

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Echo Park Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(17) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 01/25/2022

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 01/30/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0190

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Echo Park Neighborhood Council opposes the expansion of Los Angeles Municipal Code 63.41 to include the ability of park rangers to carry firearms for the reasons outlined in the attached letter.



ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



CHAIR
Mansoor Khan

VICE CHAIR
Danielle Davis

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
Liz Staley

TREASURER
Dave Hunter

SECRETARY
Nick Marcone

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION OF COUNCIL FILE 20-0190

CERTIFIED COUNCIL
APRIL 16, 2002

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JANUARY 30, 2022

Echo Park Neighborhood Council OPPOSES the Arming of City Park Rangers

WHEREAS, Councilmembers Joe Buscaino and John Lee have passed beyond committee a measure to arm City of Los Angeles park rangers,

WHEREAS, such a proposal has previously enjoyed support from Councilmembers Paul Koretz, Paul Krekorian, Bob Blumenfield, and Gil Cedillo (Source: <https://www.courthousenews.com/la-advances-plan-to-arm-park-rangers/>),

WHEREAS, experts in the field of public safety have opposed such a measure. Those on the Editorial Board of the Los Angeles Times are just a few of those commentators who are educated on the issue and have expressed their opposition to the proposal. (Source: <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-11-09/editorial-arm-l-a-city-park-rangers-t-hat-idea-should-be-shot-down>) Being then that there is not expert-based evidence for such a proposal,

WHEREAS, there is no increasing need for the arming of park rangers. Even by the claims of park rangers seeking the ability to carry firearms, this has been a request that has stood and is not renewed by any plausible claims of violence against park rangers. (Source: <https://www.courthousenews.com/la-advances-plan-to-arm-park-rangers/>) Being that there is no pressing need for such a proposal,

WHEREAS, dangers of wildlife are not threatening to those serving within the city as park rangers, and their patrols largely involve other human beings,

WHEREAS, homelessness is only getting worse by the day in Los Angeles, and we recognize that violence has increased in public parks as a result. We also recognize that homelessness is the number one issue on voters' minds by a significant amount (Source: <https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2021-12-01/la-voters-are-frustrated-impatient-over-persistent-homelessness-crisis>), and seeing as we want real solutions rather than increased criminalization,

WHEREAS, there are only twenty-eight park rangers employed by the City of Los Angeles (Source: <https://www.courthousenews.com/la-advances-plan-to-arm-park-rangers/>), having more firearms in potentially dangerous situations does not improve public safety. Seeing that we oppose the increased proliferation of firearms by law enforcement,

WHEREAS, one of the goals of the Ad Hoc Reimagining Public Safety Committee is to make law enforcement less deadly and reduce the number of firearms in law enforcement circulation in line with such goals, it would not be logical to back such a bill. Though park rangers do receive firearms training (Source: <https://www.courthousenews.com/la-advances-plan-to-arm-park-rangers/>), we recognize that such extensive training has not eliminated law enforcement fatalities in Los Angeles. Being that we want to make law enforcement less deadly,

WHEREAS the Echo Park Neighborhood Council has already been cited by local sources for its tentative support of such opposition (Source: https://www.theeastsiderla.com/parks_recreation/los-feliz-and-other-neighborhood-councils-come-out-against-arming-l-a-park-rangers/article_578f5f48-41d8-11ec-8494-832f4cf749dc.html),

WHEREAS the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council, among others, has officially opposed such a measure (Source: https://www.theeastsiderla.com/parks_recreation/los-feliz-and-other-neighborhood-councils-come-out-against-arming-l-a-park-rangers/article_578f5f48-41d8-11ec-8494-832f4cf749dc.html),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Echo Park Neighborhood Council opposes the expansion of Los Angeles Municipal Code 63.41 to include the ability of park rangers to carry firearms,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Echo Park Neighborhood Council opposes all efforts by the Los Angeles City Council and other agencies to carry firearms for regular patrol.

RESOLUTION

On January 25, 2021, the EPNC Board of Governors held a Brown Act noticed-meeting, at 7pm through zoom. With a quorum of 17 board members



present and vote count of 17 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions, the Board resolved to write a letter of opposition for the application as set forth above.

Respectfully,
Echo Park Neighborhood Council

Handwritten signature of Nick Marcone, consisting of stylized initials 'NM'.

Nick Marcone
Secretary, Echo Park Neighborhood Council