



## Session 30 | Community Perspective on Oversight

September 16, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.

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Many civilian oversight boards exist today is because, on the heels of tragedy at the hands of law enforcement, community members resonate passionate cries for change wherever they feel they can be heard. Civilian oversight boards are then often created to advance public transparency and accountability with respect to law enforcement agencies as well as to improve communications between the law enforcement agency and the communities they serve. Many oversight boards often employ the use of open meetings and town halls which enables the public the right to participate. Community members frequently see oversight meetings as a critical opportunity to engage oversight bodies and law enforcement officials to provide their community perspective on subject matters impacting their communities and to give vital input on issues that may have changed their families lives forever. This panel will consist of lived experience community advocates and family members who have lost their loved ones to law enforcement use of force, who routinely appear before civilian oversight boards to voice their community perspective regarding law enforcement accountability, serious concerns about transparency and the changes they envision are needed in local public safety services. The session will begin with panel introductions and an overview of the community perspective of the significance and benefits of community members actively engaging oversight boards at public meetings to seek change relative to law enforcement matters impacting their communities.

The final segment of the session will involve a presentation from the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, who to further function as a bridge between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and the communities they serve, formulated their annual community policing conference for a day of dialog and engagement between law enforcement professionals, academics, officials and members of the public. The annual conference has become a safe environment for hundreds of individuals to communicate and learn from one another.

### Speakers:

- Mariela Alburges, Director of Implementation, Reform LA Jails, Los Angeles, CA
- Fred Davie, Chair, New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board, New York NY
- Brian Williams, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, Los Angeles, CA
- Greg Woods, Professor, Department of Justice Studies at San Jose State University, the Department of Sociology at the University of San Francisco, San Jose, CA

### Speaker Biographies

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**Mariela Alburges** | Mariela Alburges serves as Reform LA Jails' Director of Implementation. For over 17 years, Mariela has been committed to movement building, advocacy, and leadership and organizational capacity development around issues of economic, racial and gender equity. She has worked in collaboration with BIPOC communities in the U.S., Europe, Latin America and East Africa who in diverse and often parallel ways continue to resist policies of mass criminalization, forced displacement, and political disenfranchisement.



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*Please note, content and speakers subject to change.*

At Reform LA Jails, Mariela is the team lead in overseeing the implementation of Measure R -- a people-driven ballot measure committed to addressing issues of transparency and accountability of the Sheriff Department and demanding solutions to severe overcrowding and inadequate mental health care in the jails. She convened Yes on R campaign's partner coalition which was instrumental in galvanizing the support of over 1.3 million voters to secure the historic passing of Measure R. She worked closely with movement leaders to strengthen and align voter education, engagement and get out the vote strategies. Previously, Mariela served as Manager of Advocacy Grants Programs at the Drug Policy Alliance where she oversaw the grant-making arm of the organization and convened a national network of partners working in solidarity to denounce and repair the harms inflicted by the drug war.

Originally from Maracaibo, Venezuela Mariela spent her formative years in Salt Lake City, Utah however fine-tuned her community organizing toolkit while establishing roots in Chicago's Southside. Mariela holds a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning with a focus in asset-based community economic development from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a Bachelors in Latin American Studies from Wellesley College.

**Fred Davie** | Frederick Davie was appointed as chair of the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) by Mayor Bill de Blasio in April 2018. Mr. Davie is also a member of Mayor Bill de Blasio's Clergy Advisory Council (CAC). He is co-convenor of the CAC's public safety committee, with a focus on community safety and improving police-community relations. Mr. Davie also currently serves as the Executive Vice President of the Union Theological Seminary (UTS) in the City of New York – a position he has held since August 15, 2011. In this capacity, Mr. Davie is UTS' chief administrative officer and serves as an advisor to the President for the structure and administration of the executive office, strategic planning, institutional advancement, and vision implementation. Prior to serving as UTS' Executive Vice President, Mr. Davie served as Interim Executive Director and Senior Director of the Social Justice and LGBT Programs at the Arcus Foundation, where he managed the Foundation's grant making budget and supervised the implementation of the Foundation's funding strategy for social justice and LGBT programs.

Mr. Davie has spent his entire career dedicated to non-profit work and public service. Mr. Davie served on President Barack Obama's transition team, and later accepted an appointment by President Obama to the White House Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Mr. Davie has also served in several leadership roles in public administration for the City of New York, including Deputy Borough President of Manhattan, and Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor for Community and Public Affairs, and Chief of Staff to the President of the NYC Board of Education.

Mr. Davie also has extensive experience in senior-level roles in philanthropic and social and economic justice organizations, including Public/Private Ventures and the Ford Foundation. At Public/Private Ventures, Mr. Davie served as President and CEO, promoted from Senior Vice President. As SVP, Mr. Davie developed a model national program for the successful re-entry of former offenders and delivered a White House keynote address on the same in 2007. As a Program Officer at the Ford Foundation, Mr. Davie developed a national program to support local faith-based and community juvenile justice programs to reduce rates of incarceration and recidivism.

A Presbyterian minister in the Presbytery of New York City, Mr. Davie has served the national Presbyterian Church, the NYC presbytery and local congregations in various volunteer capacities. He



received his Masters in Divinity from Yale Divinity School and his Bachelor of Arts from Greensboro College.

**Brian Williams** | Brian K. Williams, Esq., serves as the Executive Director of the L.A. County Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission. Williams also maintains a law practice, the Brian K. Williams Law Group. Prior to this appointment, Williams served as President & CEO of Junior Achievement of Southern California, one of the nation's preeminent educational programs for youth. During his career, Williams served as the Executive Director of the Southern California Leadership Network, one of the nation's premiere leadership development programs. Williams served for eleven years as an Assistant City Attorney in the L.A. City Attorney's office. When L.A. City Attorney James K. Hahn was elected Mayor of L.A., Hahn appointed Williams as his Deputy Mayor for Transportation, Environment & Infrastructure. Upon leaving the Mayor's Office, Williams was appointed Assistant City Manager for the City of Pasadena.

Williams, a two-time UCLA Chancellor's Marshall, earned a B.A. in Political Science at UCLA & a Juris Doctorate from the UCLA School of Law. Williams' greatest pride comes from his two sons, Brinton & Braxton.

**Greg Woods** | Greg Woods teaches with the Department of Justice Studies at San Jose State University, the Department of Sociology at the University of San Francisco, and the San Jose Police Department where he regularly presents Policing in the Current Political and Social Climate to new police academy graduates. Professor Woods conducted training seminars, through a foreign language interpreter, to top Beijing police officials from the Ministry of Security of the People's Republic of China, emphasizing sources of legal authority, limitations to the use of force and legal remedies in response to police misconduct. Professor Woods has also lectured at Cal State East Bay, Sonoma State and San Francisco State Universities. A respected legal trend and law enforcement expert, Greg Woods is regularly featured on television and radio programs, podcasts and in print. He received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from San Francisco Law School and lives and works in the Bay Area.

