

Communication from Public

Name: Carolyn Canterbury

Date Submitted: 11/06/2021 08:16 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I do not support arming park rangers. We need less armed response to public issues not more. Arming park rangers will only make conflict interactions more dangerous for everyone involved. Arming park rangers only endangers the public more, there is no need for firepower in our parks!!

Communication from Public

Name: Jason Chin

Date Submitted: 11/07/2021 08:10 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: If it weren't as reckless and dangerous as it is, I'd've thought this motion was a joke. It's impossible to see why it would make anyone safer for park rangers to be armed. Instead of giving them means to more drastically escalate, we could put city funds towards taking better care of our park spaces. I really don't know what Councilmembers Buscaino and Cedillo are thinking.

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle

Date Submitted: 11/07/2021 08:12 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming Park Rangers will result in gun violence against our community members. We don't need any more law enforcement officers or extensions of the policing institution in our communities. We need services that support our neighbors and connect them to the resources they need. Don't arm Park Rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Kristin

Date Submitted: 11/07/2021 08:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I was born and raised in LA and still live here. Park rangers should absolutely not be armed. I would feel far less safe and would not frequent our fabulous green spaces. Numerous studies and the experience of other cities shows that arming rangers would endanger the public, particularly people of color and other marginalized groups. This would be a grave mistake.

Communication from Public

Name: Eleanor

Date Submitted: 11/07/2021 08:36 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming Park Rangers is dangerous and completely unnecessary. It does not make anyone safer and is a reckless idea. More people will be hurt as a result of this policy.

Communication from Public

Name: Tara Jones
Date Submitted: 11/07/2021 08:56 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers should NOT be armed. This proposal is dangerous and will escalate situations and militarize our public spaces.

Communication from Public

Name: Paisley

Date Submitted: 11/07/2021 09:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: How in the name of this mighty green earth does arming park rangers make any sense? Spoiler alert: IT DOESN'T! Rather than investing into community support and working to foster safe environments, you want to introduce more potential violence? And given the track record for unarmed rangers instigating violence against unhoused community members, that potential violence is all but guaranteed should this motion pass. Please do the right thing by voting this motion down and putting a stop to the senseless cycles of violence. This is not the way to a better future.

Communication from Public

Name: Abigail Bokun

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:46 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: It is bad enough that police are given the authority over life and death and use their weapons to kill people in crisis, dogs, and so many others. There is literally no need for park rangers to carry weapons. People should feel safe running or hiking and not have to worry that they are going to be considered a threat and be shot. Who else are you going to try to give guns to if we're giving them to park rangers? Next I'll start seeing that City Council members are all going to be armed. Arming public servants is NOT the answer.

Communication from Public

Name: Dylan Cheely

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:51 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers so that they can more efficiently murder unhoused people who intrude on LA City park property is barbaric. Giving poorly trained park rangers access to fire arms is a disaster waiting to happen. Guns are not the solution to our city's homeless crisis. I ask that the motion to arm park rangers be rejected, and that more sane, intelligent solutions to our city's ills be considered instead.

Communication from Public

Name: Paige
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:58 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I very strongly oppose the arming of park rangers. This would be reckless and further endanger people that are at a high risk for violence already.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:08 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of CD15 and I strongly oppose the motion to arm park rangers. It is reckless and unnecessary.

Communication from Public

Name: Steven Chun

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:22 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Steven Chun and I am a resident of CD5. I strongly oppose the arming of park rangers and condemn this attempt at furthering the violent patrolling of public spaces in Los Angeles. We do not need MORE armed patrols in our communities and parks. In fact, we need FEWER armed patrols, DEMILITARIZATION of LAPD, and the LIBERATION of public spaces like Echo Park Lake and MacArthur Park which have been fenced and patrolled in a thinly veiled, attempt at anti-Unhoused violence. The only real path to "public safety" is defunding LAPD and reinvesting into communities in ways that make us safer, healthier, and happier. More housing, more basic income programs (make it universal), and less guns. Stop trying to police us and stop trying to throw more weapons and violence at problems. Shame on Joe Buscaino for this fascist lunacy. You'll never be Mayor Joe.

Communication from Public

Name: Travis Helwig

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:27 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing as a home owner and as a concerned resident of Los Angeles. I strongly oppose the arming of park rangers in our city parks. This is not Yosemite. Park Rangers do not need to protect themselves from wildlife. These rangers' guns will be EXCLUSIVELY used to shoot humans or to intimidate humans. They have no other purpose. Why is our city council even considering creating an environment that leads to more death and violence against human life? City employees work for the voters, (yes even Law Enforcement) and voters in Los Angeles are strongly opposed to more guns on our streets regardless of who holds them. This is a truly wild misunderstanding of what your bosses (the voters) want from our government and law enforcement. Please don't do this. Please. Please. Please. Please. Please. Please. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 02:21 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose arming park rangers. It is not needed for their core mission, will lead to increased costs both directly and indirectly, and will almost certainly lead to more unnecessarily violent interactions between city employees and the city's most vulnerable residents.

Communication from Public

Name: R.A.

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 05:27 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: To Whom It May Concern: I am writing to oppose the proposal to arm park rangers for Los Angeles city parks. Firearms require extensive training to not only handle them safely and properly, but also to know how to only use them as a last resort. I don't believe park rangers should, or currently are, properly trained for such responsibilities when it comes to firearms. Even our police force, supposedly with such training, has shown to have difficulty in using firearms properly and without harm to unarmed civilians. There is no acceptable margin of error when it comes to firearms, and mistakes can be deadly. In addition, many LA City Parks are sites for preschools, youth sports, and after-school clubs. I definitely do not feel safe knowing that a park ranger would have the ability to carry firearms in the same vicinity as my child. Emergencies at park sites that require an armed officer should defer to LAPD, and only if the emergency entails a life-threatening situation with another armed individual. Other crises—such as a suspected mental health issue or issue best addressed with a trained social worker—should be handled without firearms. The United States has the most annual deaths by firearms in the world for a reason. Our rampant misuse and over-arming of insufficiently trained individuals with guns is a key factor. No guns should be at city parks, at all.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:00 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This is to strongly oppose the Buscaino/Cedillo motion to arm park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:05 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose the motion to arm park rangers. Given the long ugly history of police violence in this country, arming park rangers will only increase the chance of violent encounters and cause the community to further distrust rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Marcia Whitfield

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:07 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Good people! Now is not the time for arming more state employees. Public spaces should be welcoming and offer an alternative to the every day violence prevalent in our communities. Let's re-imagine and utilize other and better ways to serve the park goers. It's healthy and smart. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Mica Saint Michael
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:07 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Park rangers should NOT be carrying guns. It's unnecessary, hostile, and contributes to harmful militarization of our cities.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:08 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming law enforcement makes us all more unsafe

Communication from Public

Name: Logan Cimino

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:15 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not allow park rangers to be armed. Public spaces like parks do not necessitate such a thing. Enacting policies that allow park rangers to be armed is a safety hazard to the community.

Communication from Public

Name: Tom Workman
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:17 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please so not arm park rangers, that will make us less safe not more.

Communication from Public

Name: Carie Rael

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:21 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not allow Park Rangers to carry guns. During the pandemic the park system has been a refuge for my family and I. We have never once felt unsafe at public parks but that will change if Park Rangers are allowed to carry guns in public. My family and I will no longer feel safe and be forced to stop using the public park system.

Communication from Public

Name: David Kim

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:27 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Completely opposed to this bill as there's no reason any of our park rangers should have the ability to kill and oppress anyone, when their duty is to simply be a park ranger and ensure safety in parks and relevant spaces.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Gorr

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:28 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I'm vehemently against arming park rangers. It only creates more opportunity for intimidating citizens and abuse of power. It's completely unnecessary and will only result in more lawsuits against the city when a ranger inevitably kills an innocent person.

Communication from Public

Name: James Groleau
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:30 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: We need fewer armed goons harassing the citizenry, not more. More staff, yes. More facilities, yes. More maintenance, yes. No more guns carried by ill-trained and ill-prepared hotshot wanna be cowboys.

Communication from Public

Name: Max

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:32 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please invest in the parks and in our communities and not in guns!! Doesn't really seem like the issue with parks right now is "not enough guns" but rather community based investment and programming. As someone who uses the parks frequently, park rangers with guns would make me feel completely unsafe and unwelcome in our public spaces.

Communication from Public

Name: Eli
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:33 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: No. Park rangers should NOT be armed. Waste of money and time, simply making issues worse. We need less guns in all parts of our society.

Communication from Public

Name: Christine T

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:44 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the metro area I am adamantly opposed to park rangers carrying fire arms of any sort. Opposed to lethal munitions and also the non-lethal alternatives., There is no reason for a civilian to be carrying weapons when working with other civilians. There are plenty of examples where unarmed persons are able to successfully interact with the public with the support of trained social workers in cases where it's needed. We need to break out dependency on firearms and move forward as society of mutual aid and support.

Communication from Public

Name: Kelsey Redding
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:45 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Public parks are essential to fostering a connected community. It is a space where people of all income levels, backgrounds, housing situations can interact safely. Weaponizing this space does not make it safer. It only inhibits intended purpose of the space. How do you build community with a gun? Kids birthday parties with a gun. Soccer games with a gun. There is no need for the increased militarization and fear tactics being proposed here. This will only lead to unnecessary bloodshed. Why would you take from us the one last space where people do not need to spend money to be together? We have seen time and time again what officers do with guns. This is not Iraq. This is not a murder investigation. This is Sara's soccer game. Unhoused people are not the problem. Adding guns to the mix is the problem.

Communication from Public

Name: Ryan

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:48 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hello All, It would be it would be detrimental to public safety to arm park rangers. Please do not allow this regulation to pass.
Regards, Ryan

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 08:06 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We need fewer armed police—not more. Rangers should be equipped with non-lethal deterrence only. Keep the public safe.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 08:24 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in strong disagreement with the motion to arm park rangers. We know that when you arm someone, they are more likely to enact violence. Our parks should be safe places both for those houses unhoused members of the community, LA does not need increased militarization, but increased compassion and community. As a tax payer and a lifelong resident I feel strongly that there are safer, more humane, and more constructive ways to implement our dollars.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 08:24 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I absolutely respect park rangers and their capacity to do good in our communities. However, giving them deadly weapons will only succeed in making them more dangerous and fail in making our communities safer. The well respected Francisco Pimentel said “the Park Ranger Division and city of Los Angeles have been very fortunate to have not lost a ranger in the line of duty due to their history with violent encounters, nature of their work and the areas in which they work.” This is a testament to the commendable work they have already doing in the face of dangers without being armed with guns. In fact, the resources that would be expended for arming them should instead be redirected to our communities to better the parks and areas that the rangers patrol (such as ensuring trash is being properly disposed of, providing conscientious and community informed services to unhoused persons, hosting activities or events that inform the community about how to care for local flora and fauna, etc.) to ensure the increased safety of all members of the community (this includes the rangers). With happier and better served communities the rangers wouldn’t feel as fearful in certain areas and gives them the added benefit of focusing on conservancy efforts instead of being worried about possible violent situations. Resources could also go to a program where the rangers, for increased pay and benefits (maybe that would increase park rangers attrition), can teach their methods to other officers on how to quell violent situations without guns. Additionally, I am not opposed to the rangers carrying non deadly weapons to protect themselves and the community. I recognize that they could encounter wild animals or find themselves in a situation where pepper spray, batons and effective personal alarms could be utilized to de-escalate a dangerous situation. They should be given access to such non deadly tools. However, nothing of note suggests that they need to be armed with guns to do their jobs effectively. Nothing suggests arming them with guns would even solve any problems they may currently have. It would only inevitably lead to avoidable tragedies that harm our communities and the relationships civilians have with government officials. If we truly want healthier and safer communities and parks, we should be strengthening that relationship between government officers and civilians, not adding guns to it. Please focus on increasing the

opportunities for building and healing our communities instead of adding to the already dismal amount of opportunities for violence and destruction. Do not arm rangers with guns.

Communication from Public

Name: Mavi Llamas

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 08:26 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Angeles, specifically CD!, I am enraged and cannot believe how irresponsible this proposal is for residents and visitors of our public parks. Arming ranger is dangerous to EVERYONE's safety, and it should NEVER HAPPEN. Do not arm the park rangers. I sincerely cannot wait until anyone who supports this proposal to be voted out by their constituents. Gil Cedillo, your days are numbered, and your support for arming park rangers is disgusting. Arming park rangers will make them as trigger-happy as LAPD and LASD already are. Again, I no not support this idea, and am disgusted by those who represent me in the city council right now.

Communication from Public

Name: Se Young Young Au

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 08:31 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the city of Los Angeles, I strongly oppose park rangers being armed. This would dramatically endanger citizens and unnecessarily escalate situations- a tragedy waiting to happen. Guns to do not make places safer for people.

Communication from Public

Name: Andrea Leon-Grossmann

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:04 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers is outrageous and uncalled for, besides wasting our limited LA City budget on training rangers and maintaining those deadly weapons. Communities of color are already terrorized enough by armed cops, they don't need to be assailed while accessing nature and recreating. I strongly oppose this motion. Andrea León-Grossmann Council District 5 resident

Communication from Public

Name: Billy Conway

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:08 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park rangers should not be armed. This will take one of the few branches of law enforcement that isn't completely militarized and turn them into another source of violence. Police with guns kill people - and the people killed are largely black and brown. Don't introduce another way for the state to murder our most marginalized neighbors.

Communication from Public

Name: Paul

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:08 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a lifelong resident of Los Angeles and urge the City Council to not arm park rangers with weapons. Instead, please rethink public safety, fund our mental health crisis counselors and permanent housing facilities. Do not add more opportunities of violence to the houseless crisis.

Communication from Public

Name: Cherry Mullaguru

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 08:58 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of the City of Los Angeles. I use various parks in this city almost daily to walk my dog. The park rangers should not be armed. I will feel less safe and less inclined to use the parks or park services. Park rangers, as individuals tasked with maintaining and protecting public nature spaces, do not need to be militarized. This is a step in the wrong direction and is obviously aimed at further threatening, endangering, harming, and policing people who are unhoused. Arming those with power only serves to more rapidly escalate conflict and will lead to deaths. Do you really want armed conflict happening in our parks? Do you really think we need to give park rangers guns for the express purpose of inflicting even greater violence on unhoused people?

Communication from Public

Name: Hillary
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:00 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT arm park rangers! This will only lead to unnecessary harm and is a waste of resources.

Communication from Public

Name: Jordan Blakeman
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:13 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Who are they intending to shoot: animals or human beings? Both?

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:21 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose arming Park Rangers. There is no reason for there to be weapons in our parks and I believe arming the rangers will only create tragedy and law suits. Instead of paying to arm (and I guess train?) these officers, we could offer these funds to the communities with parks to support whatever programming offer projects each community wants for the parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Blake G

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:22 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Stop trying to solve every issue by throwing guns at it. As a resident of Echo Park I do not want more guns in my parks and neighborhood. It was awful when 400+ LAPD thugs came to forcibly remove the community from Echo Park Lake earlier this year and this amendment brings us one step closer to making that an everyday occurrence. Build housing, eminent domain hotels & luxury apartments, and stop criminalizing the poor. Best, Blake

Communication from Public

Name: Amelie Cherlin
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:58 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers will put unhoused people in danger. I oppose this motion. City Council should not be seeking opportunities to escalate violence.

Communication from Public

Name: Natalie G

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 10:02 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Public parks are no place for guns - just last month, a school security guard shot and killed (unlawfully) an 18-year old after a fight had already broken up. This kind of murder needs to stop and it starts with de-escalation instead of guns.

Communication from Public

Name: Tom
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 10:21 AM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Members of the City Council. Park rangers have long had an adversarial relationship with the unhoused community. There have been instances in which park rangers needlessly escalate, leading to violence and brutality against unhoused community members. Arming park rangers will lead to potential violence and in the worst case scenario, death. Please do not this. This motion was introduced by Councilmember Joe Buscaino and seconded by Gil Cedillo--my own city council member! As a constituent in your council district, I urge you to reconsider and vote against this motion. To the additional members of the city council, I ask that you vote "No" against this unnecessary measure.

Communication from Public

Name: Aaron Stein-Chester

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 10:24 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose arming park rangers. There is simply no good reason to do this from a public safety standpoint. I'd say there's plenty of evidence to suggest that, in fact, makes us less safe! Isn't council trying to "reimagine public safety"? Arming *more* officers sure seems like more of the same.

Communication from Public

Name: Dr. Leah Garland

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 10:27 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers should NOT be armed with a gun. To handle a gun takes great training and responsibility. One very necessary training is how not to take racist actions, like shooting people of color because the park ranger feels feel of another person's skin color. We do NOT have the money to train park rangers properly nor would that training be enough. Please vote no on this racist policy.

Communication from Public

Name: Rose Brooks

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 10:34 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming government employees to enforce cruel laws against those who have the least in this world is an awful show of humanity. It is shameful. The weekly articles we see now about police killing motorists while attempting to generate revenue through traffic stops isn't evidence enough for where this will go? You're simply creating a slippery slope of approving genocide for those enduring hard times in their life. There's a great book called "Ordinary people Extraordinary evil" written by a Holocaust survivor and psychologist about the minor changes we make in our belief system to get the things we want in life. It is ordinary people "following orders" enacting your brutal laws against others. How will you sleep on your culpability in the abuse of others in the name of "cleaning up town" for those who have more?

Communication from Public

Name: mario correa

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 10:42 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers should not be armed. I have witness park rangers being violent against unhoused people, in Gil Cedillo's district, where I live. Guns in parks means shooting deaths in parks. I absolutely oppose this measure.

Communication from Public

Name: Lauren Woodhouse

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 10:44 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers is unsafe and unnecessary. Should this proposal pass I would not feel comfortable going to parks- places in our city where we should always be able to access

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 10:44 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please vote no on arming park rangers. We as a city, community and society in general need less aggressive measures and not more. Though certainly most park rangers are well trained and approach their jobs with appropriate responsibility, it is also true that park rangers have long had an adversarial relationship with the unhoused community. There have been instances in which park rangers needlessly escalate, leading to violence and brutality against unhoused community members. Arming park rangers will lead to potential violence and in the worst case scenario, death. Let's please find a different solution to the problem that has resulted in this request. Please vote no on 20-0190. Thank you, Lara Pranger

Communication from Public

Name: Simone Nguyen
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 10:58 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I really don't think it's a good idea to get more guns out on the streets. Most of the people who rangers deal with are homeless, and oftentimes, they don't need the threat of violence. They need services and mental health help.

Communication from Public

Name: Yuval Yossefy

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:00 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This is a terrible idea that will only make us less safe. Rangers should NOT have firearms. Our children and neighbors will be less safe with more guns on the streets!

Communication from Public

Name: Kate Grodd

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:13 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers will put unhoused people in danger. I strongly oppose this motion. City Council should not be seeking opportunities to escalate violence. Sincerely, Kate Grodd 90027

Communication from Public

Name: Catherine

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:17 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers should absolutely not be armed. We have already witnessed unnecessary escalation, arming rangers will only lead to further escalation and violence. This is a very dangerous motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Collin B
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:20 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: This motion is absurd and dangerous, I urge all council members to vote no. The fact that it has even been introduced shows a blatant disregard for the safety of Angelenos as studies show that an increase in guns lead to more deaths, and the last thing we need is to continue to bring more firearms into communities (<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/guns-and-death/>). Nothing would feel more unwelcoming in a park than seeing armed park rangers walking around, and yes, more unwelcoming than seeing unhoused people - seriously, what dystopian police state are we trying to create here? I cannot express enough how vehemently opposed I am to this awful motion and how all those involved should be embarrassed in themselves for bringing it to the council, but that would assume they have enough self-awareness to genuinely reflect on their actions. There is no upside here, only more unnecessary deaths.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Stockton

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:23 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park rangers should not be armed. Park rangers are not policing agents. A park ranger's job is to be a naturalist, an educator, and a steward of the (stolen) land that our city is built on. Park rangers should be gracious hosts to the diverse citizens, including unhoused and otherwise marginalized people, who enjoy and rely on L.A.'s parklands. It's bad enough that people can't even sit on the grass in the parks anymore without rangers driving vehicles all over the greenery every few hours. Parkland should be a sacred, peaceful space for preserving life, not for destroying or threatening to destroy life. People will be murdered if park rangers are armed.

Communication from Public

Name: Brian Hutton

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:55 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I live in Los Angeles and strongly oppose arming rangers. This adds additional costs to me as a taxpayer and also leads to a needless increase in potential risk to our citizens. The arming of rangers will only needlessly escalate situations.

Communication from Public

Name: Greg Irwin

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:57 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose Buscaino's proposed motion to arm park rangers. This is dangerous, unnecessary, and expensive. We need fewer armed city officials, not increased violence. Please keep our parks safe by keeping guns out of them.

Communication from Public

Name: megan

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:00 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We should absolutely NOT be arming park rangers, the last thing we need is more armed people in uniform terrorizing people in our parks!! I was recently surrounded by 7 park rangers for simply putting my newborn twins under a sun tent in echo park lake due to the new ordinance. They demanded we take down the sun shade even though we explained that newborns aren't supposed to be exposed to direct sun. They were already intimidating enough without having weapons available to draw on us. Please do the right thing, listen to your constituents, and do NOT arm our park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Mariela

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:02 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: ?I live in LA and I strongly oppose arming city rangers. It is unnecessary, encourages more violence, death and destruction, costing us more lives daily. Lives that are severely already at risk and could benefit from tax payer dollars being used on a variety of different resources and access to things like safety

Communication from Public

Name: Aditi Shakkarwar

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:03 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Hollywood I am strongly opposed to the motion to arm park rangers with guns. In 2020 we saw historic protests that called for reducing our reliance on policing and incarceration. To arm park rangers is a terrible idea and step backwards. Arming park rangers will increase shootings of unarmed Angelenos, and will disproportionately affect Black Angelenos. Any councilmember who claimed to stand for the Black Lives Matter movement and now votes for this measure should be ashamed of their own hypocrisy. Please listen to your constituents and vote NO on this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew P

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:06 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose this motion. Arming park rangers is needless and places them in the same failed place as LAPD, and this will only result in escalating convicts leading to people being killed. Do we really need more guns out there? In our parks? Where kids and,teens and families are?

Communication from Public

Name: Kristofer Rehl

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:07 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I live in Los Feliz and I strongly oppose arming rangers. More armed officers = more death. We know this to be true from the staggering statistics. We already have more police shootings in LA this year than last with two months to go. Save lives—do not arm rangers. This would make no one safer.

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda Meadows

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:08 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Parks are some of the only places in LA for children playing, families gathering, and folks exercising to do so safely. Park rangers should NOT have guns. As a Los Angeles city resident and homeowner, I don't want to pay for the inevitable lawsuit settlements from arming park rangers. This is a huge mistake that will do nothing to help Parks & Recreation and will only hurt every type of city resident.

Communication from Public

Name: Leslie Foster

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:15 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As an Angeleno, I am fully opposed to the arming of park rangers. It will cost more taxpayer dollars, put far more people at risk, and is a large step in the wrong directions with regards to the militarization of our communities and civil servants.

Communication from Public

Name: Kristen Studard
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:19 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I am strongly opposed to the arming of park rangers. Our city needs LESS guns, not more. Guns do not keep us safer.

Communication from Public

Name: Machiko

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:40 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers with guns. We do not need any more violence anywhere, and most especially on parks in Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Molly
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:44 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers. More guns won't keep people in parks safe and will only lead to potential violence and in the worst case, death.

Communication from Public

Name: Barbara Friend

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:53 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Angeles, I strongly oppose arming Park Rangers with guns. It leads to unnecessary danger, violence, and death. Funds would be better spent on actual public safety measures, like repairs to parks and resources for our unhoused neighbors.

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel Gaines

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:07 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I'm a lifelong Los Angeles resident and I strongly oppose arming park rangers. My main concern is that this action will lead to more unnecessary deaths, especially of Black, brown and unhoused individuals, which continue to occur with devastating regularity in our city and County. We do not need more armed law enforcement, including park rangers, as this will only increase not only the level of violence but the sense of fear and unease for marginalized people, who have as much right to enjoy public parks as anyone. Finally, this will be a huge expense, and we desperately need more money to be put into real solutions for our city's woes, including low income permanent housing and other programs.

Communication from Public

Name: Danielle Sobol

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:10 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I have lived in Los Angeles my entire life and am a high utilizer of the parks system. Arming park rangers would make me feel LESS safe taking my dog and children to the park. Please keep our parks a safe, family friendly place for everyone in Los Angeles by not introducing dangerous weapons to them.

Communication from Public

Name: Bryce G. Alber

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:11 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose this motion. Public safety does not require the use of guns. Stop presenting motions that foster violence through fear based decision making and start offering our communities real resources like food, housing, clean restrooms and a place to rest. We're still in a pandemic and your solution is guns? The fact that so many people have to write and call in to stop you from making these kind of horrible decisions is appalling and dangerous. People need care and help not weapons.

Communication from Public

Name: luke kim

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:11 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Incredibly reactionary movement to arm park rangers in California of all places in 2021. It is a solution in search of an actual problem, and simply only a money-sink for the city. There is no data to suggest there is a mass spike in violent crime in public parks. This will only invite instances of biased violence that happen at the hands of untrained park rangers who have been long used to not being armed on the job. Why implement this when it will inevitably be taken away after scandal after scandal for the city?

Communication from Public

Name: Madi Palmer

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:12 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As an LA constituent, I vehemently oppose arming park rangers. Los Angeles parks are one of my favorite parts about the city, and I would absolutely not feel safe in them knowing that there are armed rangers throughout the parks. Please, keep your residents safe by preventing more guns from entering our city.

Communication from Public

Name: Kris Miranda

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:15 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This is a terrible idea. Arming park rangers will lead to potential violence and in the worst case scenario, completely unnecessary death. Stop militarizing things that don't require it.

Communication from Public

Name: Valerie

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:20 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please absolutely do not arm park rangers or police officers in the park this will only bring more harm to our communities. The majority of people that are at parks are children and minors. This is not going to do any good. They can always call for back up or use less lethal tactics.

Communication from Public

Name: Peggy Lee Kennedy

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:23 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: DO NOT ARM PARK RANGERS. I am a Venice resident and am strongly opposed to arming our Park Rangers. Instead provide de-escalation training and anti-racism training. The very last thing we need is more guns. Low income people and people of color enjoy and need our public parks more than anyone. But these are the populations shot most by armed law enforcement. That is the end result of this motion, if passed, more harmed poor people. Arming Park Rangers is the exact opposite of "reimagining" how we deal with homelessness or mental illness. We actually have Rangers that are experienced at de-escalation and they could be used as examples. And as a correction to prior posted comment, Mark Ryadic does not represent Venice.

Communication from Public

Name: Linden Willis

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:30 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of Koreatown and I am against the motion to arm park rangers. This is absolutely unnecessary.

Communication from Public

Name: Jay Julio

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 12:58 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am deeply disturbed by the motion to put even more guns on the street by arming park rangers. As we all know, both LAPD and ranger forces have a recognized history of using deadly force on Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Asian people in situations where de-escalating, supportive care, and getting people out of dangerous situations would save both lives and money. It is well-known that arming forces meant to keep the peace in marginalized communities signals a breakdown of trust, and that this militarization puts communities already disturbed by lack of housing, money, and other resources on the defensive. Not only that, armed park rangers cause many people of color such as myself to question our own safety in the community we live in — if we are mistaken for someone who “does not belong” in the park, what will happen to us even if we do everything right in the eye of the law? The plan to arm park rangers is not nearly as simple as it may seem in terms of community consequences, and appears to this community member like a plan that will only sustain mass homelessness, create further loss of life, and drain city resources better spent helping the currently-very-behind plan to house people that currently live in encampments in permanent, dignified housing.

Communication from Public

Name: Kyle Berzle

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Echo Park and frequent user and supporter of the public park system, I avidly oppose arming park rangers. It would make me feel far less safe, and add unnecessary costs to tax payers. Not to mention it will only serve to needlessly escalate situations and could create life of death situations in our parks, where vulnerable people and unhoused residents may be temporarily residing or enjoying the space. If you care about public safety please do not support arming park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Kristina Meshelski
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:34 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: NO guns for park rangers PLEASE This is irresponsible and dangerous.

Communication from Public

Name: Will

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:39 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose arming Park Rangers. Not only is it completely unnecessary and an irresponsible burden to tax payers (cost of initiative as well as cost of wrongful death suits that will inevitably ensue), it contributes a hostile and dangerous element to what should be a peaceful service arm of public works. Our city is already much too militarized as-is, and arming more public servants will do nothing but bring more tragedy and harm to our city.

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Eason

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:46 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers will put unhoused people in danger. I strongly oppose this motion. City Council should not be seeking opportunities to escalate violence. Why are not we seeking out peaceful ways and hiring counselors to de-escalate?

Communication from Public

Name: Adriana

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 02:00 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am opposed to this motion. Having Park Rangers walking around with weapons will not promote public safety, it will simply increase the likelihood of violent confrontations between rangers and members of the public, making us all less safe. If the history of policing is any guide, homeless and Black people will face the greatest risk of violence. Eyes, not weapons, on the street is key to reducing crime and making people feel safe. Resources spent on arming park rangers could be better spent improving our parks.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 02:02 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I STRONGLY OPPOSE ARMING PARK RANGERS. We need to be demilitarizing and defunding police and putting money toward actual permanent supportive housing solutions, not giving even more cops weapons to kill people who are unhoused.

Communication from Public

Name: Rebekah

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:53 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I live right next to a public park and take my toddler there every day. I would NOT feel safe letting my child play in a park where rangers are armed! DO NOT allow park rangers to have access to deadly weapons. This does NOT create a safe public space for families!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 01:55 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Having park rangers armed would only increase gun violence in public spaces. There is no valid reason for a ranger to have a lethal weapon on their person while maintaining parks. We've already seen rangers in Los Angeles Parks inflict violence on unhoused Angelinos without a weapon and arming them will only create more opportunity to harm and cause massive trauma to our unhoused neighbors who have no where else to go. Arming rangers is a waste of tax payer money that should be going into housing and services. Do better.

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Beebe

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 02:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose this motion. Arming park rangers is likely to cause harm, especially to members of the community who don't have access to housing. Instead of an approach like this that escalates violence, I urge council members to explore other, peaceful solutions.

Communication from Public

Name: Claire Jennings

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 02:29 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The city council must not arm park rangers. The rangers have a documented history of violence towards the unhoused community, and arming them only increases their potential to harm unhoused community members.

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel Reif
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 02:31 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose arming park rangers. It's a disgusting proposition that puts citizens at more risk of state violence.

Communication from Public

Name: Jack
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 02:48 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: The last thing Los Angeles needs is more armed security personnel with itchy trigger fingers.

Communication from Public

Name: Amy

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 02:56 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This proposal is absolutely insane and completely tone deaf given the state of public safety in Los Angeles. I vehemently oppose arming park rangers with guns. I'm ashamed this was even proposed and given any consideration. This proposal will not solve problems, in fact, it will lead to more deaths that the city will inevitably need to use our tax dollars to pay settlements and while park rangers will not be held accountable (see literally every LAPD and LASD shooting). This is terrible and I strongly oppose!

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Mozal

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 03:18 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Angeles CD13, and a daily visitor to our beautiful park spaces, I am STRONGLY opposed to arming park rangers. I will not feel safer in our parks knowing more guns are present, I will feel more afraid. It seems totally absurd that this is even being proposed given the mountains of empirical data that exist about what actually makes public spaces safer, the answer is literally never "more guns". Please do not allow this to happen, we need to be working on measures that will stop the criminalization and militarization of our public spaces. Arming park rangers would be a huge step in the wrong direction.

Communication from Public

Name: Josh
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 03:30 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: As an LA resident, I oppose giving guns to park rangers because it will lead to senseless violence against our most vulnerable community members.

Communication from Public

Name: Bineh Ndefru

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 03:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As an LA resident who enjoys the public spaces, I strongly oppose the arming of park rangers. It is wholly unnecessary for them to have deadly weapons and will likely escalate situations, leading to more deaths.

Communication from Public

Name: Noah

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 03:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a lifelong Angeleno who has worked within our public parks system for many years and believe that arming our park rangers is misguided, antithetical to stewarding public land, and will only work towards causing irreparable harm to the inclusivity of our public lands and the peoples + families affected by inevitable violence. To follow through with this would be heartbreaking.

Communication from Public

Name: Brett Andriesen
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 03:43 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I do not support park rangers being armed. This will only facilitate more injuries and deaths at the hands of armed officers to members of our community.

Communication from Public

Name: Adam Conover

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 03:47 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am opposed to arming Park Rangers. Studies show that the more heavily officers are armed, the more likely it is that otherwise routine incidents will spiral into violence that can harm both innocent Angelenos and law enforcement officials themselves. We currently spend millions on a heavily armed police force; we do not need our park rangers to be armed as well. I urge the Council to vote no on this motion.

Militarization and police violence: The case of the 1033 program

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Casey Delehanty¹, Jack Mewhirter², Ryan Welch³
and Jason Wilks^{4*}

Abstract

Does increased militarization of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) lead to an increase in violent behavior among officers? We theorize that the receipt of military equipment increases multiple dimensions of LEA militarization (material, cultural, organizational, and operational) and that such increases lead to more violent behavior. The US Department of Defense 1033 program makes excess military equipment, including weapons and vehicles, available to local LEAs. The variation in the amount of transferred equipment allows us to probe the relationship between military transfers and police violence. We estimate a series of regressions that test the effect of 1033 transfers on three dependent variables meant to capture police violence: the number of civilian casualties; the change in the number of civilian casualties; and the number of dogs killed by police. We find a positive and statistically significant relationship between 1033 transfers and fatalities from officer-involved shootings across all models.

Keywords

Militarization, police, shootings

“I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail.”

Abraham Maslow, *The Psychology of Science: A Reconnaissance* (1966)

“Soldierin’ and policin’ – they ain’t the same thing.”

Major Howard “Bunny” Colvin, *The Wire* Season 3, Episode 10 (2014)

Defense 1033 program, which makes surplus military equipment available to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies (LEAs) at no cost. The EO banned LEAs from acquiring certain equipment, and restricted them from acquiring others.¹ It also called for transparency and training regarding the materials received. Some feared the demilitarized police departments would no longer be able to keep up with drug dealers, rioters, and terrorists. US Representative John Ratcliffe introduced the Protecting Lives Using Surplus Equipment Act to the House of Representatives that would nullify all aspects of the EO.²

Introduction

The summer of 2014 saw protracted protests to the non-response associated with the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown. By the second day of protests, police officers showed up in armored vehicles wearing camouflage, bullet-proof vests, and gas masks brandishing shotguns and M4 rifles (Chokshi, 2014). That militarized response led to a wave of criticism from observers including former military personnel and politicians from both sides of the aisle. In response, the federal government launched an investigation that ultimately resulted in Executive Order 13688 (EO). The EO sought to regulate the Department of

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In an interview, he said “It would be one thing if there was some evidence that showed state and local law enforcement had abuse [sic] or misused the equipment, and then caused undue or unnecessary harm to American citizens. That isn’t the case” (Jennings, 2016). This paper provides the first attempt to analyze whether and to what extent military transfers have increased the propensity by which LEAs cause “undue or unnecessary harm.”

Drawing from Kraska (2007), we argue that increasing LEA access to military equipment will lead to higher levels of aggregate LEA violence. The effect occurs because the equipment leads to a culture of militarization over four dimensions: material; cultural; organizational; and operational. As militarization seeps into their cultures, LEAs rely more on violence to solve problems. The mechanism mirrors psychology’s classic “Law of the Instrument,” whereby access to a certain tool increases the probability that the tool is used for problems when other tools may be more appropriate (Maslow, 1966), including access to weapons increasing violent responses (e.g. Anderson et al., 1998; Berkowitz and LePage, 1967).

We evaluate this proposition using county-level data on police killings in four US states: Connecticut, Maine, Nevada, and New Hampshire (Burghart, 2015); and the data on 1033 program receipts (<https://github.com/washingtonpost/data-1033-program>). Estimating a series of regressions, we find that 1033 receipts are associated with both an increase in the number of observed police killings in a given year as well as the change in the number of police killings from year to year, controlling for a battery of possible confounding variables including county wealth, racial makeup, civilian drug use, and violent crime. Given that establishing a causal effect between 1033 receipts is potentially problematic due to concerns of endogeneity, we re-estimate our regressions using an alternative dependent variable independent of the process by which LEAs request and receive military goods: the number of dogs killed by LEAs. We find 1033 receipts are associated with an increase in the number of civilian dogs killed by police. Combined, our analyses provide support for the argument that 1033 receipts lead to more LEA violence.

We organize the rest of the paper as follows. First, we provide an argument that links police militarization and police violence. Next, we briefly introduce the reader to the 1033 program and why it is appropriate for studying the question at hand. Next, we describe the data and empirical strategy. Then we present the results. Finally, we conclude with some thoughts about how the research should influence policy and can be expanded in the future.

Militarization

Borrowing from Kraska (2007: 503), we define militarization as the embrace and implementation of an ideology that stresses the use of force as the appropriate and efficacious

means to solve problems. Kraska (2007) provides four dimensions of militarization: material; cultural; organizational; and operational. We contend these dimensions reinforce one another so that an increase in one can lead to an increase in others. More specifically, the military equipment obtained from the 1033 program directly increases the material dimension. With the new equipment, martial language (cultural), martial arrangements such as elite units (organizational), and willingness to engage in high-risk situations (operational) increase (Balko, 2014). Military equipment naturally increases military-style training for said equipment. That training can increase the other dimensions of militarization. One trainer’s quote illustrates well the uptake of militarized culture: “Most of these guys just like to play war; they get a rush out of search and destroy missions instead of the bullshit they do normally” (Kraska, 2001, quoted in Balko, 2014: 212). But the trainees would not have to settle for the normal “bullshit” for long. Many LEAs began practicing SWAT raids on low-level offenders as a way to train and then as a matter of normal policy (Balko, 2014; Sanow, 2011). Officers running military operations with military tools and military mindsets organized militarily will rely more on the tenets of militarization (e.g. the use of force to solve problems) which should increase the use of violence on average. Since 1997, LEAs obtain much if not most of their military equipment from the 1033 program.

1033 program and militarization

President Bill Clinton signed into law H.R. 3230 (National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997). The bill contains section 1033, which allows the Secretary of Defense to sell or transfer excess military equipment to local LEAs. Between 2006 and April of 2014 alone, the Department of Defense transferred over \$1.5 billion worth of equipment including over 600 mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, 79,288 assault rifles, 205 grenade launchers, 11,959 bayonets, 50 airplanes, 422 helicopters, and \$3.6 million worth of camouflage and other “deception equipment” (Rezvani et al., 2014). Eighty percent of US counties received transfers, and those transfers increased over time from 2006 to 2013 by 1414% (Radil et al., 2017). These variations allow us to test the proposition that, all things being equal, the receipt of higher levels of 1033 equipment will lead to increased levels of violence from LEAs.

Data

Ultimately, the goal of this paper is to empirically assess the relationship between 1033 transfers and police violence. To do so, we use a unique time-series cross-sectional dataset, drawing from several sources. The dataset consists of county level data for four states – Connecticut, Maine, Nevada, and New Hampshire – from 2006–2014 ($n = 455$).

Our primary analyses use two dependent variables in two separate models: (1) the number of civilians killed by LEAs in a given county for a given year; and (2) the observed change in killings in a county between a given year and the previous year. The first most directly tests the outcome of interest. We also regress the change in killings from the previous year on the independent variables in order to somewhat address endogeneity issues. That is, one could reasonably expect LEAs with high raw levels of killing to seek more 1033 transfers. However, it should be harder (though not impossible) for LEAs to anticipate how their need to use violence will change from year to year. On top of that, we control for the average number of killings in the county in the regression using the change in killings dependent variable.

We constructed the variables using data from the Fatal Encounters (Burghart, 2015) database, which, drawing from other (incomplete) datasets, public record requests, and crowd-sourced reports, provides a more comprehensive list regarding police killings for selected states. When constructing the dataset, only data for Connecticut, Maine, Nevada, and New Hampshire were available, thus limiting the sample to all counties within these states.³

The explanatory variable of interest measures the total value of military surplus goods transferred to LEAs in a given county in the previous year (logged US\$). We believe that use of a lagged measure somewhat addresses endogeneity concerns since operational, organizational, and cultural shifts are expected to occur sometime after the materials arrive, and training has completed. We used the data from the 1033 dataset released by the *Washington Post* (<https://github.com/washingtonpost/data-1033-program>), which compiles raw data regarding 1033 transfers released by the US Department of Defense Logistics Agency in 2014. From 2006–2014, nearly 88% of the counties in our dataset received at least one 1033-transfer: the median county received goods valued at roughly \$50,000. Note that while our data contains information from 2006–2014, our use of a lagged independent variable eliminates the 2006 year from our empirical analysis ($n = 390$).

Figure 1 illustrates the relationship between 1033 transfers and counties that experienced at least one killing in Nevada in 2013.⁴ No LEA killings occurred in counties that did not receive military equipment. While suggestive, we next move to more rigorous statistical tests with controls to increase the credibility of our claims.

We include several variables that we expect to simultaneously correlate with military expenditures and police violence in order to avoid biased estimates. Based on other research we included median household income (e.g. Mitchell and Wood, 1998; US Census Bureau, 2016),⁵ population (e.g. Jacobs, 1998; US Census Bureau, 2016), black population (e.g. Ross, 2015; US Census Bureau, 2016), violent crime (e.g. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010; Jacobs, 1998), and civilian drug use (Balko, 2014; Substance

Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2016) as controls.⁶ When using the number of observed killings as the dependent variable we also include a lagged dependent variable to control for autocorrelation (Beck and Katz, 1995). When the change in killings is used as the dependent variables, we include the mean number of killings in that county over the observed time period as a control. We provide descriptive statistics for all variables in Table A1 in the Online Appendix.

Empirical analysis

In order to test the proposed relationship between 1033 receipts and our dependent variables, we estimate two separate regressions on an unbalanced time-series cross-section data set from the years 2006 to 2014 with standard errors clustered on county.⁷ When we estimate the expected number of killings we utilize a negative binomial regression; when we estimate the change in police killings, we use ordinary least squares regression. Prior to estimation, we use the multiple imputation method recommended by King and Wittenberg (2000) to avoid potential bias introduced by dropping observations that contain missing data. The extent to which each variable is imputed is shown in Table A2 in the Online Appendix.

Results

The results, presented in Table 1, confirm our argument: the receipt of more military equipment increases both the expected number of civilians killed by police ($\beta = 0.055$; $p = 0.016$) and the change in civilian deaths ($\beta = 0.017$; $p = 0.082$). Given the difficulty of interpreting the substantive effect of a logged independent variable, we rely on the predicted value graph in Figures 2 and 3. As shown in Figure 2, receiving no military equipment corresponds with 0.287 expected civilian killings in a given county for a given year, whereas receiving the maximum amount corresponds with 0.656 killings. In other words, moving from the minimum to the maximum expenditure values, on average, increases civilian deaths by roughly 129%. As seen in Figure 3, counties that received no military equipment can expect to kill 0.068 fewer civilians, relative to the previous year, whereas those that received the maximum amount can expect to kill 0.188 more, holding all else constant.

Alternative dependent variable: dog casualties

While we believe that civilian casualty dependent variables provide the most direct test of our hypothesis, empirically establishing a causal relationship between killings and military transfers presents a challenge given the potential for endogeneity. Specifically, if LEAs anticipate future conflict with civilians (and they are correct) and thus seek more

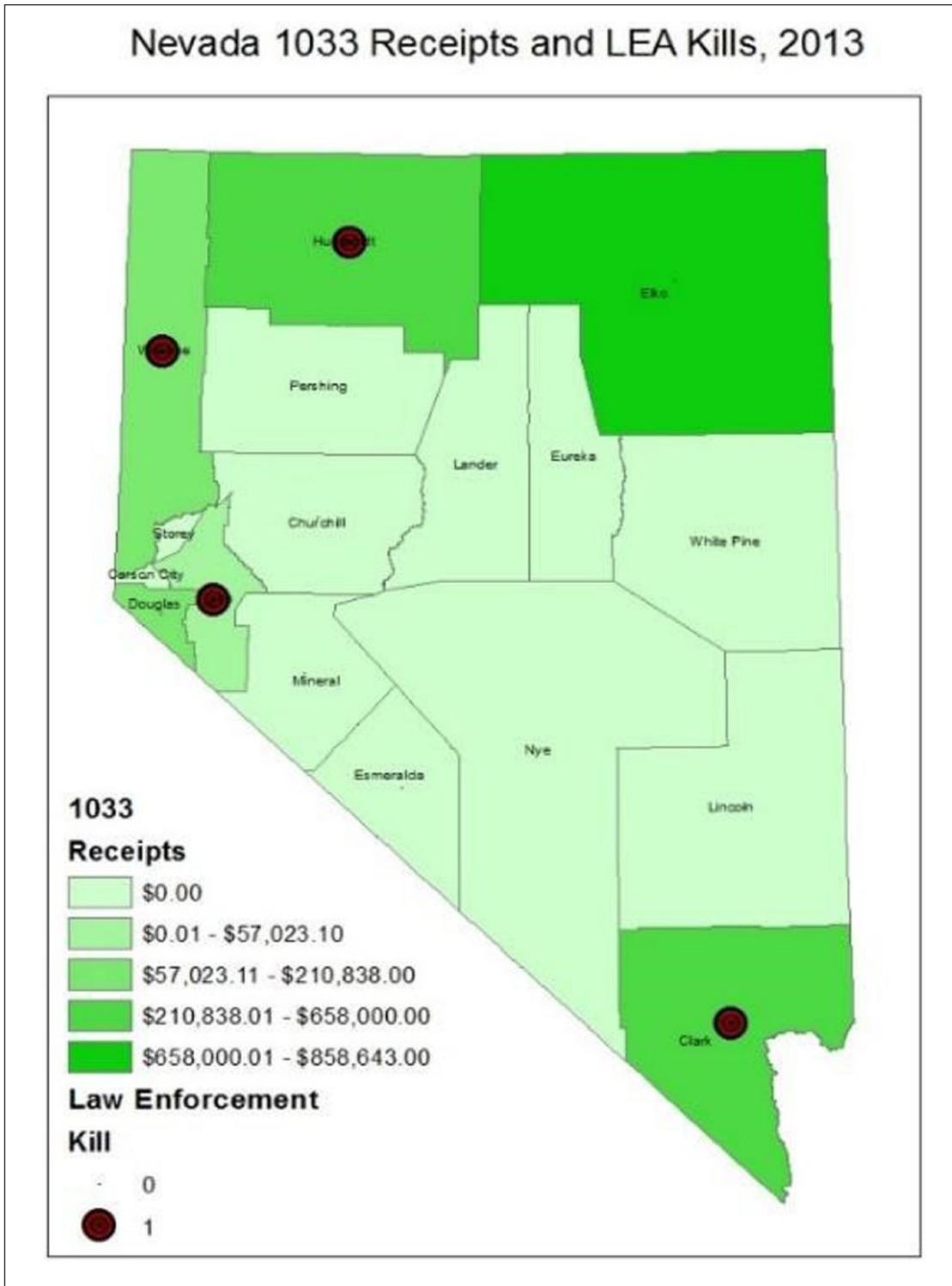


Figure 1. The relationship between 1033 transfers and law enforcement agency killings in Nevada counties in 2013. Map created in ArcMap 10.4 (Esri, 2016). Darker green counties received more military equipment. Those counties with a bullseye experienced at least one killing.

1033 transfers, then our estimates will be systematically biased. To account for this, we utilize an alternative dependent variable that should be independent of LEAs'

propensity to request and receive transfers: the number of dogs killed by police in a county for each included year (2006–2013). That is, we do not expect LEAs to consider

Table 1. Full regression results.

Variables	Civilian deaths	Change in civilian deaths
Expenditures (lag)	0.055** (0.023)	0.017* (0.01)
Civilian deaths (lag)	0.073* (0.04)	
Civilian death (mean)		-0.139* (0.054)
Violent crime	0.023 (0.044)	0.001 (0.056)
Civilian drug-use	-0.104 (0.094)	-0.06 (0.046)
Median income	-0.910* (0.549)	-0.006 (0.139)
Black population	-0.040 (0.162)	-0.023 (0.071)
Population	0.872** (0.339)	0.086 (0.132)
Constant	-0.387 (5.59)	-0.092 (1.921)
Observations	390	390

Note: clustered standard errors in parentheses: *** $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.05$; * $p < 0.1$.

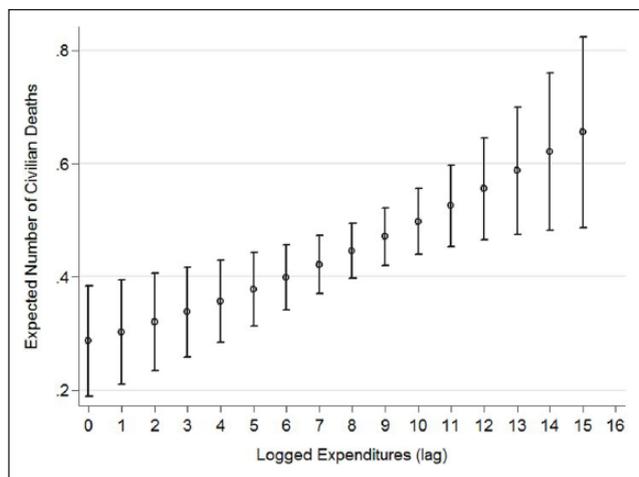


Figure 2. Expected number of killings over the range of the explanatory variable with 90% confidence intervals. All other variables held at their means.

the number of pets they will encounter when applying for military equipment. These data are taken from the Puppicide Database Project (2016), a crowdsourced database that provides the first nationwide database to track police shooting of animals.⁸

To test the relationship between lagged transfers and dogs killed by police, we estimate a negative binomial regression, including the same controls as the previous regressions (as well as a lagged dependent variable). Results, presented in Table 2, confirm that a positive relationship exists. Holding all else constant, police that

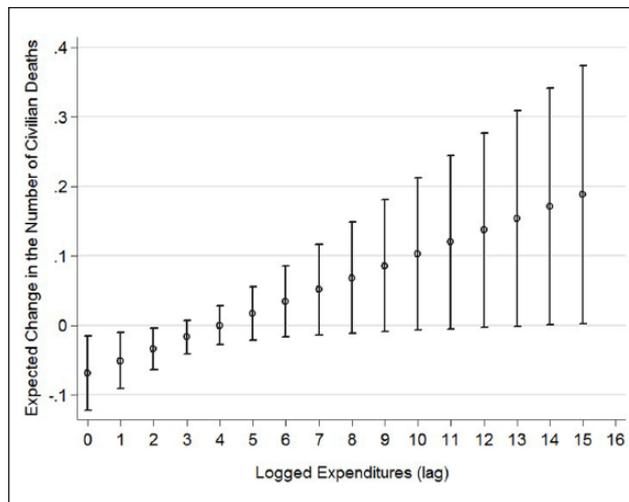


Figure 3. Expected change in killings over the range of the explanatory variable with 90% confidence intervals. All other variables held at their means.

Table 2. Negative binomial regression results using dog casualties as the dependent variable.

Variables	Dog casualties
Expenditures (lag)	0.162* (0.093)
Dog casualties (lag)	0.217* (0.33)
Violent crime	0.043 (0.095)
Civilian drug-use	0.105 (0.337)
Median income	-0.015 (1.659)
Black population	0.848 (0.643)
Population	-0.361 (1.197)
Constant	-8.488 (19.562)
Observations	389

Note: clustered standard errors in parentheses: *** $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.05$; * $p < 0.1$.

received the highest 1033 transfers kill dogs at an order of magnitude higher rate than those with no transfers (0.161 compared with 0.009). Such findings strengthen our confidence in the claim that military transfers are related to LEA violence.

Conclusion

Political scientists possess theoretical and methodological tools to weigh into today's debates about police violence. This study answers the call for evidence-based policy

analysis by Representative Ratcliffe and others as they continue to debate the merits of the 1033 program (Murtha, 2016). We acknowledge that the present analysis is relatively preliminary. Due to notoriously unavailable data on police violence against the public, we present what we consider to be a best attempt at establishing the proposed relationship between military transfers and violence.⁹ Further, while no research method offers full certainty of a causal effect, we attempt to increase the plausibility of the claim that 1033 transfers lead to more police violence. We do so by measuring the transfers in the previous year, as well as by leveraging three different dependent variables. While the first dependent variable – civilian killings – represents the most direct measure to test the claim, using the next two dependent variables – change in civilian killings and dog killings – helped bypass endogeneity concerns to an extent. As more social scientists take up this sort of research, we expect replication and extension of these results in different jurisdictions with different methods.

As for policy, our results suggest that implementing the EO to recall military equipment should result in less violent behavior and subsequently, fewer killings by LEAs. Taken together with work that shows militarization actually leads to more violence *against* police (Carriere, 2016; Wickes, 2015), the present study suggests demilitarization may secure overall community safety. The EO represents one avenue of demilitarization. However, given Kraska's (2007) typology, other aspects of militarization may be targeted. For example, perhaps training can affect cultural or operational militarization leading to less violent outcomes. Future work should explore the relationship, though the highly-decentralized nature of US police institutions presents serious challenges to systematic cross-sectional study.

The scope of the present study allows us to derive expectations at the organizational level. However, a focus on micro-foundations may yield interesting insights. Our paper cannot shed light on the effect of the military equipment on an individual's thought process in the field. Though the quote above suggests some officers "just like to play war," others work to remind us "We're just not out there running around like Rambo" (Perez, quoted in Mendelson, 2016). Whereas our analyses shed light on average effects, studies focusing on the individual level may offer more nuanced understanding of how and when military equipment affects certain officers.

Declaration of conflicting interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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Supplementary material

The supplementary files are available at <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/suppl/10.1177/2053168017712885>.

Notes

1. Prohibited equipment includes tracked armored vehicles, bayonets, grenade launchers, large caliber weapons and ammunition (> 0.50 caliber). Controlled equipment (including wheeled armored or tactical vehicles, specialized firearms and ammunition, explosives and pyrotechnics, and riot equipment) may be acquired if the law enforcement agency provides additional information, certifications, and assurances.
2. Just weeks before, US Senator Patrick Toomey introduced a similar bill to the Senate called the "Lifesaving Gear for Police Act" (Toomey, 2016).
3. We chose these states due to data availability. We have no reason to believe that the data availability reflects systematic patterns that would affect our results. In fact, three of the states are from the same region (New England) and have very low crime rates. In this way, our sample represents a hard case. Although Nevada has high crime rates, the addition of a Nevada dummy does not substantively change the results (see Online Appendix, Table A3).
4. We chose Nevada due to the ease of seeing each county. We have no reason to believe that Nevada is a special case. In fact, adding a Nevada dummy does not substantively change the results (see Online Appendix, Table A3).
5. Citations after each control list a source for theoretical justification of the variable and a source of the data.
6. We log each of the listed controls except drug use to reduce skewness (Bland and Altman, 1997).
7. It is possible that that temporal dependencies also exist, which could potentially affect our standard errors. To account for this, we re-estimate all models including a dummy variable for each year (using 2007 as a reference category). The results are presented in Table A4 in the Online Appendix. As shown, the effect of military transfers holds across all regressions.
8. This database tracks all animals killed by police. In the county-years included in our analysis, only dog killings were observed.
9. Data limitations also preclude us from distinguishing between legitimate and illegitimate forms of violence.

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Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 04:33 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers will have untold negative consequences including injury and loss of life for not only civilians but possibly the rangers themselves. Firearms are prohibitively dangerous and having more on the street and in our parks does not help make anyone safer.

Communication from Public

Name: Erin

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 04:49 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I OPPOSE arming LACity Park Rangers! State Park Rangers are often dealing with things like armed illegal pot grows in remote areas. It does not make sense to arm LACity Park Rangers, in urban areas. Bringing LACity Park Rangers in line with the State makes no sense.

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Kigar

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 04:52 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I'm vehemently opposed to arming park rangers, I've had more than enough of paying for damages as a taxpayer and homeowner and voter. If you would actually address the real problem of housing and caring for the unhoused citizens of Los Angeles you wouldn't have to spend your time bending over backwards to promote harm and violence in our communities. I support the people's budget and abolishing the police. USC has a very effective program of unarmed community safety patrols. We could create jobs within the community, deescalate, and legitimately improve public safety with a similar program. A gun is for killing. I condemn their use in all context. Constituents deserve respect and fundamental human rights, not martial law at the whims of public servants. For once in your lives, do the just thing and reject this proposal to arm Parker Rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Alanna Holt

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 04:55 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I firmly oppose the disgusting proposal to arm park rangers. Stop making all public spaces hostile and dangerous to the people who utilize them. This motion is unhinged, absolutely craven.

Communication from Public

Name: Julia Fullen Getty Smith
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 05:08 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: GUNS DO NOT BELONG IN LA CITY PARKS. I oppose arming LA City Park Rangers because we do not need guns in city parks

Communication from Public

Name: Alisha

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 05:15 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Rangers should absolutely NOT carry guns! The potential for the loss of life, especially within our houseless community would never be worth that. There is no reason why this should happen. I strongly oppose this for the well-being and safety of all our community.

Communication from Public

Name: Jordan Levinson

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 05:35 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose arming LA City Park Rangers because we do not need guns in city parks and it will not make me feel any safer.

Communication from Public

Name: Sofia Noemi Guadron

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 06:36 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Counsel Members, Arming park rangers is a horrible idea. Having had a long and adversarial relationship with unhoused community, park rangers often escalate situations, leading to violence and brutality against unhoused community members. Arming park rangers would be catastrophic and potentially resulting in death. We see it all the time with police officers who "unintentionally" fire their weapon, what makes you think it would be any different or any better with park rangers? Please reconsider and vote no on this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Brad Kaiserman
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 06:48 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers. This will only place homeless people in increased danger.

Communication from Public

Name: Dan Monick

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 06:49 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a Los Angeles resident and I really can't imagine a worse idea than arming park rangers. It is dangerous and will create a hostile environment.

Communication from Public

Name: Cyndi Otteson

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 06:06 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to vote against the motion to arm park rangers. Arming park rangers will put our unhoused neighbors in danger when they are already at their most vulnerable. Guns do not make anyone safer! It's a recipe for disaster. It is misguided thought to think that arming park rangers would make anyone safer. I oppose this motion and urge you not to escalate violence and harm in our city.

Communication from Public

Name: Jordy Coutin

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:04 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council members, In the interest of public safety, we need to ensure that park rangers do not receive permission to use arms on duty. This amendment presents a danger to unhoused individuals and housed residents alike. Police are more likely to use force on unhoused residents than their housed residents (Moore, 2019). This presents dangers to unhoused folks, particularly if law enforcement, including park rangers, are armed. Police interactions with unhoused folks are likely to increase due to an increase in policies that criminalize homelessness (Holland & Zhang, 2018). This is especially dangerous for Black unhoused residents who make up a disproportionate percentage of the homeless population (LAHSA, 2018), and housed Black Angelinos who are more likely to be killed by an officer than their white counterparts (Mendelson & Stoltze, 2015). As a result, I strongly oppose the motion to provide lethal weapons to park rangers who police parks. Have we learned nothing from the history of violence inflicted on communities, particularly marginalized communities, at the hands of law enforcement? What happened to re-imagine public safety? Please do not allow this amendment to pass. -Jordy Coutin Sources: Holland, G., & Zhang, C. (2018, February 4). Huge increase in arrests of homeless in L.A. — but mostly for minor offenses. Los Angeles Times. <https://www.latimes.com/local/politics/la-mehomelessarrests-20180204-story.html> Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. (2018, December). Report And Recommendations Of The Ad Hoc Committee On Black People Experiencing Homelessness. <https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=2823-report-and-recommendations-of-the-ad-hoc-committee-on-black-people-experiencing-homelessness> Mendelson, A., & Stoltze, F. (2015). Officer Involved: Black people shot at disproportionate rate. KPCC. <https://projects.scpr.org/officer-involved/stories/black-people-shot-at-disproportionate-rate/> Moore, M. R. (2019B). Los Angeles Police Department Use of Force Year-End Review 2019. http://lapd-assets.lapdonline.org/assets/pdf/2019_uof_review.pdf

Communication from Public

Name: Micaela

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of LA and I strongly oppose LA City park rangers carrying guns. Being near an armed ranger makes me feel much less safe and actually more in danger than I would feel should they be un-armed. I worry immensely about my community members being near armed rangers in parks as well. It is NOT SAFE.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:39 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This motion is a disgrace. In what world would arming park rangers increase public safety? Arming more people will only increase gun violence, especially when they have the backing of politicians like Buscaino and Cedillo who have made it their mission to dehumanize, displace, and murder their unhoused constituents. DO NOT ARM PARK RANGERS - DIRECT THAT MONEY INTO PERMANENT HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda Halloway

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 07:59 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a Los Angeles resident living near multiple parks, I absolutely oppose arming park rangers. Arming rangers is unnecessary and will inevitably escalate conflicts.

Communication from Public

Name: Patrick Kay
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 08:14 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: This is very bad and you shouldn't do it.

Communication from Public

Name: K Melamed

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 08:14 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose arming LA City Park Rangers because we do not need guns in city parks

Communication from Public

Name: Octavio T.

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 08:50 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I live in CD-10 and I strongly oppose arming park rangers. This is the kind of asinine idea that I would expect from Trump sycophants. The fewer armed public servants, the better.

Communication from Public

Name: Emma Roney

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 08:59 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Do NOT arm park rangers. They do not need guns, and there has been a history of park rangers and violence against the i houses community. Arming them will only perpetuate violent conflict resolution and supports militarization.

Communication from Public

Name: Rachel Kiekhofer

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:04 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park rangers have long had an adversarial relationship with the unhoused community. There have been instances in which park rangers needlessly escalate, leading to violence and brutality against unhoused community members. Arming park rangers will lead to potential violence and in the worst case scenario, death. Do not pass this amendment.

Communication from Public

Name: Bert

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:15 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a Los Angeles resident, I strongly oppose arming park rangers. Not only will it lead to violence, but it is expensive, unnecessary, and further militarizes our city. I personally wouldn't feel at ease knowing there are armed rangers nearby when trying to enjoy Nature and would no doubt be discouraged from visiting parks. Please vote no on this proposal.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:19 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose the proposal to arm park rangers. The aim of public safety should not be to enable escalation, and this proposal is a lazy and dangerous answer to problems it can't solve. In particular, park rangers have long had an adversarial relationship with the unhoused community. There have been instances in which park rangers needlessly escalate, leading to violence and brutality against unhoused community members. Arming park rangers will lead to potential violence and in the worst case scenario, death.

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel Golub

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:22 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As an Angeleno I vehemently oppose arming park rangers with firearms. Such unnecessary and hostile action threatens public safety as the increase of guns in parks will only escalate situations that require conflict resolution. In addition park rangers, have displayed extreme hostility to unhoused Angelenos, civic advocates, other park-goers. Giving firearms to rangers who lack the training and temperament to responsibly possess them will lead to increased violence instigated by park rangers. This is not only morally reprehensible but a liability to the city and taxpayers who will now be forced to pay millions in damages due to park rangers misconduct further aided by firearms. A no vote is not only the right thing to do, but also an urgent necessity.

Communication from Public

Name: Paul Golub
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:29 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I'm opposed to park rangers having guns. A park rangers purpose is to patrol parks and keep people safe, not engaged in armed conflict. They do not even have the same training with weapons as police officers do. Arming park rangers with guns will put people in danger and create liability issues for the city. Vote no.

Communication from Public

Name: Lionel Mares

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:47 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Councilmembers, I have read reports and comments from other people who are concerned about "arming" Park Rangers because of fears that Park Rangers may resort to using their firearms if they encounter hostile individuals while on duty. I understand the sensitivity of arming Law Enforcement, Security, and Park Rangers. Many people are Anti-Police and they don't want to see Park Rangers being armed because they fear that they may use their firearms when they encounter individuals who may have a psychiatric crisis, mental illness, and or are resistant to arrest. I think that at this time, we ought to have further research on this topic to better understand the implications of arming Park Rangers. Many people prefer Park Rangers not to be armed, like "Ranger Ned". See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tgm2zQpETSE> Many people, myself included, would prefer arm-free Park Rangers. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Tiffany Do

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 09:48 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arm park rangers? FOR WHAT?! This is a waste of public resources and a danger to the public. Rangers should absolutely not be armed.

Communication from Public

Name: Elonda Norris

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 10:09 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming our park rangers will most definitely lead to greater violence, and will make the parks less safe for everyone. Please vote against arming the park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Phillips

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers, what an absurd idea. Doing so will inevitably result in an innocent person's death.

Communication from Public

Name: Jeremy
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:35 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: You guys can't be serious about arming park rangers right?

Communication from Public

Name: Karla
Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:48 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: It is absolutely WRONG for park rangers to carry guns out in public parks and areas. This is dangerous for the public, the children, and the rangers themselves. There is no reason for guns to be carried around parks where loud noises occur that can scare a ranger and trigger their gun and extremely dangerous while children are running around. If rangers carry guns I myself would stop going to parks, my family would stop going to parks, people will stop having their kids join after school programs at the parks and going to playgrounds. I would not feel safe. I would not support the parks nor the city if the one place where people go for safety and relaxation would be infiltrated by rangers with guns is ridiculous and outrageous. If an accident were to occur or an intentional shooting the city once AGAIN would be facing millions of dollars of lawsuits which US TAXPAYING citizens would have to pay for. We already have to deal with the thousands of lawsuits the LAPD go through with our tax money, park rangers and firing the guns would result in more lawsuits. I have never seen a threat at the parks for there to warrant weapons on the grounds. It is always peaceful even with the houseless at the parks, everyone is there for peace and relaxation. Citizens get tense and WORRIED seeing police at parks, then with rangers with guns would just push more and more people to not even go anymore. Guns at parks is a threat to civilians.

Communication from Public

Name: Nat Roberts

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:52 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Why is our city council arming random city employees? Why are you acting like the tin pot generals of an occupying army? Why do you view Angelenos with blatant, murderous hostility? For all your talk about public safety, all you ever DO is make the public less safe. Putting more guns on the street will only ensure more people die at the hands of this city's government. You've got blood on your hands and you're going back for seconds, it's disgusting. Hey Buckets, why don't you save lives, save money, and save your sanity by going to therapy instead of inflicting your deranged god complex on the rest of us?

Communication from Public

Name: Judy Branfman

Date Submitted: 11/08/2021 11:19 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Growing up in Los Angeles, park rangers always seemed to be there to help. I realize this is no longer the case, but I'm completely mystified about your decision to militarize rangers instead of training them in non-violent de-escalation, especially given your committee's name, "Arts, Parks, Health, Education, and Neighborhoods Committee." Rangers can always call the police if they are really needed, but the first response should always be a peaceful one, one that respects people in our parks instead of treating them like criminals. And that means no guns. Our parks are for everyone.