

MEETING AGENDA THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 5:30 PM -7:30 PM 1911 WILLIAMS DRIVE, OXNARD, CA

MEETING PARTICIPATION:

Topic: PSREAG Regular Meeting

Location: Ventura County Behavioral Health Large Training Room 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, CA

Members of the public may join in person or by Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/i/85188551246

Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) Meeting ID: 851 8855 1246 Find your local number: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcHEEW6fU</u>

PUBLIC COMMENTS BY EMAIL:

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE EITHER A GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT OR COMMENT ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM BEING HEARD, YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT VIA EMAIL BY 9:00 AM THE DAY OF THE MEETING TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: <u>COUNTYDEI@VENTURA.ORG</u>. PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN YOUR EMAIL: (A) MEETING DATE, (B) AGENDA ITEM NUMBER, (C) SUBJECT OR TITLE OF THE ITEM, (D) YOUR FULL NAME. DURING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEM SPECIFIED IN YOUR EMAIL, YOUR EMAIL WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.



OPENING

1. CALL TO ORDER (5 MIN)

- a. Spotlight Group Norms
- b. Roll Call & Confirm Quorum

2. APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING JUNE, JULY, AUGUST (10 MIN)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND/OR FOR OTHER ITEMS WITHIN PSREAG SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION (10 MIN)

REGULAR AGENDA

4. REPORT OUT FROM RECOMENDATIONS REVIEW AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE (45 MIN)

- a. Presentation by Ad Hoc Lead/s
- b. Member Discussion
- c. Consider Potential Action/Approval

5. UPDATE ON DEI ANNUAL REPORT (10 MIN)

- a. Presentation by DEI Staff
- b. Member Discussion
- c. Consider Potential Action/Approval

6. MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS (10 MIN)

a. Upcoming meetings of the PSREAG scheduled for the 1st Thursday of the Month at 5:30 PM. The next regular meeting will be held at 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, CA, and hybrid options for the public.

7. ADJOURN

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection on the Ventura County PSREAG website <u>https://www.ventura.org/psreag/</u> subject to staff's ability to post the documents prior to the meeting.



Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual or other disability in order to review an agenda, or to participate in a meeting of the Ventura County Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), may obtain assistance by requesting such accommodation in writing addressed to the County Executive Office, 800South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 or telephonically by calling (805) 654-2876 or email to <u>CountyDEl@ventura.org</u>. Any such request for accommodation should be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested.



Meeting Details

Meeting	
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PUBLIC SAFETY RACIAL EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP

	nd Time			Location	Vrive Ovpard Ca			
Thursday, July 6 th , 2023 5:30-8:30 PM			1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard Ca. Members of the public may join in Person or by Zoom link below Join Zoom Meeting : https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85188551246 Call Into meeting +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) Meeting ID: 851 8855 1246 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcHEEW6fU					
acilitat	tor		Note Taker	Timekeeper Kate English				
	irs: Claudia Bautista an	d Dave Olivas	Cynthia Salas					
	Attendees							
-	arcia on behalf of Dist	rict 3						
	la Items							
1.	Call to Order	Co-Chair Bautista called meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.						
2.	Roll Call/Introductions	Organization Name	Membe	er Name	Role	Present	Absent	
		Ventura Cour Public Defend (VCPD)	der	Bautista	Co-Chair	x		
			N/A		Alternate			
		Latinx Bar Association (Co-Chair		x	
		Vanessa			Alternate		х	
		Latino Town Hall Cynt (LTH)		a Salas	Secretary	x- arrived late		
			Andrey de Leor	a Garcia Ponce า	Alternate	x		
		National Association for the Advancer of Colored Per (NAACP)	or ment	n Gonzalez	Committee Member		x	
			Hellian	e	Alternate			
		Mixteco Indig Community Organizing Pr (MICOP)		eve Flores-Haro	Committee Member	x		
			Vaness	a Terán	Alternate	x		
		Diversity Collective (DC)	Roland	Catabona	Committee Member		x	
			Luis An		Alternate		x	
		Ventura Cour Chief Probati Officer (VCPC	on	hnson	Committee Member	x-Interim CPO		
			Tim Do	wler	Alternate		х	
		Conejo Valley Interfaith	/ Bob Bla	ind	Committee Member	x		



		weeting wint	itts				
	Association (CVIA)						
		Willie Lubka	Alternate	x			
	Oxnard Police	Jason Benites	Committee	x			
	Chief	Juson Denites	Member	~			
	(Oxnard PD)		Weinber				
		Denise Shadinger	Alternate		x		
	We Belong 805	Allice Chou	Committee		x		
	(WB805)		Member				
		Cindy Liu	Alternate		х		
	Ventura County District Attorney (VCDA)	Erik Nasarenko	Committee Member	x			
		Michael Jump		х			
	Black Lawyers of	Rabiah Rahman	Committee		x		
	Ventura County (BLOVC)		Member				
			Alternate	х			
	Ventura County	James Fryhoff	Committee				
	Sheriff Office (VCSO)		Member				
	(VC30)	Andrew Salinas	Alternate	*Andrew Salinas			
		Jose Rivera	Allerhate				
	Future Leaders of	Daniel Gonzalez		x-Daniel			
	America (FLOA)			Gonzalez			
				(Fillmore -			
				zoom/ill)			
		Gloria Soto	Alternate		х		
	American Asian	Jessica Wan		х			
	Bar Association						
	(AABA)						
		Dien Le	Alternate				
3. Approval of	Motion to Approve: Rabia Rahman						
Minutes (6.6.23)	Second to Approve: co-chair did not call for a second						
	Abstentions: 0						
	Nays: 0						
	Motion to approve minutes: Passed with correction of starting time						
4. Public Comment	No public comme	ents					
a.	REGULAR AGENDA						
5. REPORT AND	SMART Goal Presentation						
CONSIDER	 By Damien Jenkins – President of Black Lawyers of Ventura County 						
RECOMMENDATIONS	 3 meetings to develop goals to best advance goal of PSREAG 						
	FROM SMART GOALS						
	AD HOC						
SUBCOMMITTEE (20 MIN) Motion to form an additional ad hoc as per Goal #2, with edits to language (see attachment for specific					ent for specific		
a. Presentation by Ad Hoc	language) Looking to form 3 ad hoc groups to address detention, complaint procedures and outcomes,						
Lead/s	policies, procedures, and one on the data regarding racial disparities presented by the policy and procedure						
b. Member Discussion	ad hoc.						
c. Consider Potential	Second to Approve: Cynthia Salas, Latino Town Hall						
Action/Approval		ACP voted but did not coun		irtually)			
	Abstentions: 0		-				



	Nays: 0 Motion to carries Motion requested by Chair to accept the 7 groups mentioned below New ad hoc formed to review and propose best practices or recommendations. The following are the members: Probation Agency, Ventura County Sheriff, D.A., Black Lawyers of Ventura County, We Belong 805, Conejo Valley Interfaith, Latinx Bar Association Motion by: Erik Nazarenko Second to Approve: Jason Benitez Yes: Unanimous Abstentions: 0 Nays: 0 Motion to carries
6. DISCUSSION ON TIMELINE FOR SUNSETTING EXISTING AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES: POLICY & PRACTICE, LOCAL POLICING AND IMMIGRATION, EDUCATION, SURVEY (30 MIN) a. Presentation by Co-Chair b. Member Discussion c. Consider Potential Action/Approval	Sunsetting the following subcommittees: Setting of SMART goals, Policy and Practice, Local Policing and Immigration, Education, and Survey Motion to table sunsetting the Education subcommittee Motion to sunset the following subcommittees: Setting of SMART goals, and Survey Motion by: Erik Nazarenko D.A. Second: Damien Jenkins Yes: Unanimous Abstentions: 0 Nays: 0 Motion to carries Motion by: Cynthia Salas Latino Town Hall Second: Damien Jenkins, Black Lawyers of Ventura County Yes: Unanimous Abstentions: 0 Nays: 0 Motion to carries Motion to carries Motion to carries Motion to carries Motion to carles subcommittees Motion to carles subcommittees Motion to: Cynthia Salas Latino Town Hall Second: Vanessa Teran MICOP Yes: Unanimous Abstentions: 0 Nays: 0 Motion to table sunsetting the Policy and Practice and Immigration to gather further information about extending these subcommittees Motion by: Cynthia Salas Latino Town Hall Second: Vanessa Teran MICOP Yes: Unanimous Abstentions: 0 Nays: 0 Motion to table sunsetting the Policy and Practice and Immigration to gather further information about extending these subcommittees Motion by: Cynthia Salas Latino Town Hall Second: Vanessa Teran MICOP Yes: Unanimous Abstentions: 0 Nays: 0
7. REPORT OUT ON PROCESS FOR FILLING SEPTEMBER VACANCY OF MUNICIPAL LAW	Chief Benitez gave feedback in his involvement in the education committee to help inform community about law enforcement process. Announced he is stepping away and last meeting will be in September. Chair thanked him for his contributions.



ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HEAD (CHIEF OF POLICE) (20 MIN) a. Update by Co-Chairs b. Member Discussion 8. MEMBER COMMENTS AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (10 MIN)	 Cynthia Salas, made a recommendation to bring on Chief Don Aguilar from Santa Paula to be considered for the current vacancy. D.A. mentioned receiving a DEI Seal and efforts to address biases among other efforts within said agency Bob Bland, requesting to be placed on agenda to address subcommittees Cindy – Different leadership bills and thanked Chief Benitez for his contributions
a. Public Comments b. PSREAG Member Comments, Updates, and Discussion c. Upcoming meetings of the PSREAG scheduled for the 1st Thursday of the Month at 5:30 PM. The next regular meeting will be held at 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, CA, and hybrid options for the public	 Vanessa Valdez- County jail deaths – panel of community members to support Sherriff office to address said situation Genevie Haro- MICOP NDO Chair asked if Mole would be served at NDO Cynthia Salas – working relationships between law enforcement and Behavioral Health, submitted examples this is the third request for this item to be placed on the agenda. How changes in health care are impacting law enforcement and does not. Is not interested in a year of presentations and information sessions, interested in learning what are the gaps and be solution driven. Chief Benitez supported comments made by Salas and encouraged the group to bring in Director Gilman to discuss the changes in mental health and where to go from there. Genevie Haro stressed bringing in BHAB she sits on that board and that group is wondering about this group Senate Bill SB519 Senator Atkins – moving through legislation- police accountability focusing on custody deaths, and brough attention to 988, Care Court, furthering talks to 988 to protecting the community SB43 Edgman this bill expands the definition of gravely disabled and that will allow for involuntary commitment, and wrapped into LPS proceedings.
8. ADJOURN	

SUMMARY REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #4 September 7, 2023

Subject: REPORT OUT FROM RECOMENDATIONS REVIEW *AD HOC* SUBCOMMITTEE

Summary:

The recommendations Ad Hoc group met on Wednesday, September 6th, 2023.

Present were representatives from the DA's Office, Probation, VCSO, Conejo Valley Interfaith, WeBelong805, Black Lawyers of Ventura County and the Ventura County Latinx Bar Association. Kate English attended as staff support.

The ad hoc reviewed various resources, topics and reading for exploring possible best practices or recommendations such as: probation policies, analysis of RIPA data from VCSO and Bob, the Racial Justice Act, SB 50, community policing, and best practices around addressing unconscious bias as well as consideration for recommendations from groups themselves.

SB50 was discussed in relationship to police stops. VCSO shared a letter opposing the passage of SB 50 and VCSO provided a read through of the Sheriff's opposition letter and elaborated on some examples of why they were opposed to the bill. The DA's office later shared a letter of opposition as well. Both letters are included here.

We discussed the enforcement of low level infractions (such as fix-it-tickets for registration) and some changes that VCSO has made in regards to lowering the fines/fees associated with fix-it tickets.

The DA raised the topic of a practice they are researching referred to as "race blind charging" as it is being utilized in other Counties, examples in California include Shasta & Yolo Counties. Race Blind Charging utilizes AI to eliminate race demographics, names and other information that can indicate race, in order to bring more race neutral information in front of those who make decisions on whether to bring charges in any particular case.

Additional issues discussed included solitary confinement, mental health/disability training and an advisory board pursuant to AB 640, as well as mental health diversion and conservatorships.

VCSO discussed using data (such as RIPA data) and presenting that data to PSREAG and letting that data drive needs for change. It was suggested that Probation and DA

Office consider providing similar racial data regarding the actions they take in rejecting cases, filing cases, who is on probation, who is searched on probation, etc.

Recommended Actions: None at this time.

Attachments & Additional Resources:

VCSO SB50 Opposition Letter

District Attorney SB50 Opposition Letter



Ventura County SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | John Reilly - Undersheriff 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org

Senator Steven Bradford 1021 O Street, Suite 4710 Sacramento, CA 95814

Opposition to Senate Bill 50

Dear Senator Bradford,

This letter serves as my opposition to SB 50 as written. I have two main concerns with this proposed legislation. 1) The limiting of an officer's authority to enforce the vehicle code; and, 2) the authorizing of local authorities to enforce a violation of the Vehicle Code through government employees who are not peace officers.

Regarding point one, I have numerous personal and agency examples of "low-level infraction" traffic stops resulting in the seizure of drugs, firearms, and recovery of victims for such crimes as kidnapping. Handcuffing law enforcement's ability to enforce the vehicle code will limit the detection and apprehension of "high-level" offenders.

For example:

In August of this year, a Thousand Oaks Patrol Deputy made a traffic stop for expired registration. The deputy determined the driver was under the influence of a controlled substance and found he was in possession of suspected methamphetamine. While searching the vehicle, the deputy found a loaded, Sig Sauer P225, 9mm Handgun with a destroyed serial number, in-between the driver's seat and center console. Additionally, the deputy found suspected identity theft and check forgery items. Rodriguez was arrested for a variety of drug, weapons, and identity theft charges.

In August of this year, an Oak Park deputy made a traffic stop for an inoperative brake light. There were three individuals in the vehicle who were all from the Los Angeles area. The deputy observed a reciprocating saw and blades in plain view inside the vehicle. During a search of the vehicle, the deputy located about ½ ounce of methamphetamine, crowbars, window punches, and a master U.S. Postal Service mailbox key. All three subjects were arrested for drug-related charges.

In July of this year, Camarillo Patrol Deputies made a traffic stop for expired registration, window tint, and inoperable brake lights. During a consent search of the vehicle, they located a backpack containing 357 grams of methamphetamine packaged for sales, packaging material, and an imitation firearm which had the orange tip removed. The driver was arrested for drug charges.

In July of this year, a Thousand Oaks deputy made a traffic stop for no front plate. During a consent search of the vehicle, deputies located a polymer-style ghost gun with a threaded barrel and extended magazine in the front passenger compartment and an AR-15 style ghost gun with a threaded barrel and extended magazine in the trunk. The driver was arrested for weapons charges.

In June of this year, a Thousand Oaks deputy stopped a vehicle for expired registration. The deputy had the male driver step out of the vehicle to talk to him and another deputy contacted the female passenger, who came back as a missing person

out of LAPD area. Once she was away from the driver, the female passenger told the deputy she had been raped in the vehicle. An investigation supported her statements, and the suspect was arrested for rape and kidnapping.

With respect to point two, some of the most dangerous moments of a peace officer's shift come from conducting traffic stops. As shown by the examples above, the reason these stops are inherently dangerous is that many criminals use vehicles to get around as well as travel from crime to crime. They are often detected by law enforcement during that time period. When making a traffic stop an officer is at a distinct disadvantage as he/she has limited visibility and virtually no cover from an aggressive act from the driver of passenger of a vehicle. Authorizing non peace officers through ambiguous means to enforce the vehicle code is an idea fraught with potential problems. Enforcement of the law should rest with those who are trained and sufficiently equipped.

I appreciate your time in addressing this very important issue that has the potential to negatively impact public safety.

Thank You,

Sheriff Jim Fryhoff

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

August 28, 2023

The Honorable Steven Bradford California State Senate 1021 O Street, Suite 7210 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 50 (Bradford) Traffic Stops - Oppose

Dear Senator Bradford:

I write this letter in opposition to Senate Bill 50, your measure that would prohibit a peace officer from stopping or detaining a driver or cyclist for specified infractions without a separate, independent basis for the stop. Instead, the bill would authorize civilian employees to enforce the listed offenses, exposing untrained and unprotected workers to myriad and serious dangers.

The listed infractions may appear minor but are in fact grounded in concerns for the safety of all drivers. Vehicle registration, for example, serves the public welfare by aiding the identification of vehicles and the persons responsible for them in case of an accident, injury, or theft. Before a vehicle may be registered, it must be shown that it meets California's strict emissions limits and that the registered owner is insured. (See Veh. Code §§ 4000.1, 4000.37, 4000.38.) Your bill, however, will significantly weaken enforcement of our registration laws, leading to increases in unlicensed and uninsured drivers; in theft and fraudulent transactions involving vehicles; and in greenhouse gas emissions.

The ability to mail a citation *if* the driver is nonetheless identified will not provide realistic enforcement opportunities. It is difficult to discern how that identification would be made without a stop. Registration violations and tinted windows moreover can very effectively prevent identification of the driver – in fact a desire for anonymity is often the reason for the violation.

I appreciate the goal of reducing racial disparities in law enforcement by targeting pretextual traffic stops, but halting police officer enforcement of equipment violations altogether will cause more harm. For example, in an investigation of a large-scale narcotics trafficking operation, an equipment violation, which lawfully justifies a vehicle stop, permits an officer to make contact with a suspect or potential witness without divulging sensitive information about ongoing investigations. If this bill passes such investigations will be substantially hampered.

Several years ago in Ventura County, a pretextual enforcement stop of Joshua Packer led to observations of evidence linking Packer to several armed robberies. The ensuing investigation led to Packer's arrest for robbery and the collection of his DNA, which was used to link him to a triple homicide that would not otherwise have been solved.

Police stops for the equipment violations listed in your bill are lawful, promote highway safety, protect residents from theft and fraud, reduce pollution, and are sometimes valuable as a means of obtaining information pertinent to investigations of other crimes. In these and other law enforcement activities, racial profiling is, rightfully, unlawful, and there are severe consequences for law enforcement officers who violate those laws.

For these reasons, I respectfully oppose this measure. I appreciate your consideration of my concerns. Please let me know if I may be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely.

ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

EN: mc

cc: Senator Monique Limón Senator Henry Stern Assemblymember Steve Bennett Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin

SUMMARY REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #5 September 7, 2023

Subject: UPDATE ON DEI ANNUAL REPORT

Summary:

The DEI Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors has been moved to time certain on October 10th, 2023 for 11:30am. The PSREAG Co-Chairs will be presenting a section on the PSREAG efforts over the past fiscal year and the Local Policing and Immigration ad hod leadership ill be represented in the white paper.

Recommended Actions: No actions are required.

Attachments & Additional Resources:

Approved PSREAG pages of the DEI Annual Report



Agency Members / County of Ventura and Public Safety Representatives:

- Ventura County Sheriff
- District Attorney
- Public Defender
- Ventura County Probation Officer
- Municipal Law Enforcement Agency

Community Group Members:

- Black Lawyers of Ventura County
- Ventura County NAACP
- Santa Paula Látino Town Hall
- Latinx Bar Association
- Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project
- Diversity Collective of Ventura County
- We Belong 805
- Future Leaders of America
- VC Asian American Bar Association
- Conejo Valley Interfaith Association

Purpose

Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group (PSREAG) provides a monthly open forum where public safety and community stakeholders collaborate to improve communications and understanding amongst the parties and the greater public. The PSREAG works to identify potential solutions for improving public safety policies and procedures and diverse community engagement.

Creation

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors (BOS) resolution adopted in 2020, declared racism a public health crisis and pledged to promote equity, inclusion, and diversity in housing, employment, economic development, health care, and public safety in the County of Ventura. The BOS envisioned an independent advisory group of public safety and community leaders who would collaborate to create greater understanding and identify strategies and proposals to improve institutional law enforcement practices.









PUBLIC SAFETY RACIAL EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP LEADERSHIP REFLECTION



Claudia Y. Bautista PSREAG Co-Chair



David J. Olivas PSREAG Co-Chair

2022-2023 PSREAG Education Sessions

- Police Transparency Laws
- Juvenile Justice
- What is Use of Force?
- Family Justice Center
- Overview of MICOP
- Oxnard PD Complaint Process and Internal Affairs
- Overview of Future Leaders of America

PSREAG has made significant progress in improving group functioning, establishing actionable goals, and promoting psychological safety for cross-sector collaboration in Ventura County. With a focus on advancing racial equity in public safety, PSREAG worked closely with consultant Evolve Equity from February through April 2023, participating in three retreat sessions, and implementing various recommendations to enhance their effectiveness as a group.

During these retreat sessions, PSREAG reached a consensus on a problem statement, acknowledging the need to investigate existing public safety policies and practices that disproportionately impact racial and ethnic minorities, as well as other underserved communities.

The group committed to developing recommendations that would help mitigate these disparities and diminish their impact. To further enhance their understanding of best practices, the group formed an ad hoc subcommittee responsible for reviewing successful racial equity practices and models from other jurisdictions, including the California Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) Board.

Throughout the year, PSREAG prioritized knowledge sharing and community education by hosting several virtual education sessions. These sessions were not only open to PSREAG members but also to the public to increase awareness and understanding of public safety issues. Additionally, these sessions served as an opportunity to highlight member organizations and the valuable services they provide to the community.

PSREAG adopted a research paper developed by the ad hoc subcommittee on Local Policing and Immigration Enforcement. The research paper explored the outcomes and benefits of limiting police contact with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to mandatory contacts under the law.

The Policy & Practice ad hoc subcommittee has reviewed extensive Ventura County law enforcement data. The ad hoc presented to the PSREAG key areas of concern and trends. This data was first presented in March and continues to be a discussion item before the PSREAG. VCSO is working with the subcommittee to identify areas for further exploration.

PSREAG has demonstrated its commitment to improving group functioning, setting actionable goals, and creating a safe space for cross-sector collaboration. The group has laid a strong foundation for advancing racial equity in public safety within Ventura County. PSREAG aims to create meaningful change and contribute to a more equitable and inclusive public safety landscape through its education sessions, research, and policy recommendations.

~Claudia Y. Bautista, Co-Chair, Ventura County Public Defender ~David J. Olivas, Co-Chair, Latinx Bar Association of Ventura County