

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

April 18, 2018

1.8

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: REPORTING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
CRIMES IN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES (COUNCIL FILE NO.17-0619)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and APPROVE the Department's response to the City Council Motion regarding reporting of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Crimes in Immigrant Communities.

DISCUSSION

On May 31, 2017, a Motion was introduced in City Council and referred to the Public Safety Committee regarding multiple reports of immigrants deciding not to contact local law enforcement to report crimes when they have been a victim and/or have knowledge of a crime.

The Motion was approved by the full City Council on February 7, 2018, and directed the Los Angeles Police Department to report on the number of reported sexual assault and domestic violence crimes in immigrant communities in Los Angeles. The Department was also to report on issues related to immigrants refusing to report crimes due to fears of deportation. The response was also to contain the Department's strategy for effectively and compassionately handling these types of cases in immigrant communities.

The Department's Immigration Liaison Officer (ILO), Commanding Officer, Operations Central Bureau, provided the following information in response to the Council request:

- Immediately following the inauguration of the current Presidential Administration, the Department held over 100 forums on immigration. Topics discussed included the importance of reporting crimes and more importantly, a strong reminder to the public that the Department's stance on supporting our undocumented residents had not changed. The Department continues to host regular forums on immigration related issues.
- The Department meets regularly with immigration advocacy group leaders to identify concerns within our immigrant communities and implement best practices in support of our undocumented residents.

- The Department has an on-going relationship with our community victim advocacy partners in supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault crimes. The Department works in partnership with Domestic Assault Response Teams to provide resources and education to the victims and survivors of Domestic Violence and to ensure victims are treated fairly and feel confident to continue working with investigators regardless of their immigration status.
- The Department has taken on a very proactive effort in educating the public and ensuring victims of crimes are familiar with the federal U-Visa filing process, ensuring victims of crime receive consistent support and updates from their U-Visa coordinators.
- We have increased outreach and messaging in support of undocumented residents by working with all our houses of worship. We have spoken to countless congregations on our efforts to increase trust and our continued commitment to support all victims regardless of immigration status.
- We have collaborated with our partners in the Spanish media and our Latin American consulates to provide reminders to our Spanish speaking community that the Department does not enforce civil immigration laws. We continually work with our media outlets and immigration advocacy groups to dispel rumors of Department collaboration with civil immigration enforcement efforts in Los Angeles.
- In the Department's continued effort to reduce concerns and anxiety amongst our undocumented residents related to the Department's stance on immigration enforcement, the first frequently asked questions (FAQ) handout was prepared in 2017. The FAQs provide information addressing the most common concerns asked by residents and have been distributed to the public and our police officers in both English and Spanish.
- On December 29, 2017, the Department released a new Chief of Police Notice, "Immigration Enforcement Procedures." This Notice reinforces Department procedures to comply with the California Values Act as defined in State Senate Bill 54. We continue to remind our officers and our immigrant communities that, per our Department Manual, Sections 1/390, *Undocumented Aliens* and 4/264.50, *Enforcement of United States Immigration Laws*, we are prohibited from initiating police action with the objective of determining a person's immigration status.

It should be noted that the Department does not collect any data on the immigration status of victims or witnesses to crimes. Therefore, crime statistics are not available separable by immigration status.

Prior to the initial City Council Motion in May, 2017, the Department had identified a decline in reporting of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence related crimes within some of our Hispanic communities. As of April 30, 2017, there was a decline of over 23 percent in Sexual Assault reporting amongst Hispanic victims compared to a Citywide decline of 14 percent. There was a

decline of over eight percent in Domestic Violence reporting compared to a Citywide decline of four percent. This caused the Department concern and was the genesis of our increased outreach efforts.

The Chief of Police addressed the decline in reporting during public interviews in March 2017, as a call to action for the Department and public to come together, in partnership, to address the issue.

We are pleased to report to the Council that the 2017 end-of-year crime statistics show a significant improvement in those reporting categories. Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence reporting are now more consistent amongst all ethnic groups. In Sexual Assault reporting, the decline between Hispanic victims and the Citywide average has dropped from a deficit of approximately ten percent to four percent, and the decline in Domestic Violence reporting has improved from a deficit of approximately four percent to equivalent to the Citywide average.

	Sexual Assault Reporting Rates		Domestic Violence Reporting Rates	
	April 30, 2017 (YTD)	Dec 31, 2017 (YTD)	April 30, 2017 (YTD)	Dec 31, 2017 (YTD)
Hispanic	- 23.5 %	- 13.9 %	- 8.1 %	+ 1.3 %
Citywide	- 13.7 %	- 10.2 %	- 4.3 %	+ 1.7 %
% Difference	- 9.8 %	- 3.7 %	- 3.8 %	- 0.4 %

Our Department is committed to protecting the public from crime and other harms through partnerships and Constitutional Policing principles; including, the fair and impartial enforcement of the law, regardless of a person's race, ethnicity, national origin or civil immigration status.

Should you have any questions, please contact Deputy Chief Justin Eisenberg, Chief of Detectives, at (213) 486-7000 or Deputy Chief Robert Arcos, Commanding Officer, Operations Central Bureau (Department ILO), at (213) 833-3735.

Respectfully,



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police