

Communication from Public

Name: Sheila Goldberg
Date Submitted: 11/24/2021 12:44 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Do not arm LA City Park Rangers Please do not put more guns in the hands of of more people We have elected you to help solve the reasons for unrest in our community-arming more people is not going to solve these problems

Communication from Public

Name: Carolyn

Date Submitted: 11/07/2021 08:09 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I do not think Rangers should be allowed to carry guns. They are not trained for their use, and having worked for RAP with Rangers I would feel less safe in public parks if had them. The City would have more, not less violence in parks if they did. It would also have to pay out even more wrongful death civil lawsuits.

Communication from Public

Name: Public Counsel
Date Submitted: 11/24/2021 08:21 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please refer to the attached letter in opposition to arming the City's Park Rangers.



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November 24, 2021

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent via electronic mail

Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Street Vendor Campaign, we write to strongly oppose the motion to place yet another group of armed individuals into our public parks. Among the many other reasons not to add more guns to the public spaces of Los Angeles, this proposal poses a special threat to the thousands of micro-entrepreneurs whose mobile businesses take them into the City's parks. Sidewalk vendors provide vital services to Angelenos of all income levels – culturally relevant food, merchandise, and a sense of community that would not be present without them. Unfortunately, despite all of these benefits, vendors face consistent harassment from law enforcement officials from many departments, including the police department, Bureau of Street Services, and the LA County Sheriff's Department. During these interactions, vendors are often forced to watch as their life's work is disposed of right in front of their eyes: food is thrown away and their vending equipment is seized, all while they are forced to watch under aggressive supervision of these armed law enforcement officers. Adding an additional source of firearms to this mix may have violent or even deadly effects on the already-threatened vending community.

The existing armed law enforcement officers in the City of Los Angeles represent the City's least welcoming and most threatening public officials, and often make community members feel endangered, unwanted, and unwelcome in the spaces in which they operate. Arming Los Angeles Park Rangers would reinforce the perception among sidewalk vendors and other low-income Angelenos of color that they are unwelcome, unsafe, and subject to suspicion as they navigate the City's public spaces.

At a time when the City is reckoning with the murderous and abusive history of its police department, the City Council should be exploring options to decrease the number of guns and armed personnel it employs, rather than continuing to double down on the same failed strategies that have led to senseless deaths and injuries in the past.

Sincerely,

Brandon Payette
Staff Attorney, Public Counsel