of Administration. As you walk right in you just – the Board of Supervisors, on Temple. It's not in the big administrative building, but it's just the one that just to the West of that. In any event, thank you very, very much for all of your participation. Sir.</p>
<p>Unknown</p>	<p>_____ [cannot hear, too far from microphone]</p>
<p>Judge Baird</p>	<p>We are hoping to be able to do so. Our time is somewhat – I know what you're probably thinking, why has it taken you so long to come up with something? We have a lot to look into. We are attempting to do that. I can't make any promises but hopefully that will happen and certainly, at the close, when we do have our report, I believe that there will be something that will be similar to this. So, if so, I hope I will see you all there and I hope that you will approve of the work that we've done. So, thank you very much. Thank you for coming and drive home safely.</p>