

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to instructing the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to release all vehicles impounded during the recent civil unrest without requiring payments from vehicle owners.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Bonin - Harris-Dawson - Ryu):

1. INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to work with the City's Official Police Garages (OPG) to release all vehicles impounded during the recent civil unrest without requiring payments from vehicle owners whose cars were towed due to only curfew violations with any costs incurred by the OPGs as a result of this action to be paid for by the LAPD.
2. DIRECT the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and LAPD to identify a source of funds from the Los Angeles City Budget that can be pay for the costs as detailed above in Recommendation No. 1 and report with their findings..
3. REFER this matter, along with any reports submitted to Council in response to Recommendation No. 2, to the Budget and Finance Committee.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On June 25, 2020, your Committee considered a Motion (Bonin - Harris-Dawson - Ryu) relative to instructing the LAPD to work with the OPG to release all vehicles impounded during the recent civil unrest without requiring payments from vehicle owners, but instead, any costs incurred by the OPGs as a result of this action paid by the LAPD. According to the Motion, on May 29, 2020, massive protests began across the City in response to the death of George Floyd. On May 30, the Mayor declared a local State of Emergency and imposed a City-wide curfew in response to reported incidents of looting, vandalism, and arson during the protests. As the LAPD responded to these protests, officers impound a number of vehicles owned by protesters. While these actions may have been required during the protests, impounding vehicles imposes a serious financial burden on individuals whose cars were taken while they were exercising their First Amendment rights. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has decimated the local economy and resulted in record unemployment, further straining the average Angelino's finances. The LAPD should work with the OPG to release any vehicles that have been impounded during the protests, without the vehicles' owners being forced to pay the fees. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion as detailed in the above recommendation. Also, the Committee moved to further recommend that the waiving of fees only apply to those vehicle owners who were solely in violation of the curfew violations. Finally, the Committee moved to recommend that the LAPD and CAO be directed to identify funding sources in the Budget for payment of costs to the OPG as a result of this action. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEMBER VOTE

RODRIGUEZ:

O'FARRELL:

BUSCAINO:

RYU:

LEE:

ARL

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-