

Communication from Public

Name: Camille Kolodziejski

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:02 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers is dangerous. Across the United States this week, we've seen the tear gas and rubber bullets of a militarized police force, and for years, armed cops have killed Black, Indigenous, and Latinx citizens with impunity. At the very least, requiring park rangers to carry guns would make parks less accessible to folks most vulnerable to gun violence, and, at worst, could lead to more murders. Let Angelenos use parks without fear! Do not arm park rangers. Let's search for non-violent ways to make parks safe and support park rangers in other ways, like perhaps raising wages or offering more continued learning? We don't need our parks to be filled with police.

Communication from Public

Name: Katherine Walsh

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 12:29 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Public parks are and should be for everyone. Arming park rangers will absolutely not make these parks safe for everyone. The LAPD is not an institution that should be looked to as an example for keeping the people of our city safe. I think this is a terrible idea that will lead to more discrimination and death. There are better ways to keep parks safe for everyone and none of them should ever involve firearms which have been proven time and again to make any situation more violent rather than less.

Communication from Public

Name: M.R. Martin

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:25 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I find this extremely frightening and disgusting that you are trying to weaponize the parks department. I used to work for a county Parks and Recreation department and as a former employee I am disheartened to hear that LA is even putting this on the table. It is the job of Parks and Recreation to keep parks safe, clean and fun not to enforce the law or to threaten others with a weapon. As a small white lady I was in plenty of scary and threatening situations with people at my parks but never did I feel like I needed to have a weapon on me to keep myself safe. Instead I would talk down the person or if I felt like I was in danger leave the situation and get help. If they are in danger with the public they should call the police not bring it upon themselves to enforce that. You will have more deaths and unnecessary force which we already are having with the police right now. How about put some more money and efforts into helping the homeless issue in this city and getting more resources for those on drugs instead of trying to weaponize the parks department.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We do NOT want park rangers to carry guns. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Ryan Himel
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:05 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers. This will be VERY HARMFUL towards the homeless community which is disproportionately Black and Brown and already so vulnerable.

Communication from Public

Name: Marsha Thomason-Sykes
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:19 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers. Our city has enough problems without putting more weaponry in the hands of city officials.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Keeping in mind recent events, namely the amount of unnecessary force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am strongly opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. However, I believe arming them creates a greater threat towards marginalized groups (such as people of color and homeless people) who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. The idea of arming them does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards its residents. This motion to arm park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 09:29 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: No guns in our parks please. Those are places for peace and escape and safety. Guns don't make us safer, better training on trauma and empathy makes us safer.

Communication from Public

Name: Justin Horowitz
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 09:40 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, namely the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. However, I believe arming them creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. It does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The proposal to arm Park Rangers is a dangerous turn towards weaponization and puts our already vulnerable communities of Black and Latinx neighbors at further risk of harm, and will not promote a sense of safety in areas where the more than 50,000 people without homes in the greater Los Angeles area reside. Per another comment, "Recent analysis confirms that African-Americans are four times and Latinx are three times more likely to be searched compared to White drivers, though less likely to be found with contraband. In major California cities, African-Americans have police force used against them at starkly disproportional rates to the White population. The arming of Park Rangers runs counter to ongoing collaborative efforts to prevent violence (in its various forms) confronting men and boys of color, by further saturating our communities and public spaces with firearms. Decades of research has continually demonstrated that more firearms in a community merely increases the likelihood of shootings, putting Park Rangers and patrons at greater risk of harm." Arming park rangers does not assuage the fears of concerned citizens like myself, it only increase the likelihood of institutional violence in vulnerable communities.

Communication from Public

Name: Kim Brunner

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We should not allow Park Rangers to be armed on duty. There is no reason for them to be armed, and having armed pseudo-officers patrolling a public park is dangerous. If the Park Rangers "don't intend to use it" (a gun), then there's no reason to have it. If they DO intend to use it, then you're intentionally putting park-goers in danger. The Impact Information Summary cites "homeless people" and "drug addicts" as the reason for arming the Park Rangers which begs the question: do the supporters of this motion think it's OK to shoot people just because they are experiencing homelessness or suffer from addiction? Yes, there are sometimes dangerous citizens in our parks, but adding MORE guns to the equation is not the solution. Find a better way to handle this.

Communication from Public

Name: Christine Maroon

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:00 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, It has come to my attention that there is an upcoming vote to allow Park Ranger to be armed while on duty. I urge you to please vote no on this upcoming vote. There is no need for these rangers to be armed. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Will Rosecrans

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:08 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Regarding the proposal to arm park rangers, I must express my strongest possible disapproval, and urge that it not be adopted. There are enough guns. Increasing the amount of firepower is anything but the solution to our problems. Currently, residents can expect safe encounters with park rangers. I sincerely hope it can stay that way.

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:35 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In 2020, touting "more firearms" and "LAPD training" does not necessarily lead to increased security or safety, especially for people of color and other minorities. LAPD-training does not make me feel safer, in fact, I feel scared and angry when I think about how militarized the LAPD is. In 1961, a racially tinged dispute at the Merry-Go-Round erupted into a full blown park closure, with over 60 officers closing down the park for days. In the 70s and 80s, persecution of LGBT individuals was so harsh that volunteer citizen squads were formed to police the policing. The park needs more rangers, and those rangers need to be on the trails -- offering help and assistance, interpretation and guidance, and enforcement of park rules. And they certainly do not need to be armed to do any of that. At the very least, I urge the Council to reconsider this motion and do more outreach to additional neighborhood, citizen, and outdoor groups for input. Three statements from neighborhood councils is simply not enough input to change a policy for a park that sees more than 10 million visitors a year. If the park rangers are losing ranks due to increased violence, we need to see that data. If the rangers cannot call on LAPD for the rare instances when they need to be armed, why can't they? And if they can, why do they need to be armed?

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:38 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Unarmed park rangers please!! No uniformed cops in the park please!

Communication from Public

Name: Julie Pearson

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 01:53 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, including but not limited to the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the recent protests, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. But I believe arming them creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. It does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. Militarizing park personnel in an effort to further intimidate the city's residents would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Kate Grodd

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 06:49 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please DO NOT arm park rangers. In the past few weeks, it must have become apparent to anyone finally paying attention, that it is very dangerous for people of color to simply exist in public spaces. We do not need rangers that are trained in the same way that they LA police are monitoring public spaces while ARMED. This is absolutely absurd and should not be allowed to happen.
With respect, Kate Grodd

Communication from Public

Name: Jay
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:01 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Do not arm park rangers. We have enough issues with police not knowing how to avoid using excessive force, let alone trying to train a park ranger.

Communication from Public

Name: Rachel Palmer
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:02 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT arm Park Rangers! It is excessive and will end up getting people killed.

Communication from Public

Name: Samantha Bode

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:52 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: With the current uprisings demanding justice for the lives of Black and Brown individuals, I think that arming the park rangers in Griffith Park is the exact OPPOSITE way we, as a city, should be heading. Instead, I urge the City to train our park rangers in Griffith park in various nonviolent and de-escalation tactics that breed a better sense of understanding and unity in communities, not the divisiveness and violence we are currently experiencing. Park Rangers, in my mind, have always been a welcoming lot, offering help and assistance, interpretation and guidance. Griffith Park is a space for a lot of diverse people to feel comfortable and safe experiencing the natural world and experiencing the joy of being outside. Personally, when I see a public servant strapped with a gun on their hip, I get EXTREMELY nervous and sad, and want to avoid that person. Please don't alienate the community, particularly marginalized peoples, from the beauty that is Griffith Park. It is shared by all residents of the city of Los Angeles, and I don't feel it needs to be protected through violence. Don't arm the Park Rangers!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 08:34 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As an LA county resident, I feel that it's important (now more than ever) to maintain the rule of law in our city and allow law-enforcement officers to do their jobs. These individuals are asked to put themselves in dangerous situations, confronting rule violators that may be violent, agitated, armed, etc. Asking an individual to enter such situations without the protective equipment needed to do their jobs safely is unnecessarily hazardous and would be an OSHA violation in most other industries. Furthermore, arming park rangers will remind would-be trouble makers that the park rangers are indeed law-enforcement individuals. This will make it easier for park rangers to enforce the rules and gain compliance from those that would otherwise disrupt the peace or endanger park users. Let's not let our public servants to get maimed, injured, or killed because we failed to equip them properly for a job that most of us are too cowardly to do ourselves. For these reasons I strongly SUPPORT THIS MOTION.

Communication from Public

Name: Aurisha Smolarski

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 08:35 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to NOT arm the park rangers at Griffith Park. Parks are a place of peaceful and safe gathering for families and if you arm the rangers that will illicit fear and lack of safety for people especially for families of color.. I am a psychotherapist and I know that just seeing weapons and hearing them can create long lasting trauma for children. The park will be become a scary place for kids not a place for free play and exploration of the outdoors. Let the park stay a place of joy not another battleground where the armed forces create more violence and division and a place where POC are no longer safe. Guns illicit traumatic responses in children and for many POC. Do NOT arm the Park rangers. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 08:43 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am against the arming of LA's Park Rangers. We need less guns in our parks and our city, not more. In this time when we have seen so much violence in the city, especially perpetrated by those in law enforcement I think we can do better. There needs to be more training and deescalation tactics, and less reliance on guns.

Communication from Public

Name: Rebecca Weiker
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:02 AM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a Los Feliz resident who walk in the park several times a week. I strongly oppose arming Griffith Park rangers. Just this week I was walking in the park and saw a Black young teen with an obviously toy rifle - It was duct taped and looked like it was made of wood. I have two sons who played with toy guns when they were kids. I also have friends who have sons who look like this young person. I stopped him and told him to be careful, because police might not know the gun was a toy. I asked him if he knew about Tamir Rice, a 13 year old child who was murdered by police as he played in a park. I told him I wanted him to be safe and we smiled at each other. Guns create more risk in these situations, not safety. Griffith Park does not need armed patrols. As long as we are a racist society, such action will inevitably result in the death of Black people. I am also a survivor - I have a sister who was murdered. In her memory, I work for no more victims of gun violence.

Communication from Public

Name: Jane Riegler

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:03 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, namely the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. However, I believe arming them creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. It does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Seth Madej

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:39 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Angeles, I vehemently oppose arming park rangers. Our city is plagued by too many guns, not too few. In a time when thousands of Angelenos have taken to the streets to protest the deaths of black men at the hands of law enforcement, our city should not be creating a new situation in which that violence may be perpetuated. Park rangers have the ability to call in armed law enforcement if an extreme measure warrants it, and that is more than adequate. Parks are intended to be a place for peace, and we should allow them to remain that.

Communication from Public

Name: Colleen Cavanaugh Anthony

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:48 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I would like to express my concern over the resolution that would allow park rangers to be armed. We are seeing again and again that the over militarization of our public safety agencies is causing more violence and less safety. Our parks are not a place for armed policing, and I think it is very important at this time for the city of Los Angeles to move towards more community support and away from use of force or threat of use of force as a means of enforcing peace and protection for our citizens. We are all safer when we are working together, not creating more adversarial relationships. Please do not pass this resolution.

Communication from Public

Name: Reg Levy
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:49 AM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a homeowner with property that is walking distance from three large public parks. I am delighted to be able to enjoy our public spaces and want all my neighbors to feel welcome to do so, too. We live in community, necessarily, and the public park system in Los Angeles is a wonderful benefit to our health and well-being. Studies show that greenspace is good for our health. Public parks are a place to exercise, relax, and enjoy both company and solitude. Introducing guns into that equation is a baffling idea and would only ruin the current parks. I am against this proposal. In light of the amount of force applied by law enforcement nationwide and specifically in Los Angeles, we should all be vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. Doing so would create a threat toward marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of every resident. The comments that I have seen in support of this proposal boil down to poorly-veiled attempts to turn our parks into spaces only for the privileged. Neighborhood counsels, property owners, and police advocacy groups agreement with the expansion of the militarization of policing forces in our city will only cause more violence—and the attempt to bring that violence to public parks is abhorrent. The recent behavior of the LAPD makes it clear that their unnecessarily punitive methods cannot be trusted—nor could armed park rangers with the same training. We need to move toward community policing systems that prioritize non-violent approaches towards the community. We should absolutely not arm park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Joshua Sommers-Dehaney

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:57 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a person of color, the notion of arming on duty park rangers is terrifying. The idea that me hiking alone could create a situation involving an expedient death is chilling, to say the least. Our public parks are for the health of Los Angeles and the good of its people. Unnecessarily arming park rangers only creates the possibility of harm coming to an Angeleno faster than before. Is that what we want? A faster route to tragedy? Arming public servants creates a mindset where a gun is simply another tool to be used, and it will be used. Even if it's just once, that's not an event I want on my hands. That's why I'm writing to ask that you do not pass this amendment to allow park rangers to carry weapons. If they weren't previously armed to defend against mountain lions how can we possibly justify arming them against fellow Angelenos?

Communication from Public

Name: Pete

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:04 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of events over the weekend in which excessive force was used against the public for their expression of first amendment rights, I move to unarm park rangers. It creates a space in which people trying to exist have their lives endangered for simply being in public spaces.

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Timmons

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:14 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I live in Los Angeles and I strongly oppose arming park rangers. With the LAPD heavily armed as it is, I do not believe that there need to be more public servants in my community carrying guns. I do not want my tax dollars going towards supplying park rangers with guns or ammunition or weapons of any kind, quite frankly.

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Segal

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:25 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I live in Los Angeles and I strongly oppose arming park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Craven

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:28 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, as a mom, member of the LACDP Central Committee and the co-legislative chair of my chapter of Moms Demand Action I am BEGGING you not to allow Park Rangers to be armed. This is an an insane idea. You guys are supposed to be progressives, and gun sense folks. I oppose strongly. No time to say more. This will make EVERYONE less safe. Don't do it. Thanks.

Communication from Public

Name: Colin Jenkins

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:33 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers. You may have noticed recently that a huge number of people in this city and the whole country do not trust the police as a result of their many violent misdeeds. Indeed, we are demanding a reduction in police funding and militarization. Arming park rangers would be detrimental to their reputation and public esteem. We would trust them less. They would be more like police and that would be terrible. If park rangers are armed then it will only be a matter of time before one of them kills a homeless person in a park. The incident would almost certainly be caught on video. I'm sure you can imagine it. At that time, public trust in park rangers will be utterly lost. People will ask "why did they even have guns?" They would just be another branch of militarized law enforcement to be defunded and left behind in the ongoing struggle to form a more just and equitable society. That would be a horrible fate for an institution that protects and maintains such a valuable and treasured resource as our public parks. Please do not arm park rangers. Please do not make them part of the problem. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Bogdanow
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:34 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm Park Rangers. Arming them will create a less safe, more hostile environment for Angelinos everywhere.

Communication from Public

Name: Darcy Wilding
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:35 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I live in Los Angeles and I strongly OPPOSE arming park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: erin haglund

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:38 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers is not the message that Los Angeles should be sending about our public park spaces. Nor is that a burden they should carry. Please keep these folks as friendly environmental peacekeepers and not have them weaponized. Thanks.

Communication from Public

Name: Duane Poole

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:39 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I live in Los Angeles and strongly oppose the idea of arming park rangers. We need to reexamine all of our policing procedures, pulling back on the guns and violence, not intensifying them.

Communication from Public

Name: cheryl auger

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:46 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers. we need to demilitarize more to have a more peaceful society.

Communication from Public

Name: Patrick Hamilton

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:47 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a lifelong Los Angeles resident, I find the very idea of arming Park Rangers unnecessary and astoundingly dangerous. There is no cause or concern that necessitates this escalation of police power and dangerous force.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:49 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am ABSOLUTELY AGAINST the dangerous arming of park rangers in our parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Gus

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:50 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Shame on LA city for even proposing to arm park rangers as we LA residents protest police brutality and killing. Park rangers do not need to have guns that will inevitably make residents, especially people of color, feel hostility and anxiety in parks, which should be places of relaxation and tranquility. Please stop militarizing our city.

Communication from Public

Name: Evelyn

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:51 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose arming Park Rangers. Rather than providing Park Rangers with firearms we should fund programs that assist our unhoused neighbors and place them on a safe path to housing.

Communication from Public

Name: Sadie Johnson

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:54 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We should all be strongly against the notion of arming park rangers. The outdoor space and nature should be far more inclusive and diverse than it currently is and we should be focusing on inclusive measures. If safety is a concern, then we should be training the park rangers in de-escalation not giving them weapons to escalate issues. DO NOT ARM PARK RANGERS.

Communication from Public

Name: Kevin T. Porter

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:57 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hi City Council! I'm a resident of Los Angeles county and I do NOT want park rangers carrying guns. That's a deplorable and overwhelming use of force. Please don't vote for this. -Kevin T. Porter

Communication from Public

Name: Plochere

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:01 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am very much against arming our park rangers. I would be curious to know what tangible threats they have incurred during their job that warrant such an action. I would love to see their attention directed towards goodwill efforts. If there's a gun it will be used, end of story. This is not a police state and the rangers are not police.

Communication from Public

Name: Richard

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:03 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Why the hell do Park Rangers need firearms? You know Yogi Bear was a cartoon, right? There isnt actually a lot picnic basket (or any other kind of) theft that would require militarized law enforcement.

Communication from Public

Name: S. Qiouyi Lu

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:05 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am strongly against this proposal to arm LA's park rangers. Protests against police brutality have occurred in all 50 states, including in Los Angeles. The voice of the people is clear: Armed police have continuously gone against their purported mission to protect human life and safety, and they disproportionately violate their duty to serve when it comes to Black Americans in particular. Without any change to our existing status quo, arming LA's park rangers will only contribute to the racial and socioeconomic tensions that are pervasive throughout the city and county. Scrap this proposal and invest its budget in establishing community programs led by people familiar with the power dynamics involved. If there are concerns about robbery and other crimes, establish a neighborhood watch trained in deescalation and mediation techniques. If there are concerns about homeless people on someone's property, create more resources and services to connect them to their own stable housing that will allow them to rebuild their lives. Even without any programs to replace this proposal, abandoning it entirely and moving the allocated budget to practically anything else is a better option. Park rangers do not need to be armed. Trash this proposal and do something that will actually help.

Communication from Public

Name: Erin
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:06 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: We do not need rangers to be armed! There is no need for more guns in America.

Communication from Public

Name: Corina W.

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:11 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The past week has proven Los Angeles needs less violence wielded against it's citizens. Arming more officers in the name of peace will only escalate the issue and make all of us less safe.

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica R. Lord-Tovar

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:26 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The Griffith Park Rangers do not need to be armed. I look at Griffith Park as a sanctuary. Before the Covid-19 stay at home orders, I would leave me office in Glendale at the end of long work day and de-stress along the trails of the park. The group I hike with would meet every Wednesday night and enjoy nature. Did we feel that we were not safe? Nope. Did we wonder if the Park Rangers were armed ? Never crossed our minds. I think that members of our group were more concerned about running into a rattlesnake then some human who might do us harm. Honestly if I knew that the Griffith Park Rangers were going to be armed, I would be worried on how they would perceive a group of latinx hikers? Would we be seen as a threat? In today's environment, arming the Griffith Park Rangers is not the solution to the problem.

Communication from Public

Name: Leslie Levings

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:27 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: There's absolutely no reason a gun is required in these spaces. This will undoubtedly lead to people being shot in our parks. Marginalized people, in particular Black people, are put at particular risk by this proposal.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:42 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I don't want my park rangers to be armed! This is not necessary.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:44 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please vote no on any motion to arm Griffith Park Rangers. It is a terrible idea and will fundamentally change the character of our beloved park, and consequently all of our neighboring properties and neighborhoods. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Kelsey Amentt

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:51 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We do NOT want Park Rangers carrying guns. This will not only lead to intimidation and attempts of deadly force against our growing homeless population, but it will endanger anyone who comes across yet another tax-paid, untrained enforcer of the law. The beauty of Los Angeles is that our parks are for everyone. They're a chance to get away from the hustle and bustle of our city and take in its natural beauty. If you arm Park Rangers, not only does it take away that peace of mind, it deems those parks only accessible to those with the privilege to be there without fear. You would be depriving a part of the population what makes Los Angeles unique as a city. Parks and nature should not be only available to the few. In a city filled with smog and concrete, a breath of fresh air is needed by all. Park Rangers carrying guns would police that peace of mind and that is unacceptable.

Communication from Public

Name: Michal Lemberger

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:52 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers serve a needed public role in Griffith Park. They are the caretakers of a treasured spot in which Angelenos of all stripes come to enjoy nature and so much more. Arming these park rangers is a disastrous idea. The militarization of any branch of enforcement has already proven to be a step backward in how the city interacts with the public. The public is not an enemy faction that needs to be watched over by armed guard. That is what this measure implies. Please allow park rangers to do their jobs of making sure the groups of Griffith Park are kept up, and that people can use the park's facilities as they are intended to be used. A park ranger does not need a gun to tell people about fire safety regulations. We cannot allow our city to become one in which a mentality of armed repression becomes the norm. Park rangers play an important role as the face of official park policy. They should be allowed to interact with the public in that role without becoming the face of armed enforcement.

Communication from Public

Name: B. Stern
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:54 AM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This week, I have seen firsthand the violent escalation of LA's police force on peaceful protesters in public spaces. Especially in light of this week, I am vehemently opposed to arming any ranger forces. Arming a park ranger force will not make our public spaces safer, rather posing a threat to Black and communities of color. I have seen comments in favor of arming park rangers saying that they have the same training as the LAPD. The training of the LAPD, we have seen, especially in the past week, has not protected the public, but rather actively harmed it. We need to move to a system that emphasizes providing services--social workers, education, and healthcare--and not armed rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Nolan Purvis

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:57 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Given the rash of officer shootings of poor and marginalized peoples, I believe it is inherently unethical to expand the number of city officers carrying firearms. The rule will lead to shootings in public spaces and I just cannot believe that property values are more important than human lives.

Communication from Public

Name: Sophia Mitchell
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:03 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am very strongly AGAINST the motion to amend LAMC Section 63.41 (Council File Number 20-0190) to arm LA park rangers. This motion is not only obviously untimely, but it is dangerous for all Angelenos, especially outdoors-women of color like me who frequent and live on the border of places like Griffith park. In all my years enjoying LA's parks I have not once found myself wishing for armed rangers to accompany me. The very thought of that is horrifying and I seriously wonder if you considered anyone of color when creating this motion, or where the motivation for this came from. If anything while hiking, I have wondered why our city can't do more to help the systemic issues that result in the people we see becoming criminals, joining gangs and experiencing homelessness. Before living in North Hollywood I lived across the street from the Hansen Dam, and understand the fear associated with living near an armed homeless population. However, how is giving them more of a reason to weaponize a solution? This only increases the risk of danger to all Angelenos. Treating people aggressively as your motion does when we know for a fact it's a symptom of a much larger, systemic problem is irresponsible and inhumane. Responding with aggression when we know for a fact that this will worsen the systemic problem is willfully ignorant. Los Angeles don't need escalation, we need compassion. And real, thought-out solutions. Our city servants need to be held to a higher standard than hiding behind a gun. To quote Ghandi, "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." Again I am strongly AGAINST motion 20-0190. Our city needs to instead find a more compassionate, just response to this issue that increases, not decreases, the safety of all Angelenos.

Communication from Public

Name: Kiley Vorndran

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:03 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, namely the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. However, I believe arming them creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. It does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Alison

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:14 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT arm park rangers. Saying they would receive the same training as police means they would be armed and ready to kill the black people they encounter just as police do. We must protect our homeless communities. This is an act of violence against them. Do not arm the park rangers!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park rangers need to call in reinforcement from elsewhere if they find themselves in a dangerous situation. Residents of so-called "bad neighborhoods" are more in danger of being shot by law enforcement than the other way around. Stop criminalizing the homeless and spend the money on affordable housing and shelters instead.

Communication from Public

Name: Dana P.

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:36 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We absolutely should not be arming park rangers. Arming servants of our communities only leads to violence and less trust from the community. It is important that our parks remain a place of sanctuary and enjoyment for everyone. The potential for lethal violence will not make anyone feel safer, be it the rangers or the public, and it would be a threat to marginalized groups who simply want to exist in public spaces. I urge the city council to look into alternative ways to ensure the safety of the public and rangers in the park.

Communication from Public

Name: Colette Sandstedt

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:40 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I do NOT support arming park rangers. Absolutely not. We do NOT consent. There is no need for this at all. Stop militarizing everything and everyone.

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel James

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am strongly opposed to arming park rangers. This is absolutely the wrong way to address the perceived issues of safety in our city's parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Courtney Koletar
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:42 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I oppose the amendment to arm park rangers. For the safety of our community, park rangers should not be armed.

Communication from Public

Name: Peter Fennell

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:45 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am terrified of the thought of park rangers being armed - this is a completely unnecessary amplification of force and its intrusion to parks and places that are inherently peaceful! How is this rational, why are rangers in need of arms? And what implications will this have for how people view the safety of our parks, and biases it will introduce toward who feels comfortable and welcome to visit. Parks should and must be a place for all!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:50 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: There is no reason for park rangers to be armed. Doing so creates a city and a society that evermore reliant on firearms--poll the people of Los Angeles and you will find that the vast majority of us support gun control and moving away from a system where those authority figures carry guns and have the ability to use them on civilians. And shouldn't we as a people have a say in the kind of society we want to live in? Park rangers carrying guns is NOT the way to deal with LA's homeless problem, putting more government resources into affordable housing and creating programs to cancel rent under a certain income line is. LA's homeless are already at a higher risk for police violence, and arming park rangers are only going increase the likelihood of deadly incidents and further add to civil unrest. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. It is more than possible to create a working system that prioritizes deescalation, which is MUCH MORE effective at keeping civilians safe. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.



SOMEONE IS
TALKING TO
THEMSELF ON THE
BUS.

IMAGINE...

...THEY RIDE THE BUS WITHOUT
BEING BOTHERED.

AN HOUR LATER, THEY ARE AT
THEIR DESTINATION AND
GOING ON WITH THEIR DAY.

isn't that public safety?



SOMEONE IS
BEHAVING
ERRATICALLY & IN
HARM'S WAY.

IMAGINE...

...TEXTING A NUMBER & AN
UNARMED URGENT RESPONDER
TRAINED IN BEHAVIORAL AND
MENTAL HEALTH COMES
WITHIN 5 MINUTES.

AN HOUR LATER THAT PERSON
IS SAFE & GETTING THE
SUPPORT THEY NEED.

isn't that public safety?



SOME FOLKS ARE
SLEEPING ON
BENCHES IN THE
PARK.

IMAGINE...

...A CITY EMPLOYEE COMES BY
& CHECKS IN TO SEE IF THEY
NEED A PLACE TO SLEEP,
FOOD, WATER, OR HEALTH
CARE.

AN HOUR LATER, THOSE WHO
WANT A DIFFERENT PLACE TO
SLEEP HAVE ONE.

isn't that public safety?

Communication from Public

Name: Emiliana Dore

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 12:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of the rash of police violence in this country, I am writing to strongly object to arming our Park Rangers. Now is the time to de-escalate violent confrontations in this country, not accelerate them. The Mayor just decided yesterday to lower the police budget in response to this crisis. Let's follow that lead and refrain from creating more potential for violence in our parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Alejandra Ponce de Leon

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 01:00 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am strongly opposed to the arming of La Park Rangers. The presence of a public should not automatically warrant arming public servants, police, etc. It is the presence of a peaceful community, equitable access to these public services, and de-escalation in the case of an incident that brings peace. Weapons need to be left OUT of the equation. Please show respect for the community and do NOT pass this motion.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 01:05 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, namely the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. However, I believe arming them creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. It does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Deny this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Meghan Callahan
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 01:19 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, namely the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. However, I believe arming them creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. It does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Candice Watson
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 01:21 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Do NOT arm park rangers - thank you!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 01:33 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers with guns. We have enough violence and all lives matter.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 01:34 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I absolutely can't fathom why you think arming park rangers is a good idea. As a concerned resident I implore you not to move forward with this dangerous amendment.

Communication from Public

Name: Mia Porter

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 01:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: What a ridiculous time to be introducing a ridiculous proposal to arm park rangers. This is the last thing we citizens need to be focused on right now. I live in Elysian Valley, we frequent Griffith Park with our 2 boys and my husband takes our dog on hikes through the park at least 2-3 times a week. In his 20 years of living in Los Angeles, he has never come upon a situation in the park where a gun was required. As parent and as a survivor of gun violence, I would not feel safe to bring my children to the park knowing the rangers were armed. I know and am well-versed on the data proving that the presence of a gun will increase and escalate violence. No, just no. Stop wasting our time with this ridiculous proposal.

Communication from Public

Name: Lou Rosenberg

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 01:47 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In the midst of some of the worst police violence ever visited upon this city and country, it is patently absurd to arm more public servants. I am adamantly against this militarization of public safety and expect Council Members to stop pitting public safety personnel against the citizens of Los Angeles. Spend the money on improving our parks, or teaching proven, effective de escalation techniques to public safety employees.

Communication from Public

Name: Devon Harlow

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 01:55 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I cannot believe that the city of Los Angeles is thinking of putting MORE guns on the streets. This is absolutely counter to all research that has been done on public safety, especially the safety of BIPOC communities. This proposal will not make our parks safer.

Communication from Public

Name: Jeremy Cohen

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:02 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Giving Park Rangers weapons will just create a greater likelihood of panicked rangers “accidentally” shooting a mentally ill homeless person. This should not happen. Please vote this down

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:03 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am adamantly against this militarization of public safety and expect Council Members to stop pitting public safety personnel against the citizens of Los Angeles. Spend the money on improving our parks, or teaching proven, effective de escalation techniques to public safety employees.

Communication from Public

Name: Emily Clark

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:07 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am strongly AGAINST the proposed change to code to allow LA Park Rangers to carry guns while on duty. I stand with the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council's statement. I agree that while many Park Rangers regularly interact with a growing homeless population and that may have lead to the idea of a perceived threat, arming our Park Rangers with guns is a move that goes against any progress that has been made. Furthermore I believe putting guns in the hands of Park Rangers will result in more Angelenos, especially those from marginalized groups, being exposed to the threat and reality of being shot by law enforcement. I do not believe the Park Rangers need to have guns to properly defend themselves by any means. As the LFNC already stated, "Park Rangers are already equipped with batons, pepper spray, handcuffs and work closely with LAPD. Arming them further only takes the city in the wrong direction." There is no reason to incentivize violence by putting guns in the hands in the hands of those who have many other tools for protecting themselves. I think that Park Rangers should prioritize non-lethal use of force and community policing where law enforcement work with communities to find solutions to the problems rather than on solutions which threaten and escalate violence by their mere presence (i.e. guns.) I want to see the city's resources, dollars and energy go towards services that can help people get on a path to housing so we can help our population instead of hurting them further. Best, Emily Clark

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Gascho

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:12 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT arm park rangers! More guns to do not make us safer! Giving park rangers gun will only further serve to amplify tensions in the community and create more distrust and division.

Communication from Public

Name: Caitlin Lainoff

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:13 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am frankly flabbergasted that the city would consider this a good idea at this point in time where we have seen armed public officials attack civilians ad nauseam AND on camera. There is absolutely no record of any criminal activity in the park areas that would justify the need for park rangers to be armed. There is, on the other hand, every record to show that guns in the hands of public officials disproportionately endanger our BIPOC communities. In this case in fact this motion would be putting everyone in danger. Our children play in these parks!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:25 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a Los Angeles resident in CD 5. I'm writing to oppose the amendment to Section 63.41 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, which would arm park rangers. At a time when the nation's attention is on police violence towards people of color, it is vital that we save lives by moving in the very opposite direction of this amendment. We all suffer from implicit bias, and law enforcement is no different. Adding weapons to recreational areas, meant to be a place of relaxation and vitality, is dangerous. We cannot take the risk that a ranger's implicit bias could lead them to read a black man as dangerous and shoot him. We should not be arming park rangers. Our parks must be places of peace.

Communication from Public

Name: Janmarie Perry

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am so grateful to have Griffith Park as a resource to me, all Angelinos, and visitors to our city. I am also grateful to the rangers and others who work so hard to keep our park safe, clean, and available for all of us to enjoy. However, like the Los Feliz Neighborhood council, I am strongly opposed to arming the rangers, at least without more research, opportunity for feedback, as well as more transparency and information about the need for the rangers to carry weapons. I hike in Griffith Park every week, and have for years. I have traveled extensively throughout the park, night and day, from the lower more crowded areas to the more remote parts of the park. Never have I encountered a situation requiring a gun. Only on a very few occasions have I seen anything that concerned me, and nothing that was so urgent it could not wait for the LAPD to arrive and handle when called by a park visitor or ranger. Because I cannot say it better myself, I will quote from the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council, "Park Rangers are already equipped with batons, pepper spray, handcuffs and work closely with LAPD. Arming them further only takes the city in the wrong direction."

Communication from Public

Name: Valerie Tosi

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:27 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The last thing we need is to arm even more people in the city of Los Angeles. This is a disaster waiting to happen. Please, do NOT allow park rangers to be armed while on duty.

Communication from Public

Name: Amy Tannenbaum

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose the proposal to arm park rangers. Especially in an era when the entire country is becoming more aware of how guns in the hands of racist police leads to extrajudicial killing of Black people, this proposal is dangerous. It will not make anyone safer and will especially make Black Angelenos and visitors much less safe. This also has the potential to escalate encounters between park rangers and unhoused Angelenos, who need care not cop behavior, and no more violence. Do not arm park rangers; agents of the state in Los Angeles need fewer weapons, not more.

Communication from Public

Name: Caroline pham

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Guns for park rangers?????? Are you all insane? We don't need guns anymore. We need services for the black and POC community. Health, education, housing!!!! Guns???? Are you tone deaf? No guns for park rangers!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Carol Fahey

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:44 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not allow park rangers to be armed on duty. This will only escalate situations and make parks less safe for children.

Communication from Public

Name: Shalaka Gole

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 02:44 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm our park rangers. As the recent events have reminded us, use of force for law enforcement can lead to brutality and loss of life. The outdoors are already a space that is less likely to be used by communities of color, and yet is the natural bounty of beautiful Los Angeles, home to such a diverse population. Arming our rangers would further make this space unwelcoming and unsafe to all people, but in particular our communities of color. What goal does this even achieve?

Communication from Public

Name: Tom Young

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 03:03 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of ongoing police brutality, I am opposed to arming park rangers. I fear the increased risk of violence toward marginalized individuals, and believe our energy and resources should be redirected toward community policing systems that prioritize non-violent approaches toward community safety. Please deny this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Molly Griffin

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 03:11 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am frankly flabbergasted that the city would consider this a good idea at this point in time where we have seen armed public officials attack civilians ad nauseam AND on camera. There is absolutely no record of any criminal activity in the park areas that would justify the need for park rangers to be armed. There is, on the other hand, every record to show that guns in the hands of public officials disproportionately endanger our BIPOC communities. In this case in fact this motion would be putting everyone in danger. Our children play in these parks!

Communication from Public

Name: Nathan Moseley

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 03:21 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose the proposed amendment to arm park rangers in Los Angeles. Arming rangers will not make our parks any safer and will only increase the chances of escalation and violence, particularly against vulnerable communities such as the city's unhoused population. I urge the council to reject this amendment as part of a much-needed broader effort to overhaul the city's approach to law enforcement.

Communication from Public

Name: Rochelle

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 03:21 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT arm park rangers. Are you insane?!

Communication from Public

Name: Amy Chatfield

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 03:27 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers is a terrible idea. Parks are for all Angelenos, and unfortunately the presence of people with uniforms and guns scare a lot of Angelenos (because people with uniforms and guns have a documented tendency to kill innocent people, especially people of color, and face no charges or repercussions). As a city, we absolutely cannot allow park rangers to carry guns.

Communication from Public

Name: Emma S.

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 03:35 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of Los Angeles and frequent its parks. I strongly oppose this motion and urge you to NOT allow park rangers to carry guns. As we have seen over the past week, LAPD training is insufficient in preventing violence and arming park rangers would only offer an opportunity to cause further harm, especially to members of marginalized groups and unhoused people. I agree with the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council's statement and request that you reject this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Haley
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 03:40 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers! This is just side stepping the police accountability issue.

Communication from Public

Name: Jordan Scovel

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 03:42 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers, this seems erratic and excessive. They do not need to be armed. Civilians visiting the national parks are not coming with any other reason than to escape a little of the chaos around them. If you armed the park rangers, I would have a hard time allowing any of my family members to visit a park.

Communication from Public

Name: Stephen Wright
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 03:51 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I am AGAINST the proposed change to code to arm park rangers. As a resident of Los Angeles, and frequent user of our parks, and Griffith Park in particular, I am deeply concerned that arming park rangers would only lead to higher incidents of violence, particularly for people of color in our community. Once again, I am AGAINST the motion to amend LAMC Section 63.41 (Council File Number 20-0190).

Communication from Public

Name: Jason Fitzpatrick
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 03:54 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Honestly, I don't think anything good will come from this. I use the park several times a week and really don't think guns are even remotely necessary.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 04:03 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Our parks are JUST FINE without rangers having guns. Without question, this will lead to FAR MORE violence, bloodshed, and death than the status quo. We need all members of the community to feel safe and welcome in our parks, and this will ensure the opposite. This is a threat to public safety, not a guarantor of it. I am urging you to reconsider.

Communication from Public

Name: Kevin Kelly

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 04:06 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express my strong disapproval of this motion. I have reviewed the past public comments in support of this motion--many of them are from local homeowners and their associations, asserting that arming park rangers will increase park safety. However, the majority of park ranger encounters are with unhoused people, and arming park rangers before these encounters will increase the likelihood of these encounters turning violent. Increasing armed policing of the city's unhoused population further criminalize homelessness, and serves more to assuage the peace of mind of wealthy property owners than it does contribute to public safety. I urge you to consider who will really benefit from this motion, and who will suffer the most as a result of it. If you continue to pass laws that benefit the wealthiest among us at the expense of the most vulnerable, then you are miserably failing as public servants. Please, at this time when we as a city and a culture are re-examining the ways that we police our streets, do not make this city more dangerous by arming more law enforcement with the ability to kill.

Communication from Public

Name: Hayley

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 04:14 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The LAPD is an institution that has proven time and again to hurt and kill the citizens it claims to protect. It makes me ill to imagine extending that use of force to our park rangers. History shows us that black and brown bodies are in danger at the hands of every city's "law enforcement." How could I condone further armament given this city's blatant disregard for human life? You can't ignore the thousands of constituents marching in the streets to defund the LAPD -- I know you hear us. Our voices oppose this motion, and motions like it, which seeks to arm officers untrained in lethal use of force. Gun violence is not what local government should be for.

Communication from Public

Name: Dylan

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 04:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I would like to state that I am against the motion that would arm Park Rangers Thank you, Dylan Stretchbery

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 04:43 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I just want to say that I am opposed on the arming of park rangers. I think it is unnecessary and only putting lives at risk. I highly believe only bad things can happen if this becomes a reality.

Communication from Public

Name: A. Whitaker

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 04:44 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park rangers provide an essential service to the citizens of Los Angeles, making us feel safe and secure while utilizing our outdoor resources. Arming park rangers would run counter to this mission. Guns would make community feel less safe in these spaces and decrease use. If there is a problem in the parks that requires police intervention, rangers should continue working with law enforcement in the manner which they have for years.

Communication from Public

Name: Drew Kidd

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 04:46 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming Park Rangers will do nothing for public safety. It will only add guns to situations that would be safe if there were no guns present. The last thing we need right now is further militarization of our public employees. Please do not approve any measure that will arm our Park Rangers.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 05:20 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a mother in Los Angeles, I would like a community policing system that prioritizes non-violence and de-escalation of conflicts.

Communication from Public

Name: Tiffany Matula

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 05:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I vehemently oppose the notion of arming park employees. It would make our parks feel LESS SAFE for all citizens and would most certainly result in tragedy. If someone believes that parks employees are likely to engage in violent standoffs perhaps we should be requesting de-escalation training. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Angela Carter

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 06:00 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We do not need more funds going into arming park rangers. Take those funds and invest it in the underprivileged communities. I as a citizen to do support your amendment. It is time to make this city, state, country and world a better place. And we can start it in Los Angeles. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Katie Ward
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 06:20 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers must not be armed. They are not trained to have weapons, and more weapons do not make any of us safer.

Communication from Public

Name: Roshan Jayanti

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 06:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I OPPOSE arming park rangers. As an Angeleno and a frequent Griffith Park hiker, I find this motion inappropriate and unnecessary. Not once have I felt unsafe while hiking from the observatory down into the valleys below. This will create yet another place where we are increasing the chances of violence rather than decreasing it. I don't understand why this is even under consideration, but please listen to the many citizens and Griffith Park attendees who clearly see this as an issue.

Communication from Public

Name: Christopher

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 06:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Feliz and active user of Griffith Park, I urge the council to deny the use of firearms to park rangers. The park should be a place of peace and comfort to all Angelenos, with no threat of violence.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 06:53 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose arming Griffith Park Rangers. Please do not increase the possibility of more unnecessary violence in our city.

Communication from Public

Name: Parker Lemal-Brown

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:08 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers should NOT carry guns. The LAPD is already overequipped with weapons to use against civilians. No more public officers should have the ability to use lethal force. While it's important to keep the peace everywhere in LA, especially our parks - what is the cost? Who is protecting us against our own protectors? Due to an overwhelming amount of deaths due to police brutality, I have little faith that the government can properly train ANYONE on enforcement, much less a parks department. It is an inappropriate and potentially deadly measure that would take away funds from the community and promote even more violence between the government and the citizens it is meant to protect. Please vote NO. Your constituents are watching very closely and will remember which side you choose.

Communication from Public

Name: Alice

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:19 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I have recently learned of Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino's proposal to change city rules to allow park rangers to carry guns, arguing that it would better protect both rangers and parkgoers. As a citizen of Los Angeles and a resident of the community of Los Feliz which sits below our beautiful Griffith Park I want to publicly oppose this proposal. It is my understanding from the state park rangers job description that they are to be "sworn State park peace officers." It is also my understanding that "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." Not only do I disagree with deadly firearms being carried by our police force, but I am even more opposed to a park ranger carrying a deadly firearm. The Los Angeles hills are vast and oftentimes secluded and dark. There are residential neighborhoods and homes that butt up against the park. I believe if we were to allow park rangers to be armed there will be more deaths to citizen and innocent people than there will be to park rangers. I believe the true "risk" to park rangers can be dealt with by non-lethal means and non-lethal firearms. Please when considering this proposal review what the true need of a lethal weapon is and DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO PASS.

Communication from Public

Name: Dorothea Rodgers

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:21 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, namely the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. However, I believe arming them creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. It does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion. As a city employee (RAP Griffith Observatory Museum Guide) I feel particularly strongly about preserving the safety of Griffith Park and our local community, and feel strongly that arming our Park Rangers would negatively impact the park and the Observatory, where they already do a wonderful service in serving our community without violence.

Communication from Public

Name: Annemarie Munn

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, I would like to register my objection to the movement to arm park rangers. At this time we should be de-arming, not arming peaceful officers of the park service. If there are concerns over park ranger safety they need to be addressed in other ways.

Communication from Public

Name: lauren pisano

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am frankly flabbergasted that the city would consider this a good idea at this point in time where we have seen armed public officials attack civilians ad nauseam AND on camera. There is absolutely no record of any criminal activity in the park areas that would justify the need for park rangers to be armed. There is, on the other hand, every record to show that guns in the hands of public officials disproportionately endanger our BIPOC communities. In this case in fact this motion would be putting everyone in danger. Our children play in these parks!

Communication from Public

Name: Jenna H.

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:44 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I have recently learned of Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino's proposal to change city rules to allow park rangers to carry guns, arguing that it would better protect both rangers and parkgoers. As a citizen of Los Angeles and a resident of the community of Los Feliz which sits below our beautiful Griffith Park, I want to publicly oppose this proposal. It is my understanding from the state park rangers job description that they are to be "sworn State park peace officers." It is also my understanding that "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." Not only do I disagree with deadly firearms being carried by our police force, but I am even more opposed to a park ranger carrying a deadly firearm. The Los Angeles hills are vast and oftentimes secluded and dark. There are residential neighborhoods and homes that butt up against the park. I believe if we were to allow park rangers to be armed there will be more deaths to citizens and innocent people than there will be to park rangers. I believe the true "risk" to park rangers can be dealt with by non-lethal means and non-lethal firearms. Please when considering this proposal review what the true need of a lethal weapon is and DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO PASS.

Communication from Public

Name: Nancy

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:50 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Angeles, I feel it would be a terrible idea to allow park rangers to carry firearms. I love walking and biking in Griffith Park with my toddler. Arming park rangers is not necessary and will not make anyone safer.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 07:57 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers will not keep civilians safer; in fact, it will bring more danger to communities of color. We need less guns in people's hands, not more, and putting tax dollars into arming park rangers is not where we need investment as a city. Please look to invest in managing the climate crisis, housing, healthcare, and education instead.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Carano

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 08:07 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am frankly flabbergasted that the city would consider this a good idea at this point in time where we have seen armed public officials attack civilians ad nauseum AND on camera. There is absolutely no record of any criminal activity in the park areas that would justify the need for park rangers to be armed. There is, on the other hand, every record to show that guns in the hands of public officials disproportionately endanger our BIPOC communities. In this case in fact this motion would be putting everyone in danger. Our children play in these parks!

Communication from Public

Name: Molly Griffin

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 08:10 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I have recently learned of Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino's proposal to change city rules to allow park rangers to carry guns, arguing that it would better protect both rangers and parkgoers. As a citizen of Los Angeles and a resident of the community of Los Feliz which sits below our beautiful Griffith Park, I want to publicly oppose this proposal. It is my understanding from the state park rangers job description that they are to be "sworn State park peace officers." It is also my understanding that "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." Not only do I disagree with deadly firearms being carried by our police force, but I am even more opposed to a park ranger carrying a deadly firearm. The Los Angeles hills are vast and oftentimes secluded and dark. There are residential neighborhoods and homes that butt up against the park. I believe if we were to allow park rangers to be armed there will be more deaths to citizens and innocent people than there will be to park rangers. Last but not least, every record shows that guns in the hands of public officials disproportionately endanger our BIPOC communities. I believe the true "risk" to park rangers can be dealt with by non-lethal means and non-lethal firearms. Please when considering this proposal review what the true need of a lethal weapon is and DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO PASS.

Communication from Public

Name: Regis M Duffy

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 08:13 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: You have to be kidding me. At this moment in time, when our nation is torn apart by militarized and aggressive policing that disproportionately impacts people of color, which Los Angeles is full of, you are trying to arm park rangers with weapons. This is absolutely unnecessary for the roles they serve in our community and completely irresponsible. You need to take this idea completely off of the table and reinvest your energies in making our communities safer, NOT MORE DANGEROUS. GET IT TOGETHER.

Communication from Public

Name: Noah

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 08:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: It is a terrible idea to put weapons in the untrained hands of people who suddenly want to fee like a 'good guy with a gun' and create more violence and more danger for BIPOC and others.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 08:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am absolutely against against the proposal of arming park rangers. Our children play in these parks and there is no record of any need for this type of force in our public parks. There is however, plenty of proof of the abuse of physical force and weaponry currently in our community especially BIPOC.

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer Cacicio
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 08:32 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This is a horrible idea. I am a mother and a citizen and there is absolutely ZERO reason for park rangers to be armed, especially in this moment where we are witness to so many civil servants in uniform abusing their power and murdering human beings, particularly black and brown ones. This would only be more of the same and it is not any kind of answer to the current issues we are trying to fix. I am 100% against this and will be spreading the word in order to make sure this DOES NOT HAPPEN. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 08:48 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not allow Park Rangers to carry weapons.

Communication from Public

Name: Meena Rama

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:01 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am asking for the retraction of the proposal to arm park rangers.
I do not believe this to be of value to our community.

Communication from Public

Name: Bridget Sinclair
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:05 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Whhhhyyyyyyy? I am terrified of more guns being in the city. Why would we need armed park rangers? Why at this moment in time when we are seeing gross abuses of power from many of our armed city employees?

Communication from Public

Name: Stephanie Schaffer
Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:26 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: You are putting public safety at risk if you arm park rangers with guns. Death comes from guns. We need to limit guns in our communities. No good will come of it.

Communication from Public

Name: Joelle Schorr

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I cannot believe that the city would consider this. There is absolutely no record of any criminal activity in the park areas that would justify the need for park rangers to be armed. There is, on the other hand, every record to show that guns in the hands of public officials disproportionately endanger our BIPOC communities. In this case in fact this motion would be putting everyone in danger. Our children play in these parks! Please reject this proposal!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 09:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I have recently learned of Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino's proposal to change city rules to allow park rangers to carry guns, arguing that it would better protect both rangers and parkgoers. As a citizen of Los Angeles and a resident of the community of Los Feliz which sits below our beautiful Griffith Park, I want to publicly oppose this proposal. It is my understanding from the state park rangers job description that they are to be "sworn State park peace officers." It is also my understanding that "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." Not only do I disagree with deadly firearms being carried by our police force, but I am even more opposed to a park ranger carrying a deadly firearm. The Los Angeles hills are vast and oftentimes secluded and dark. There are residential neighborhoods and homes that butt up against the park. I believe if we were to allow park rangers to be armed there will be more deaths to citizens and innocent people than there will be to park rangers. I believe the true "risk" to park rangers can be dealt with by non-lethal means and non-lethal firearms. Please when considering this proposal review what the true need of a lethal weapon is and DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO PASS.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I do not support this motion. Arming park rangers would perpetuate violence and put our homeless and marginalized populations in increased danger for no reason. Please invest the funds in housing and other programs to help LA's homeless population get employment, stable housing, and food.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 10:38 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm park rangers. More guns equals a higher likelihood of situations escalating into shootings more often. Arming park rangers is a terrible idea, and frankly, unnecessary. Especially in light of peaceful protests turning violent due to a militarized police force escalating the situation, it really is not a stretch to think that arming park rangers would lead to more shootings, particularly in neighborhoods with larger populations of black people and/or immigrants. Again, please do not arm park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Ashlee Dutson

Date Submitted: 06/04/2020 11:13 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am frankly flabbergasted that the city would consider this a good idea at this point in time where we have seen armed public officials attack civilians ad nauseam AND on camera. There is absolutely no record of any criminal activity in the park areas that would justify the need for park rangers to be armed. There is, on the other hand, every record to show that guns in the hands of public officials disproportionately endanger our BIPOC communities. In this case in fact this motion would be putting everyone in danger. Our children play in these parks!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 03:35 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: given the amount of lawsuit awards both that the taxpayers of both LA and the state of California will be having to pay for over the next several budgetary cycles, I think that arming park police will cost the City of Los Angeles an unacceptable rise in insurance premiums by arming rangers needlessly and the consequent rise in citizen initiated lawsuits from armed officer/citizen interactions, given our economy is depressed already more than the great depression one has to ask where all the money for training and increased insurance premiums not to mention the inevitable deep pocket awards when a citizen rightly prevails in court against the City of Los Angeles in civil litigation cause by this very ill considered move.

Communication from Public

Name: Miko Yoshida

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 08:10 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am against the motion to arm park rangers. Amongst the salient arguments is that Park Rangers receive the same training as armed LAPD officers. However, it is evident that that training is insufficient as black and people of color are consistently impacted negatively by violent policing tactics. There is a current problem with the system, so citing that they have the same training as the LAPD is insufficient reason. Instead there should be more focus on training and de-escalation as well as more outreach and social work resources to help those deemed a "threat" in the language of the petition (homeless, drug users, etc.). If safety is the priority, we should provide the homeless with shelters and work towards social reform, not arm "peace" officers. The antagonistic nature in which this proposal is being advocated for already pits law enforcement against potential victims. The way this proposal is written, there is no convincing imperative that demonstrates the necessity of arming park rangers. There is no evidence other than that they have the same training as armed police. During the Los Feliz neighborhood council meeting, the park ranger also noted that there are attrition issues within the ranger service because the rangers would rather be armed. Again, this is a terrible argument. Lastly, there needs to be a systematic overhaul of the LE system, starting with the defunding and demilitarization of the LAPD.

Communication from Public

Name: Kim Roberts

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 09:13 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose arming park rangers. We are already struggling with over-use of deadly force in our police. Why add to that by arming police rangers? In countries like the U.K. the police carry no guns and are able to work effectively. I see no reason why our park rangers cannot work effectively without guns, as they have been doing. Please help de-escalate tensions and violence by REDUCING the amount of deadly weapons in our city, not increasing it. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Kathy Yamamoto

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 09:44 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Given the valuable education many of us are getting, I cannot imagine who thought it would be a good idea to arm park rangers. (If it's not clear, I'm vehemently opposed to this idea.) Although I never want anyone to feel unsafe, we have seen through countless examples how weapons needlessly escalate situations that could have otherwise been safe. I am especially concerned for our unhoused population, many of whom are Black and Brown and are therefore subject to unconscious racial bias (Not to mention class bias from being unhoused.) Please please consider your next actions carefully. Lives are literally on the line.

Communication from Public

Name: Emily Parker

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 10:48 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a Los Angeles City resident who spends a lot of time in public parks. I strongly oppose Park Rangers being armed while on duty. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Eli Despres

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 11:08 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This is a bad idea. Los Angeles needs to re-examine the practice of arming all first responders, all the time. A recent study from Stanford and the University of Cincinnati shows that increased militarization of police results in more violent civilian deaths (attached). Instead we need to invest FAR more in conflict de-escalation training for our officers and, critically, look for MORE opportunities for our cops to work un-armed.

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

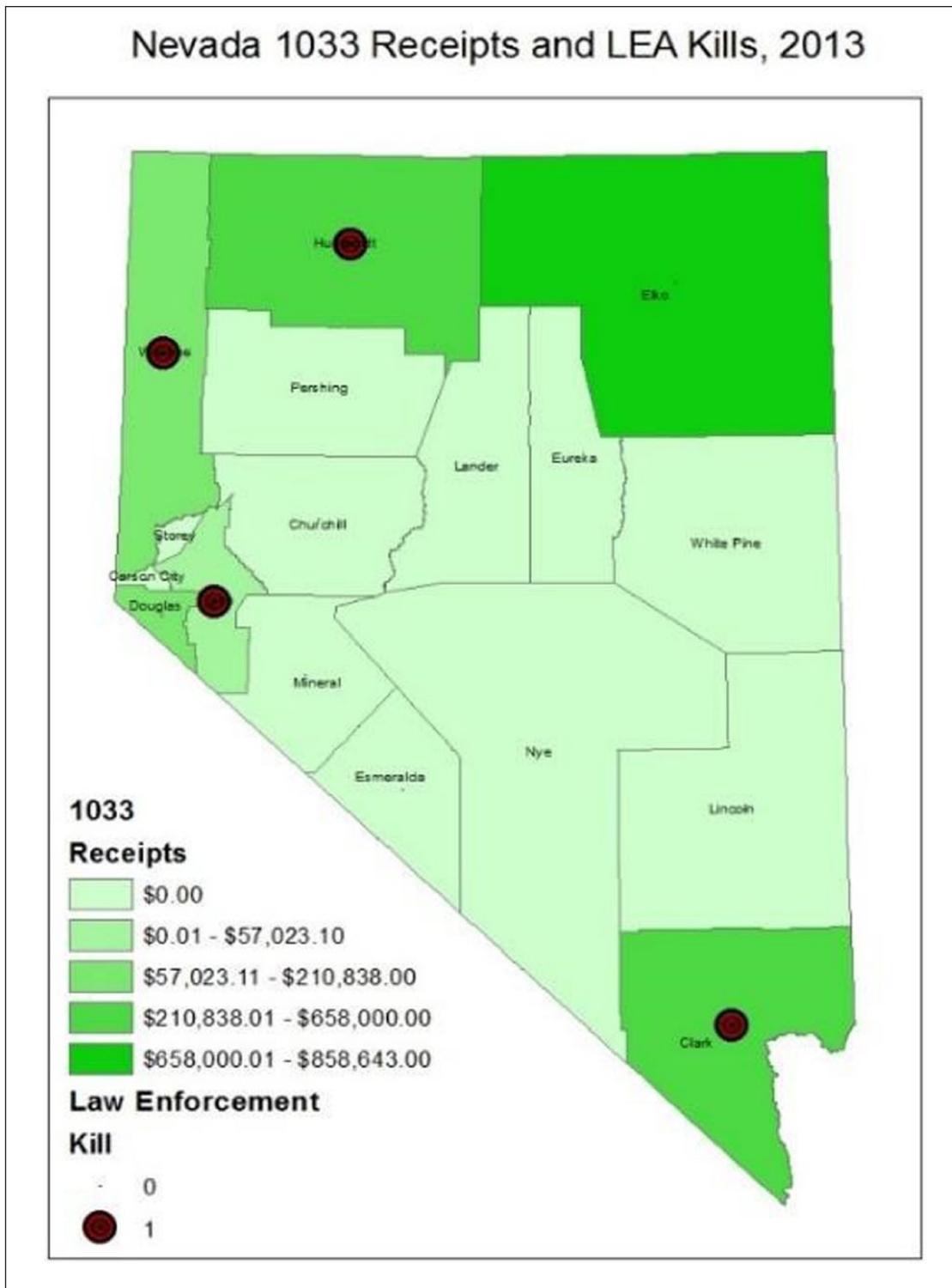


Figure 1. The relationship between 1033 transfers and law enforcement agency killings in Nevada counties in 2013. Map created in ArcMap 10.4 (Esri, 2016). Darker green counties received more military equipment. Those counties with a bullseye experienced at least one killing.

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: *** $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.05$; * $p < 0.1$.

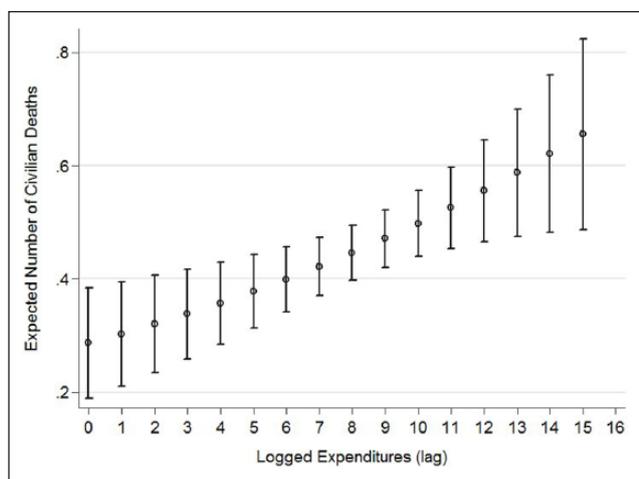


Figure 2. Expected number of killings over the range of the explanatory variable with 90% confidence intervals. All other variables held at their means.

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

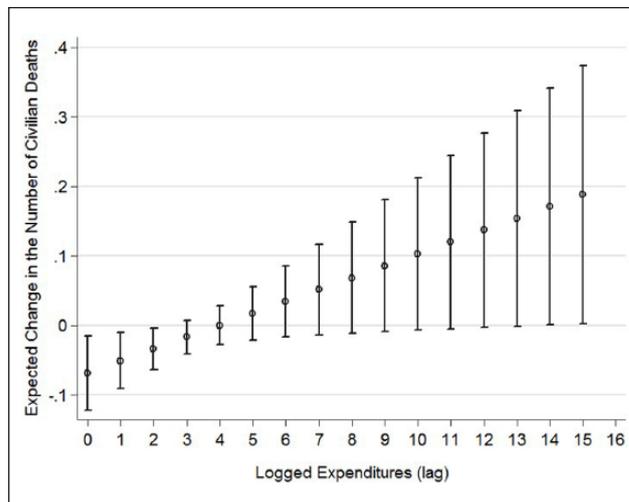


Figure 3. Expected change in killings over the range of the explanatory variable with 90% confidence intervals. All other variables held at their means.

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.

Funding

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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: Sarah Stallard

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 11:15 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We do not want more guns in the hands of rangers! We do not need Griffith Park Rangers to be holding weapons, we need them to be caring for the land. Weapons do not help them do that in any way.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 12:25 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I have recently learned of Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino's proposal to change city rules to allow park rangers to carry guns, arguing that it would better protect both rangers and parkgoers. As a citizen of Los Angeles, I want to publicly oppose this proposal. It is my understanding from the state park rangers job description that they are to be "sworn State park peace officers." It is also my understanding that "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." I am opposed to a park ranger carrying a deadly firearm. The Los Angeles hills are vast and oftentimes secluded and dark. There are residential neighborhoods and homes that butt up against parks. I believe if we were to allow park rangers to be armed there will be more deaths to citizens and innocent people than there will be to park rangers. I believe the true "risk" to park rangers can be dealt with by non-lethal means and non-lethal firearms. Please when considering this proposal review what the true need of a lethal weapon is and DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO PASS.

Communication from Public

Name: Sherrill

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 12:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a Los Angeles resident and avid outdoor enthusiast, I'm protesting the motion to arm Griffith Park rangers with handguns. This motion would bring more violence to our parks. Why would the city want to further endanger it's citizens who enjoy it's public spaces and parks for well being, physical and mental? It's reckless and completely unnecessary for rangers to possess and use handguns in our city parks. De-escalation training for rangers would better serve them and our citizens. Do not pass this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Quinn

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 12:30 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the city of Los Angeles, I want to express my extreme disagreement with the motion to arm Griffith Park Rangers. Not only should the police force be disarmed and defunded, but there should be no further escalation of violence by giving guns to park rangers. Deescalation training would better serve the citizens of LA who want to enjoy the parks and not be confronted by armed rangers when doing so.

Communication from Public

Name: Sara

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 12:30 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a Los Angeles resident, I urge you to not pass the motion to arm Griffith Park rangers with handguns. Park rangers do not face any danger that would require them to hurt or kill another human being. De-escalation training would better serve them & our citizens.

Communication from Public

Name: Lily Ontiveros

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 01:04 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the city of Los Angeles, I want to express my disagreement with the motion to arm Griffith Park park rangers. The police force should be defunded and disarmed and there should be no further escalation of violence by giving guns to park rangers. Deescalation training would better serve the citizens of LA who want to enjoy the parks without the fear of being confronted by armed park rangers when doing do.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 01:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the city of Los Angeles, I want to express my extreme disagreement with the motion to arm Griffith Park Rangers. Not only should the police force be disarmed and defunded, but there should be no further escalation of violence by giving guns to park rangers. Deescalation training would better serve the citizens of LA who want to enjoy the park and not be confronted with armed rangers while doing so.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 01:45 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a Los Angeles resident I would like to voice my disgust and concern for the proposition to arm Griffith park rangers. It is EXTREMELY dangerous to arm our park rangers, especially considering the gross use of excessive force by LAPD and the disproportionate mistreatment of black and brown people by officers. Having park rangers armed would put black and brown visitors in immediate danger, and would be a huge misstep in the direction of our city. The world is watching you right now, do NOT pass this ridiculous and unnecessary proposition. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Justin Loeb
Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 02:00 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: This is a terrible idea. Totally unnecessary, absolutely no upside. Oppose.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 03:16 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Now more than ever, Angelenos need a place to feel safe. In the wake of COVID 19, our outdoor spaces are precious. Seeing the physical presence of rangers with guns in a park does not promote that feeling. It, in fact, does the exact opposite. In communities that have black and Latinx populations, parks and other public open spaces are at a premium. According to a the Sentencing Project's 2018 report to the United Nations, there is a "racial disparity that pervades the U.S. criminal justice system, and for African Americans in particular. African Americans are more likely than white Americans to be arrested; once arrested, they are more likely to be convicted; and once convicted, and they are more likely to experience lengthy prison sentences. African-American adults are 5.9 times as likely to be incarcerated than whites and Hispanics are 3.1 times as likely." According to a study published in January 2020 by the Giffords Law Center, entitled "In Pursuit of Peace: Building Police-Community Trust to Break the Cycle of Violence", people of color, disproportionately, feel the effects of gun violence. In 2016, according to the study, "violence was responsible for 20% of deaths among young Hispanic men and boys ages 15 to 24...Violence was responsible for more than half of all deaths among young black men and boys the same age." As a result, a mother of a black teenager was "as likely to lose her son to violence as every other cause combined." This includes "every medical condition, cancer, virus, and infection, every act of nature, suicide, and car crash, every drug, toxin, and opioid, every fall, fire, drowning, choking, and accident. Combined." The aforementioned statistic is the national average. Per the study, "in poorer, segregated city neighborhoods where violence is most heavily concentrated, violence is responsible for an even larger majority of deaths. This violence is almost exclusively gun violence." People color also make up a disproportionate part of the homeless population. African Americans make up 13% of the general population according to census data. However, 21% percent of people living in poverty in the United States are black, according to census data. According to a 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, African Americans account for 40% of of the homeless population and 50% of all homeless families with children. Latinos make up 22%

of the homeless population but represent 18% of the general population. These statistics clearly show that people of color, who are already at a disadvantage because of the lack of public spaces, would be put further at risk by arming park rangers. Doing so is not the way to encourage more people to visit the park. Please consider who you believe you are truly protecting with this CFN.

Communication from Public

Name: AP

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 03:51 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events especially, it is unfathomable that park rangers be armed with weapons. We are in for a long and difficult economic recovery that will leave permanent scars on so many. Please find something more constructive to do with precious funds - our children need positive structures and support systems. They don't need more "officials" to "protect" them.

Communication from Public

Name: Kaveri Nair
Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 04:38 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: We don't need park rangers to have guns!

Communication from Public

Name: Nusrat Ganberg
Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 06:56 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I'm an LA resident of Council District 14 writing to express my strong opposition to Councilmember Buscaino's motion to arm park rangers. These recent nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd and the ongoing crisis of racist police brutality all over this country have managed to once again put a spotlight on the rampant abuses of the militarized LAPD. The officers' excessive force repeatedly caught on camera this week alone has shown their total inability to prioritize public safety, failing to engage appropriately with even peaceful protesters. If our heavily-armed police force is not making our communities safer, then why would we commit to making the same mistakes in our parks? The argument that the increased presence of unhoused people in city parks presents a public safety risk worth arming rangers is ridiculous, when unhoused people (especially black and brown ones) are vastly more likely to be the victims of violent crime than the perpetrators. How many unhoused people have been known to carry firearms? Why is the availability and addition of lethal force in the hands of more law enforcement the answer when our society is understanding the effects of escalation of violence means black people are at the receiving end? Why would we spend more of the city's budget to solve a problem that doesn't even exist, while increasing the likelihood of any confrontation to turn deadly? The city needs to put its funds towards making all of its residents safer, and we can do that by housing people, providing stable employment, funding education and social services, and reducing interactions with an incompetent and terrorizing police force—not by creating a new one in our parks. The answer is not more aggression, the answer is putting these funds towards housing resources and towards public services. We hope that you can see, at this time more than ever, why this move is going backwards.

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer Vecchiarello
Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 08:31 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I have recently learned of Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino's proposal to change city rules to allow park rangers to carry guns, arguing that it would better protect both rangers and parkgoers. As a citizen of Los Angeles and a resident of the community of Atwater Village which sits adjacent to our beautiful Griffith Park, I want to publicly oppose this proposal. It is my understanding from the state park rangers job description that they are to be "sworn State park peace officers." I am opposed to a park ranger carrying a deadly firearm. The Los Angeles hills are vast and oftentimes secluded and dark. There are residential neighborhoods and homes that butt up against the park. I believe if we were to allow park rangers to be armed there will be more deaths to citizens and innocent people than there will be to park rangers. Last but not least, every record shows that guns in the hands of public officials disproportionately endanger our BIPOC communities. I believe the true "risk" to park rangers can be dealt with by non-lethal means and non-lethal firearms. Please when considering this proposal review what the true need of a lethal weapon is and **DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO PASS.**

Communication from Public

Name: N.S.

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 08:36 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the city of Los Angeles, I want to express my extreme disagreement with the motion to arm Griffith Park Rangers. Angelenos are already fighting to defund and disarm the police force. We will not stop. The whole country is fighting for it. To have your park rangers armed would be a tremendous mistake and likely cause for further civil unrest. The current motion released by Nury Martinez still leaves the LAPD with 51% of the city's unrestricted revenues necessary to allocate towards human-centered services such as housing, healthcare, mental health, schools, transportation, rent suspension & cancellation, etc. The systematic racism to keep marginalized groups oppressed and in poverty (as Black Americans encompass 42% of the city's un-housed) should not be further instilled with the threat of being shot by law enforcement. Especially as last year alone, nationally, police killed 1004 people with Black Americans being 2.5 times more likely to be victims than White Americans. Not only should police force be disarmed and defunded, but there should be no further escalation of violence by giving guns to park rangers. This is a clearly misguided approach. De-escalation training would more efficiently and safely serve them as well as the citizen of LA. Parks should remain peaceful. If rangers are armed, it will only be a catalyst fear and violence. Please protect the Angelenos who have been failed by this system and AT LEAST let them find some peace in the parks as we fight to get budget funds re-allocated towards better housing for them. Please DO NOT approve this motion and further harm an already vulnerable community.

Communication from Public

Name: Mo Goodfellow
Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 10:04 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I want to express my absolute disagreement with the motion to arm Griffith Park Rangers. Giving guns to rangers will do nothing but escalate the amount of violence within the community. Deescalation training would better serve the citizens and redirecting funds toward programs that serve the mental and emotional health/wellbeing of the community would better serve the fight to end violence. The presence of armed rangers will not make people feel safer in the park. Instead, it will only cause the rangers to be a threatening presence.

Communication from Public

Name: Abigail

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 11:35 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am Los Angeles resident. I grew up here, I remember going to the zoo, the Autry museum, Shakespeare in the Park, all wonderful facilities in Griffith Park. I would like to voice my concern for the proposition to arm Los Angeles park rangers. We do not need more armed law enforcement in LA. It is EXTREMELY dangerous to arm our park rangers, especially considering the gross use of excessive force by LAPD and the disproportionate mistreatment of black and brown people by officers. Arming park rangers would put black and brown visitors in immediate danger, and would be a huge misstep in the direction of our city. We do not need this in LA. We do not need guns in our parks. The world is watching you right now, please do NOT pass this ridiculous and unnecessary proposition. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Ali Jepson

Date Submitted: 06/05/2020 11:43 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Where is the evidence that arming park rangers is beneficial to anybody? There is absolutely no record of any criminal activity in the park areas that would justify the need for park rangers to be armed. There is, on the other hand plenty of evidence that guns in the hands of public officials disproportionately endanger our BIPOC communities. In this case in fact this motion would be putting everyone in danger. Our children play in these parks! Adding guns to this is the opposite of making me or my family feel safer.

Communication from Public

Name: Kayla Andersen
Date Submitted: 06/06/2020 10:31 AM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming LA park rangers is a step in the wrong direction for the community of Los Angeles. In a world where marginalized communities are constantly at risk of a fatal armed encounters, arming park rangers will only increase the likelihood of more armed encounters, more injury, and more death. The protests around the country and in this county have demonstrated that violent responses occur in non-violent circumstances. Arming park rangers would only put more people at risk. Instead of arming park rangers I implore the LA City Council to propose and consider legislation to cut to the core of the key societal issues that led to the desire to arm the rangers - homelessness and mental health. With a better societal response to the homelessness crisis, the homeless camps near our parks can be eliminated, and with them, the increased risk to property felt by those living near the parks can be eliminated as well. People's lives are more important than property or property values and I wholeheartedly oppose arming LA park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Erinn Hayes

Date Submitted: 06/06/2020 11:25 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers is one of the most misguided and dumbest things I have ever heard. Do not go forward with this. We need to work as a nation and as communities to end gun violence in every way, creating less space in the world for violent encounters.

Communication from Public

Name: Madeline Baer

Date Submitted: 06/06/2020 01:08 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I have recently learned of Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino's proposal to change city rules to allow park rangers to carry guns, arguing that it would better protect both rangers and parkgoers. As a citizen of Los Angeles and a resident of the community of Los Feliz which sits below our beautiful Griffith Park, I want to publicly oppose this proposal. It is my understanding from the state park rangers job description that they are to be "sworn State park peace officers." It is also my understanding that "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." Not only do I disagree with deadly firearms being carried by our police force, but I am even more opposed to a park ranger carrying a deadly firearm. The Los Angeles hills are vast and oftentimes secluded and dark. There are residential neighborhoods and homes that butt up against the park. I believe if we were to allow park rangers to be armed there will be more deaths to citizens and innocent people than there will be to park rangers. I believe the true "risk" to park rangers can be dealt with by non-lethal means and non-lethal firearms. Please when considering this proposal review what the true need of a lethal weapon is and DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO PASS.

Communication from Public

Name: Amy

Date Submitted: 06/06/2020 01:56 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We're in the middle of a deadly pandemic and a centuries long civil rights oppression of black & Americans, coming to a head all at once. The LAST thing the City of Los Angeles should do right now is to issues guns to Park Rangers. There is absolutely no reason for it, and you will 100% make the current climate more hostile, not less. While LA City Council member Joe Buscaino may think this is a reasonable request, he is clearly coming from a place of fear, and acting on fear with a lethal weapon in your hand can easily lead to countless more deaths. LA Parks are a place of refuge for everyone, and this unnecessary motion will make the diverse population of LA feel unsafe in a place where they should feel welcome anytime. Please do not enact Council File Number 20-0190.

Communication from Public

Name: Liz Blair
Date Submitted: 06/06/2020 04:17 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I don't believe Park Rangers should be armed. I believe that more education in the area of de-escalation through non violent tactics is more appropriate.

Communication from Public

Name: Dawn Burkhardt

Date Submitted: 06/06/2020 07:59 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I completely disagree with the motion to arm park rangers. This would only increase the odds of violence and tragedy, with escalation when none is necessary. Expanding the number of rangers, having them travel in pairs perhaps, providing them with extensive education on mental illness and conflict resolution, and using other methods of increasing their safety would be better ideas. Everyone wants our public spaces to be safe, and introducing lethally armed enforcement is not the path to safety.

Communication from Public

Name: Christina Pederson

Date Submitted: 06/06/2020 08:17 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: There is no reason for our park rangers to be armed. Armed enforcement disproportionately negatively impacts people of color in our communities. We need to be DISARMING our police, not adding armor to our park rangers. This is a horrible idea.

Communication from Public

Name: S. Chang

Date Submitted: 06/06/2020 09:42 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: My family and I strongly oppose this motion. While understanding the feeling of safety this brings for park rangers, it actually perpetuates an unsafer situation for the communities park rangers are protecting. Arming park rangers and the continuation of police militarization has led to a dangerous space for our communities of color. History and experience tells us that this change will only result in more lethal confrontations, and doesn't fix the root problem. As a taxpayer, I would rather have our city focus efforts on solutions that work - social support systems and housing assistance so that people do not end up homeless in our city parks with nowhere else to turn.

Communication from Public

Name: Sasha Boaz

Date Submitted: 06/06/2020 11:02 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: It is absolutely unacceptable to arm park rangers. Guns escalate situations, and there are many non-lethal options. I wouldn't condone weapons of any kind. Instead of arming rangers, we need to invest in public support programs so that if there are issues with problematic citizens in the park, professional helpers can be called. The People's Budget LA is a plan of action to build the community instead of tearing it apart with disproportionately violent responses. In addition, the state park rangers job description is to be "sworn State park peace officers." Furthermore, "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." Not only do I disagree with deadly firearms being carried by our police force, but I am even more opposed to a park ranger carrying a deadly firearm. The Los Angeles hills are vast and oftentimes secluded and dark. There are residential neighborhoods and homes that butt up against the park. I believe if we were to allow park rangers to be armed there will be more deaths to citizens and innocent people than there will be to park rangers. I believe the true "risk" to park rangers can be dealt with by non-lethal means and non-lethal firearms. Please when considering this proposal review what the true need of a lethal weapon is and **DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO PASS.**

Communication from Public

Name: Charlie Burke

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 12:04 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Demanding that park sheriffs do NOT be armed with guns as requested by Joe Buscaino. This is entirely irresponsible and unwarranted. This puts unnecessary power in their hands, which as we have seen, has the potential for lethal consequences, especially for people of color.

Communication from Public

Name: Lauren

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 12:08 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, My name is Lauren Jeworski and I live in Los Angeles. Park rangers DO NOT need to be armed. It puts so many people, including the homeless at risk. This should not be passed as it puts more of our citizens in danger

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 12:15 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I don't support this.

Communication from Public

Name: Leona Johnson

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 12:23 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am commenting as to urge you to detest Joe Buscaino's motion to arm park rangers. This would be extremely dangerous for the homeless community and low income workers. National and state parks are safe public spaces for people to explore and live, often a home for the houseless and a resource for those with less resources. I urge you to not let this motion go into effect as it would endanger the safe, unpolitical, and resourceful nature of parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Adam Faze

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 12:28 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: If there's anything we learned over the last seven days, it's that sending armed forces in situations where it's not needed does nothing but ESCALATE situations and in many cases leads to death. These are PARK RANGERS we are talking about. The LAST thing they need are guns. Park rangers are who children look up to to learn about the very nature that surrounds us. How horrible for those same kids to now be scared of them because they're carrying a lethal weapon for no reason whatsoever.

Communication from Public

Name: Foster Wilson

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 01:02 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I have recently learned of Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino's proposal to change city rules to allow park rangers to carry guns, arguing that it would better protect both rangers and parkgoers. As a citizen of Los Angeles and a resident of the community of Eagle Rock which sits near our beautiful Griffith Park, I want to publicly oppose this proposal. It is my understanding from the state park rangers job description that they are to be "sworn State park peace officers." It is also my understanding that "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." My young 3-year-old daughter attends a weekly playgroup in Griffith Park. I can't tell you how unnecessary and unsafe it would be for the lovely park rangers that she sees on a daily basis to be carrying deadly firearms. Not only do I disagree with firearms being carried by our police force, but I am even more opposed to a park ranger carrying a deadly firearm. The Los Angeles hills are vast and oftentimes secluded and dark. There are residential neighborhoods and homes that butt up against the park. I believe if we were to allow park rangers to be armed there will be more deaths to citizens and innocent people than there will be to park rangers. I believe the true "risk" to park rangers can be dealt with by non-lethal means and non-lethal firearms. Please when considering this proposal review what the true need of a lethal weapon is and DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO PASS."

Communication from Public

Name: Mia Cardenas

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 08:46 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am commenting as to urge to detest Joe Buscaino's motion to arm park rangers. This would be extremely dangerous for the homeless community, and low income workers, putting them at great risk. National and public parks and spaces should serve as a safe space and resource for those who lack resources. I urge you to not let this motion go into order.

Communication from Public

Name: Bailey king

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 08:47 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am commenting to strongly detest joe Buscaino motion to arm park rangers. This would be extremely dangerous for the homeless community and low income workers. Baptismal and state parks are a safe place for people to live and roam around. Often a home for house less and a resource for those with less resources. I urge you to not let this moron go

Communication from Public

Name: Allison Chrzanowski

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 08:50 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I have recently learned there is a proposal for Los Angeles park rangers to carry guns — this is an incredibly dangerous and unnecessarily move that I believe would put my family, who frequents trails and parks, and many others at great risk. Please do not change the rules to allow rangers to carry guns.

Communication from Public

Name: Olivia Wilkey

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 08:54 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly detest that you do not arm park rangers. National parks are safe places and serve as homes for thousands of homeless people, and frankly this would be putting their lives at risk. Do not let this motion pass. The park remains a resource for the less fortunate, and arming park rangers will defeat the purpose of what parks stand for from the beginning.

Communication from Public

Name: Kimiko Singer

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 09:25 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: It has been brought to my attention that Councilman Joe Buscaino is trying to pass a motion to arm park rangers. I am writing to implore you to deny this motion as it would put the homeless population at risk and if the Black Lives Matter movement has proven anything is that we need LESS armed forces and more community systems in place to provide support and above all SAFETY. Parks are supposed to be a space to feel free and enjoy nature. I do not think it would be useful to make one of the few spaces one can feel an escape into yet another environment where people feel on guard.

Communication from Public

Name: Adriana Yochelson

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 09:34 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am commenting to urge you do not pass Councilman Joe Buscaino's proposal for arming park rangers. This is a dangerous sentiment that puts civilians, especially homeless people and minors, at risk. The people of Los Angeles will not stand for this and the purpose of national and state parks will be diminished.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 09:56 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers should not be armed!...We will then have Park Police! They don't even want to be armed as this then changes their job into a possible volatile one. Please let's not do this as many people feel safe and happy exploring Parks . Also the homeless will be at much greater risk I believe.

Communication from Public

Name: Lauren D.

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 10:22 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a concerned resident of Los Angeles, I am diametrically opposed to arming park rangers. We already have a sufficiently armed LAPD that these stewards of public spaces should be able to call upon in the rare instances where they might perceive a threat. I am an avid hiker and would feel very unsafe knowing that there are gun-wielding rangers patrolling our public spaces and trails. More harm would come from this than good. Please seriously consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Daren Hiltunen
Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 11:37 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Guns kill people

Communication from Public

Name: William Van Zandt
Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 11:41 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I demand this doesn't happen, as it puts homeless citizens at risk for harm. There is no need for Park Rangers to be armed.

Communication from Public

Name: Jordan lam

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 11:59 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming Park Rangers will disproportionately harm unhoused people in our communities. This is a step in the wrong direction and will only further problems we have by arming police.

Communication from Public

Name: Madeline Sloan
Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 12:09 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Councilman Joe Buscaino is trying to pass a motion to arm park rangers. This CANNOT happen! It would put homeless people at risk and is an outrageous proposal!

Communication from Public

Name: Marley

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 12:10 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We cannot arm park rangers. This only puts the public in more danger and especially puts homeless populations in danger. There is absolutely no reason to arm park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Adriana Melara

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 12:13 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I am writing to demand councilman Joe Buscaino does not pass his motion to arm park rangers. There is absolutely no reason for a park ranger to be armed. How can we even be sure that these rangers will receive the proper de-escalation training that LAPD officers are just now being required to receive? Arming not only puts many innocent homeless in possible danger by a scared and under trained park ranger, but also puts more black and brown children, teenagers, and adults in danger. You will have another brutality issue on your hands with park rangers if you pass this motion. I and many other Americans seriously urge you to NOT pass this motion!! Sincerely, Adriana Melara

Communication from Public

Name: Kelvin Deleon

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 12:20 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE DO NOT ARM YOUR PARK RANGERS. We do not need any more accidents. This is not the solution. Guns are very problematic to our society. DO NOT ARM YOUR PARK RANGERS.

Communication from Public

Name: Jesse
Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 01:04 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am commenting as to urge you to detest Joe Buscaino's motion to arm park rangers. This would be extremely dangerous for the homeless community and low income workers. National and state parks are safe public spaces for people to explore and live, often a home for the houseless and providing opportunity/access for those with less resources. I urge you to not let this motion go into effect as it would endanger the safe, unpolitical, and resourceful nature of parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Ella Jayes

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 01:15 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This is putting homeless people at risk!!! No more violence.

Communication from Public

Name: Tyler Burke
Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 02:52 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I am writing to voice my opposition to the motion for arming park rangers. This puts our unhoused community at greater risk and wastes tax payer money on weapons and training.

Communication from Public

Name: Armando Ballesteros

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 03:15 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't arm Park Rangers while they're on duty. Our society already has too many guns in it. We don't need to arm more people, especially if our taxes are paying for it.

Communication from Public

Name: Natasha Sill

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 04:22 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the city of Los Angeles, I want to express my extreme disagreement with the motion to arm Griffith Park Rangers. Angelenos are already fighting to defund and disarm the police force. We will not stop. The whole country is fighting for it. To have your park rangers armed would be a tremendous mistake and likely cause for further civil unrest. The current motion released by Nury Martinez still leaves the LAPD with 51% of the city's unrestricted revenues necessary to allocate towards human-centered services such as housing, healthcare, mental health, schools, transportation, rent suspension & cancellation, etc. The systemic racism to keep marginalized groups oppressed and in poverty (as Black Americans encompass 42% of the city's un-housed) can not be continued further with the threat of being shot by law enforcement. Especially as last year alone, nationally, police killed 1004 people with Black Americans being 2.5 times more likely to be victims than White Americans. Not only should police force be disarmed and defunded, but there should be no further escalation of violence by giving guns to park rangers. This is a clearly misguided approach. De-escalation training would more efficiently and safely serve them as well as the citizen of LA. Parks should remain peaceful. If rangers are armed, it will only be a catalyst fear and violence. Please protect the Angelenos who have been failed by this system and AT LEAST let them find some peace in the parks as we fight to get budget funds re-allocated towards better housing for them. Please DO NOT approve this motion and do any further harm an already vulnerable community. I hope the flood of comments are not just seen but heard. Your Angelenos have expressed their extreme disagreement. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Evan Farrar

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 05:14 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hello! I believe that no officers (park or LAPD) should carry lethal weapons. If park rangers are feeling threatened by homeless people city council should house the homeless people. We will lose more money settling lawsuits and inevitably buying our officers tanks and helicopters than we'd ever spend to house & care for homeless people.

Communication from Public

Name: Allison Martin

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 06:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents this weekend and consistently in its past history , I think that we ought to be vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. It creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. The argument from neighborhood councils and property owners appear to be that they trust park rangers because they are trained in the same manner as the LAPD, which is a terrifying notion held by people trying to protect their property values. I think the behavior of the LAPD in recent days makes it intensely clear that their unnecessarily punitive methods cannot be trusted. We need to defund policing systems and move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community, but for right now, we should absolutely not arm park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Oliver Martin

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 06:29 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light catastrophic amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents this weekend and consistently in its past history , we must be vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. It creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. The argument from neighborhood councils and property owners appear to be that they trust park rangers because they are trained in the same manner as the LAPD, which is a terrifying notion held by people trying to protect their property values. I think the behavior of the LAPD in recent days and its consistent track record of harming marginalized peoples with unnecessary violence makes it intensely clear that their unnecessarily punitive methods cannot be trusted. We need to defund policing systems and move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community, but for right now, we should absolutely not arm park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/07/2020 09:27 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am vehemently opposed to providing park rangers with guns. Los Angeles needs to be moving to demilitarize it's services, rather than increasing the potential for harm-as guns would do. Providing rangers with guns furthers the potential for danger to marginalized groups at the hands of park rangers and creates an unsafe climate in our parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Joelle Monique Smith

Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 11:33 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: There is absolutely no reason for Park Rangers to be carrying guns in Los Angeles, when out police force, who are supposed to be trained in de-escalation, have shown how deadly these weapons are to the citizens of Los Angeles. A park ranger does not need deadly force. Look to event all over this country where Black individuals are murdered for being in the park, for being out at night, their very presence deemed a threat before they have an opportunity to identify themselves. If you care at all for the citizens of LA, please do not allow this amendment to be passed.
Thank You, Joelle Smith