

Committees:

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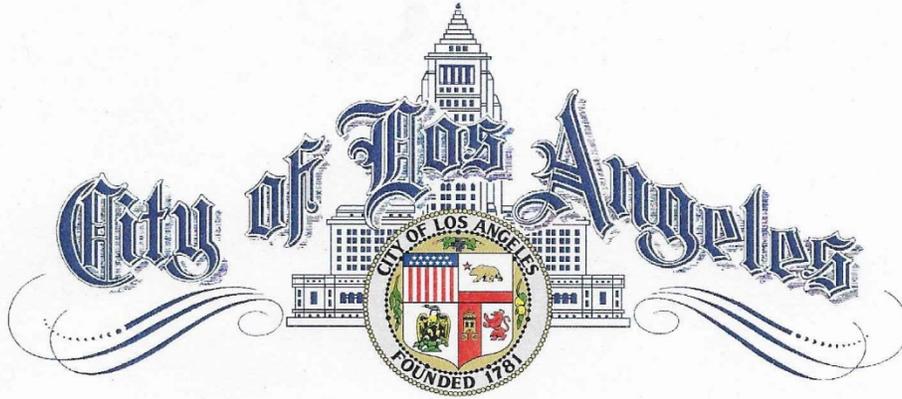
Energy, Climate Change,
Environmental Justice
and River

Public Works

Ad Hoc Committee
on 2028 Olympics
and Paralympics Games

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September 6, 2021

Honorable Members of Los Angeles City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 20-0190 – Arming Park Rangers While On-Duty

Dear Colleagues:

Assigned to the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Los Angeles Park Rangers are sworn public safety officers who put their lives on the line daily to protect and serve the residents utilizing our City's parks and recreation centers. These Rangers are recognized as full law enforcement officers under state law, are POST certified, and have full authority to detain and arrest criminal violators. They receive training alongside and commensurate with the recruits of the Los Angeles Police Department, including training in the use of firearms.

A majority of a Park Ranger's duties are public-safety related. They are first responders to emergencies in our parks, and they are known to have encountered armed assailants, they've been shot at, attacked and accosted with lethal weapons. I strongly believe that when sworn public servants are sent out in a law enforcement capacity, it is our duty to provide them with all the law enforcement tools necessary to protect them when they are put in harm's way. However, unlike with our other law enforcement officers, this has never been the case the City's Park Rangers. The City does not allow them to be armed while on duty, which is a mistake and absolutely unacceptable. We must provide them with the tools necessary to do their jobs in a manner which is consistent with their role as law enforcement officers.

I also believe that not providing our Park Rangers with the proper tools opens the City up to financial liability. Rangers work in an environment where they can experience serious and severe threat of bodily injury daily by assailants with firearms, and it is only a matter of time before a Park Ranger is seriously injured or killed because they cannot appropriately defend themselves.

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The City is fully aware of this dangerous environment in which the Rangers work, and we therefore open ourselves up to legal liability from any harm that may result should one of these Rangers become injured.

For these reasons, I support arming the Los Angeles Park Rangers. This is in the City's best interest and in the interest of public safety. The Park Rangers must have the tools and ability to protect themselves and our residents while they patrol our parks. They have received the necessary training to do so. We must all stand for logical policies and this certainly is one of them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Koretz".

PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District