

Communication from Public

Name: Black Planners of Los Angeles (BPLA)
Date Submitted: 05/04/2026 11:07 PM
Council File No: 20-0875
Comments for Public Posting: BPLA Supports Transportation Policy Objectives / Alternative Models and Methods / Unarmed Law Enforcement



Email:
Black.Planners.LA@gmail.com
Instagram:
@blackplannersla

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May 4, 2026

Re: Council File Number 20-0875

Dear Honorable Member of the Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of the Black Planners of Los Angeles, I am writing to express our strong support for reexamining policing strategies that rely on pretextual stops, where minor infractions are used as a basis for broader investigative action.

These practices raise serious concerns regarding fairness, consistency, and accountability in law enforcement. For decades, these strategies have strained community relationships, eroded public trust, and disproportionately impacted underserved communities. Public safety strategies must not rely on pretextual enforcement; instead, they should be grounded in clear, narrowly defined purposes that avoid blurring the line between routine enforcement and investigative activity.

Policing practices must be transparent, consistently applied, and directly tied to legitimate public safety concerns. Strengthening oversight and clearly defining the limits of pretextual stop practices are essential steps toward ensuring equitable treatment and rebuilding trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Ongoing evaluation and reform are critical to improving both accountability and community relationships.

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd in 2020, BPLA created a "Framework and Action Plan for Transformative Planning in the City of Los Angeles." The action plan is intended to serve as a living, grassroots document that reflects the values and principles of local, Black professionals in the field of urban planning. A key goal of this action plan is reimagining public safety through community investment.

We urge meaningful action on this issue, including prohibiting the use of pretextual stops, as part of broader efforts to create a fair and effective public safety system. We also support continued dialogue and community engagement around policing practices that prioritize accountability, clarity of purpose, and respect for individual rights while maintaining public safety. Thank you for your continued work in supporting informed discussion and community well-being.

In Power,

Kyle Winston, President
Black Planners of Los Angeles