

Communication from Public

Name: LIONEL MARES

Date Submitted: 03/06/2026 09:44 PM

Council File No: 20-0875

Comments for Public Posting: Hon. Chair and Members of the Committee, Today's discussion underscored something our communities have been saying for years: pretextual stops are not a neutral enforcement tool — they are a source of real harm, especially for people of color. During public comment, we heard residents describe fear, humiliation, and the lasting trauma that comes from being stopped for minor or manufactured reasons that have nothing to do with genuine public safety. Community members shared experiences of being pulled over not because of a legitimate threat, but because of discretionary decisions that disproportionately target Black and Latino Angelenos. These encounters erode trust, damage relationships between residents and the City, and reinforce the perception that certain communities are treated as inherently suspicious. If our goal is crisis prevention, community well-being, and equitable public safety, then we must acknowledge the lived reality of these harms. Pretextual stops do not build safety — they undermine it. They divert resources away from true crisis response and deepen racial disparities that this City has a responsibility to address. I urge the Committee to continue examining alternatives that reduce unnecessary police contact, prioritize unarmed crisis response, and center the dignity and safety of all Angelenos. Thank you.