

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The Honorable Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Members:

The Committee requested comments on the Mayor's Proposed Budget for discussing its impacts on the Los Angeles Police Department (Department). After two years of weathering through the COVID Pandemic that has tested us all physically, emotionally and economically, we are grateful for the Mayor's Proposed Budget which places the Department on a path towards restoring services to the community and provides the resources necessary to address the challenges of rising crime caused by a brazen criminal element. Violent crime, property crime and homicides are all up over last year and up even more drastically compared to two years ago.

The economic realities of the pandemic and the changing dynamic of the workforce have created a smaller LAPD and the Department is thankful for the opportunity to expand its ranks and create a more diverse and equitable workforce of sworn and civilian employees. The inclusion of funding for diversity recruitment is crucial to meeting the sworn hiring plan included in the budget, as is funding for the Personnel Department to guide candidates through the testing and background process to get sworn applicants into the Police Academy and civilian applicants into critical public safety classifications, such as Police Service Representative, Detention Officer, Property Officer and Security Officer.

The Mayor's Proposed Budget also fully funds the Department's sworn overtime needs. The proposed budget provides overtime sufficient to provide for realignment of personnel for criminal investigations, the reopening of courts, increased public activities as COVID subsidies, and includes specific programs such as combatting human trafficking, A Bridge Home, Vision Zero and other quality of life issues. Overtime will also be used to address troubling trends such as "smash and grab" and "follow-home" spikes in crime through targeted deployment and special task forces to deter and apprehend perpetrators and bring justice to victims and the community.

During this past year, new initiatives such as the Call Redirection to Ensure Suicide Safety Program and CIRCLE 24/7 Homeless Crisis Response Program have successfully directed those in crisis to appropriate mental health services which do not require the intervention of law enforcement. The expansion of the Gang Reduction and Youth Development program similarly works with community interventionists and ambassadors to reduce the escalation of criminal activity and to redirect youth to programs that provide alternatives to gangs and crime. The redirection of these types of calls allows the Department to focus on its core mission of making Los Angeles a safer City.

The Department is still adjusting to the loss of 269 civilian personnel through the Separation Incentive Program and appreciates the restoration of 102 critical positions in the budget and the addition of nine more resolution authorities. The Department continues to work with the Personnel Department to fill vacant positions in all ranks. Civilians play an essential role in the Department performing a variety of technical, administrative, professional and other support functions that keep the Department functioning.

One of those essential functions is keeping the Department's vehicles on the road. Over the past decade, in conjunction with the City Administrative Officer, the Department has developed several vehicle replacement plans to address the aging fleet, which have historically been funded for a year and then abandoned within a budget cycle. Moving forward, it is the Department's desire to have a consistent vehicle replacement plan which will provide for a more reliable and sustainable fleet. While the Department has begun purchasing hybrid pursuit-rated vehicles, more than 1,400 vehicles have exceeded their age criteria and more than 700 have exceeded their mileage criteria. These aging vehicles are less fuel-efficient, less reliable, and many have reached an age where aging parts are often obsolete and difficult to obtain. The average out-of-service rate for patrol vehicles rose from 11 percent in 2020 to 15 percent in 2021.

Another critical component for the Department's success is the development of new technology and the maintenance of existing hardware and infrastructure. Much of the technology the Department currently uses has reached the end of its useful life and has become obsolete. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the critical systems and support staff that are necessary for the Department to meet these challenges.

While the Department has institutionalized the concepts of the Community Safety Partnership program to build and strengthen trust with our communities, the Department acknowledges that there is more to do. In the aftermath of the civil unrest of 2020, three different after-action reports commissioned by the City Council, Police Commission and the Department itself, identified perishable skills that require a recurrent training cycle to ensure officers can perform at their best during the most stressful situations and provide for the public to safely exercise their First Amendment Rights. The After-Action Implementation Plan was approved by both the Police Commission and the City Council and while we are appreciative of the portions of the Plan that are funded, we believe that the full implementation of the plan is necessary to accomplish the goals that have been established for the Department.

We look forward to discussing these and other issues with the Committee. If you have questions, please contact Assistant Chief Dominic Choi, Director, Office of Support Services at (213) 486-8410.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE
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