

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



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August 10, 2023

The Honorable Public Safety Committee
Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Committee Members:

The Public Safety Committee requested that pursuant to the adoption of the Mayor's 2023-2024 Budget, the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) be instructed to report on the number of helicopters assigned to the Air Support Division (ASD) fleet over the last 20 years, and the reason for the increase in helicopters in recent years.

In 2000, in coordination with the Los Angeles City Administrative Officer, the Mayor and City Council implemented a helicopter replacement program to standardize and modernize its aging fleet of 17 police helicopters (Council File No. 99-2244). The escalating operational costs of the Department's aging fleet brought about a need to develop the current helicopter replacement program. The ideal replacement time is based on the helicopter's total hours flown or years of service. A 15,000 hour or 10-year replacement standard was adopted to minimize the City's liability and cost while maximizing the resale value of Department helicopters.

Older model helicopters cost more to maintain as parts become obsolete and can prolong service times which can impact availability of operable helicopters. To maintain the fleet, ASD replaces outdated and obsolete helicopters on a one-for-one basis, and the replaced helicopters are sent to salvage. Air Support Division adheres to the helicopter replacement strategy cycle, replacing an average of 1.5 helicopters per year.

In addition, any purchases made for the ASD helicopter fleet are in coordination with the City's Department of General Services, who monitors and regulates inventory. The helicopters are routinely serviced by General Services who then determines if and when helicopters are sent to salvage.

The breakdown of fleet helicopters replacements in the last five years is as follows:

| AIR SUPPORT DIVISION Aircraft Replacement 2019-2023 | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Tail Number | Mfg | Model | Year | Age | In-Service Date | Notes |
| N472LA | Airbus | H125 | 2018 | 5 | Jan-2019 | Replaced N230LA AS350B2 on 1/10/2019 |
| N225LA | Airbus | H125 | 2019 | 4 | Nov-2019 | Replaced N232LA AS350B2 on 11/27/2019 |
| N226LA | Airbus | H125 | 2019 | 4 | Dec-2019 | Replaced N233LA AS350 B2 on 12/19/2019 |
| N230LA | Airbus | H125 | 2020 | 3 | Nov-2020 | Replaced N3202Q Bell 206 on 11/04/2020 |
| N224LA | Airbus | H125 | 2022 | 1 | Dec-2022 | Replaced N664PD Bell 206 12/2022 |

In summary, the Department's Air Support Division, maintains 17 helicopters, consistent with the City of Los Angeles' inventory guidelines. To date, there has been no increase to the Department fleet.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Deputy Chief David Kowalski, Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau, at (213) 486-8780.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE
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