

## **Long Beach Advancing Peace Steering Committee Portrait**

**Purpose:**

Develop a profile of the current Steering Committee members for integration into the Advancing Peace Website

**Name:**

James Marks  
(at large Steering Committee Member)

**Birthday:**

10/31

**Organizations:**

- [The Professional Community Intervention Training Institute \(PCITI\)](#)
- [Watts Labor Community Action Committee \(WLCAC\)](#)

**Target Population:**

- Reentry
- Youth
- Gang members

**Services:**

- Community Interventionist Training Instructor for:
  - Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)
  - USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
  - Alliance University School of Psychology
  - Various City and County programs working on public safety infrastructure design
- Young Sentinels Program with the Watts Gang Taskforce
- Housing Resource Specialist for the City of Los Angeles

**Profile:**

Operating from an anti-racist framework, James Marks leverages his lived experience to inspire and work alongside reentry, gang, and opportunity youth populations. Mr. Marks focuses on the impact that the carceral system, community violence, and grief exacts on Black and Latino males who are otherwise criminalized or ignored by society. Mr. Marks uses his credible messenger status to fiercely advocate for community involvement in, and ownership of, systems change. As he mentions, his life work is to help others transform their trauma-based destructive energy into strength-based advocacy and passion to change themselves, their communities, and the systems that constrain their possibilities.