

MOTION

Last week, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) released the citywide crime numbers for 2015. According to the report, crime rates rose to their highest levels in two years, with a 20.2% increase in violent crimes and a 10.7% increase in property crimes over 2014 numbers.

While any increase in crime must be carefully examined, it is important to understand the broader context of crime levels in Los Angeles; 2015 numbers are on track with the five year average, and we are living in the lowest per capita crime level era since the 1950s.

In addition, crime rates in Los Angeles mirror the trend of rising levels across the state of California, with increases seen in both our neighboring cities and major cities in the state.

In order to address this increase in crime, the Los Angeles Police Department acted to double the size of its Metropolitan Division, which is reactively deployed around the City to address crime hot spots as they occur. In doing so, it moved officers from the more preventative patrol function.


To prevent this increase in crime from gaining momentum, and to ensure that the City of Los Angeles remains the safest big city in the nation, it is important that the Council has a better understanding of what is driving the overall increase in crime, what crimes are the major factors in the increase, the specifics of the Department's Metro strategy and its efficacy to date, any impacts associated with moving officers from the patrol function, and other strategies the Department is considering and pursuing to address this uptick.

While many of the factors that influence crime rates are out of the direct control of the LAPD, it is critical to understand how the Department is deploying the resources allocated it by the Mayor and Council, inasmuch as it shapes future budget decisions.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Los Angeles Police Department report to the Public Safety Committee on the City of Los Angeles crime levels over time, the current uptick, an analysis of possible causes, and provide recommendations for solutions, including a detailed explanation of the Metropolitan Division strategy.

I FURTHER MOVE, that representatives from the Los Angeles Police Protective League, and the Los Angeles Command Officer's Association, the organizations that represent the City's sworn officers and the police command staff respectively, be invited to the Public Safety Committee meeting to present their own analysis of and recommendations for addressing increasing crime levels.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



Paul Kellerman


JAN 22 2016



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