

Widening the Lens of Justice: Unmasking the Many Layers of
Racial and Social Inequities
February 5, 2021

Southwestern Law Review in
collaboration with Southwestern
Black Law Students Association

Criminal Justice: Strides Towards Progressive Policing & Prosecution

“Supporting the Community and Human Relations through Advancing Equity in Law Enforcement in Los Angeles County: the work of the Los Angeles County on Human Relations’ Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Human Relations”

- Commemorate the 1965 Watts Rebellion with action beyond words
- Support and catalyze change in policing policy and practice
- Host and document community voices for the public record
- Create and strengthen relationships of trust to support needed collaboration



- Partnership with 20 anchor community organizations
- 169 speakers in 17+ hours of testimony during 6 public community hearings
- 8 representative law enforcement leaders in dialogue with 13 subject matter experts in the final public hearing
- 38 stakeholder feedback sessions with 42 groups and organizations
- Support from 2 academic partners
- Continuing dialogue, partnership, and collaboration



Two main themes needed to Redefine Policing with Our Community

REDEFINE PUBLIC SAFETY = Structure
policing as one component of community-
defined, community-led public safety

DEMILITARIZE POLICE CULTURE=
comprehensively transform, policing culture



34 Recommendations-- Examples

“Refund the Community”=Reallocate funding to expand and fully resource non-law enforcement community alternatives

Alternatives to Arrest for “quality of life” violations

Eliminate qualified immunity and **Provide Public Access** to information about police involved in misconduct investigations

Require independent prosecutors for use-of-force investigations- so that such investigations are housed outside of law enforcement or DA offices

Use Racial/Identity Profiling data to end anti-Black racism

End Cooperation of Law Enforcement with ICE- comply with sanctuary laws



- Choose Strategic Priorities
- Support Current and Emerging Initiatives
- Develop Collaboratives for Changes Requiring New and Sustained Effort



Redefining Policing with Our Community

“We live in a moment that is bigger than any one of us. The struggles we face are rarely about individuals and they are rarely about bad apples. They are structural, they are persistent, and they are historical. Really, the struggles we face today are baked into the DNA of [this place] we call Los Angeles. Therefore, to part with the broken practices of our past and our present we are going to have to be visionary and we’re going to have to be bold... bold enough to fundamentally remake the story of policing in LA.”
Dr. Kelly Lytle-Hernandez, UCLA



County of Los Angeles

Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services

Commission on Human Relations