



**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners Hold Historic Meeting in South LA**  
*Commissioners and Charlie Beck, Los Angeles Police Chief, Scheduled to Attend*

LOS ANGELES – A collective of South Los Angeles-based organizations successfully urged the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners to hold, for the first time, several of its official meetings directly in the areas they serve.

The first meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 19, 2017 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Edwin Markham Middle School Auditorium, 1650 East 104th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90002.**

The consortium of organizations spearheading the effort include Advancement Project California, ACLU, Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, Brotherhood Crusade, Children’s Defense Fund – Los Angeles, Community Coalition, Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN), Los Angeles Urban League, LA Voice, SEIU Local 721, and SEIU Local 2015.

“This historic first meeting is a crucial opportunity for the residents of South LA to have their voices and concerns directly heard around public safety issues in their neighborhood,” said Alberto Retana, president & CEO, Community Coalition.

“At the meeting, we are going to strongly urge the Board to put in place comprehensive public safety strategies that improve relationships between the police and communities of color,” said April Verrett, executive vice president of SEIU Local 2015.

“Securing this meeting is a long sought after step to increase transparency and community engagement between the Commissioners and the people whose lives are affected profoundly by their regulations and policies,” said Melina Abdullah, founder, Black Lives Matter Los Angeles.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising. In April, Community Coalition engaged over 2,000 residents in a “Re-Imagine Justice” art exhibit and weekly panel series. In addition, the organization collected over 4,200 polls from South Los Angeles residents

to gain a deeper understanding of the issues impacting their quality of life. The poll findings and community dialogues confirm that to date, there have been no major improvements to address police misconduct, accountability and transparency.

“It is unacceptable that there have not been significant changes that advance communities in South LA around issues such as access to police misconduct investigation findings,” said Pete White, executive director, Los Angeles Community Action Network. “We will weigh in on the concerns that impact our daily lives and hold the Board accountable to implement community-driven public safety strategies.”

Additional issues community stakeholders plan to raise include de-escalation training on tense situations, the adoption of alternative public safety strategies that improve community and police relations, how the police can divert youth and people with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities into treatment programs instead of incarceration, and that the LAPD officer disciplinary board should reflect the communities that are most impacted by police misconduct, among others.

***About Community Coalition:***

*For nearly 30 years, Community Coalition has provided a hub to elevate South LA’s voice and empower residents to take control over the future of their neighborhoods. Community Coalition works with residents to build a prosperous and healthy South LA with safe neighborhoods, quality schools, and a strong social safety net. The Coalition continues to work on positive economic development that reduces crime, poverty and substance abuse in South LA through resident organizing, direct advocacy and community support services. [www.cocosouthla.org](http://www.cocosouthla.org)*

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