
From: Voices For LAPD <[REDACTED]>
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LAPD Police Commissioners, Chief Jim McDonnell and the entire LAPD and public,

After the last Police Commission meeting that took place last Tuesday January 27th, the intrepid reporter Jamie from the California Post asked Chief Jim McDonnell, "Jamie from California Post. What is your reaction to the chaos that transpired in Tuesday's Police Commission meeting?" The Chief replied, "Frustration, that is something that we see sadly every Tuesday, as well as the City Council that deals with the situation that you became aware of this past Tuesday. The disruption we see, the vile conduct in there, is very very frustrating to anybody who attends. It has a chilling effect on people from the community who want to come and be heard. They're afraid to come. They're intimidated by some of the agitators who show up every week at our meetings. The big frustration is not being able to do anything about it. It's, we're told by legal counsel that they're protected by the First Amendment in their activities, and, are using that and exploiting that to their benefit, but at the expense of the residents of Los Angeles. And the process but we've designed, the system was designed, the commission was designed to provide civilian oversight for the police department. If people from the community are fearful of coming forward because of the behavior at these meetings then we are defeating our purpose".

Anyone who has attended LAPD Police Commission meetings in person or virtually has witnessed sustained disruptions that often cause the disruptor to be escorted out. Quite often, the Police Commission has had to stop the meeting due to severe disruption, where the meeting cannot continue, to have the room cleared by LAPD officers. The disruption infringes on the rights of those who come to the meeting to be heard in public comment and participate in the meeting.

I have addressed the issue of meeting disruption in public comment and here on this site calling attention to the repeated severe disruptions of the Police Commission meetings! Chief McDonnell very accurately described what has been an ongoing problem and the effects of that problem. During the response of Chief McDonnell, he said "The big frustration is not being able to do anything about it. We're told by legal counsel that they are protected by the First Amendment". Who is this legal counsel the Chief refers to? Is the Chief being ordered or told not to enforce the law which is clearly being violated? California Penal Code sec 403 clearly applies and should be enforced as I have said on prior occasions. The issue here is the intentional disruption of the meeting by sustained verbalization and actions by the offending parties. Everyone has an opportunity to be heard during public comment. The disruptors often interfere with the ability of others to express their thoughts to the Police Commission as is their right!

So the question is, WHO is the legal counsel that is preventing or advising Chief McDonnell not to enforce the law? Thank you, Jamie from the California Post for calling attention to this ongoing situation that has frustrated so many of us for so long. Where has the LA media been all this time? We should have Police Commission meetings that are free of intimidation, violence, and disruptions. Those who disrupt must know that there are consequences for such intentional disruptions and that arrests for 403 PC Disturbing a Meeting will be enforced. Being escorted from the meeting room is not a sufficient consequence for repeat offenders that are intent in intimidating those who attend to exercise their right of free speech and to redress grievances. The nation and world are watching how this issue of free speech/ constitutional rights are being guaranteed and protected by our police and local government, or are being usurped by the mob. We, the people, are watching!

Respectfully,
Voices For LAPD