

# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

**DOMINIC H. CHOI**  
Chief of Police



**KAREN BASS**  
Mayor

P.O. Box 30158  
Los Angeles, CA 90030  
Telephone: (213) 486-8410  
TTY: (877) 275-5273  
Ref #: 3.5

April 23, 2024

The Honorable Budget, Finance and Innovation 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 and its impacts on the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD/Department). We are grateful for the Mayor's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25 Proposed Budget, which strives to equip the Department with the resources necessary to meet emerging challenges, continue to build trust with all communities, and enhance public safety.

As of April 20, 2024, there has been a decline in Citywide violent crime compared to the corresponding period last year, extending a trend of reduction that commenced before 2023. These ongoing decreases signify a general decline in overall crime, although certain challenges persist, specifically in categories such as homicide, robbery, burglary, and motor vehicle thefts. Additionally, challenges persist with staffing levels across our sworn and civilian workforce. Personnel strength as of pay period ending April 6, 2024, was 8,832 for sworn personnel and 2,645 for civilian professional staff. The last time our sworn and civilian staffing was this low was in the 1990s. As a result of decreased hiring in both our sworn and civilian ranks, the Department has faced various service delays and reductions. These issues include longer wait times for 9-1-1 callers, fewer uniformed personnel leading to extended response times for both urgent and routine service calls, and administrative delays in fiscal management, public records requests, and other essential duties.

We would like to acknowledge the resources provided in the Mayor's FY 2024/25 Proposed Budget and thank the City Administrative Officer and his staff for their partnership in working with the Department to help us address the City's public safety needs.

As requested by the Committee, the proposed allocation will enable the Department to achieve the following critical initiatives:

1. *Continue to Rebuild our Sworn and Civilian Workforce:* Our focus is to continue to restore our workforce levels, enhancing our capacity to maintain essential response times and increase our presence in communities across Los Angeles. The budget provides funding to hire to a force of 8,878 sworn officers, with attrition of 574 officers, and authorizes additional hiring without funding up to a force of 9,084, along with funding for 30 officers returning as part of the Recall (Bounce) program. The Department has seen an increase in the number of applicants in the first three months of 2024. That increase, coupled with the Department's advertising and recruitment efforts, will support our hiring goals as we strive to meet and exceed these numbers during FY 2024/25.

Regarding civilian hiring, the Proposed Budget includes funding for 2,625 positions, with hiring to 288 attrition. Though this marks our lowest staffing levels since before the year 2000, we are optimistic that this will enable us to maximize staffing levels through the Prioritized Critical Hiring (PCH) review process with support from the City family. Meeting or exceeding the civilian hiring goals in the Proposed Budget is essential to providing support to our field officers and ensuring that our services remain effective and responsive to the public.

2. *Sworn Overtime:* The Department appreciates the additional sworn overtime funding essential to maintaining our operational efficacy and supporting impactful initiatives such as the Violent Crime Task Force, which has proven successful in reducing crime rates. These funds are also critical for supporting the homicide divisions' ability to effectively conduct investigations. Furthermore, the Department increasingly depends on overtime to maintain minimum patrol staffing and address end-of-watch requirements, both of which have intensified due to reduced staffing levels. We recognize the need to effectively manage the overtime throughout the year, which is critical to the operations of the Department and the safety of our communities.
3. *Community Safety Partnership:* The Proposed Budget includes approximately \$1.0 million for program expense funding, overtime and vehicles to expand the Community Safety Partnership program to Gilbert Lindsey Park and continue it at Algin Sutton Park. This will expand the Department's relationship-based policing model that has proven effective in building public trust and reducing crime.
4. *Fleet Management:* The budget supports fleet lifecycle replacement, crucial for operational readiness, and officer and public safety; however, additional funding to meet the Department's full vehicle replacement needs given the age of the Department's vehicle fleet would be beneficial. Of the 1,503 black and white vehicles in the Department's fleet, 536 currently exceed the mileage replacement criteria and 230 exceed the age criteria. Similarly, of the 281 slick top black and white vehicles in the fleet, 46 exceed the mileage criteria and 146 exceed the age criteria. For both types of vehicles, the mileage and age criteria are 100,000 miles and 10 years, respectively.
5. *Interim Homeless Housing Sites:* We appreciate the continued one-time funding within our Overtime Sworn Account for security patrols within the vicinity of interim homeless housing shelter sites. This will allow for continued support of the Interim Homeless Housing Sites and Comprehensive Cleaning and Rapid Engagement (CARE) operations.

Although the funds provided are the same amount as provided in FY 2023/24, the total number of sworn overtime hours will be reduced by approximately 5,000 hours due to increased costs associated with officer salaries in FY 2024/25.

6. *Contract Security*: This \$1.8 million adjustment will help the Department address the increased demand for contract security and salary increases associated with the Living Wage Ordinance. Due to challenges in hiring Security Officers, which have been exacerbated by the PCH review process, the Department has increasingly relied on contract security to meet security needs across the City.
7. *Technology*: The Forfeited Assets Trust Fund provides funding for technology that the Department will apply to the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) initiative and LAPD University. We will use \$1.0 million to acquire RTCC technology to improve our ability to address, respond to, coordinate, and interrupt criminal activities in the City. The Department's RTCCs use a software application to ingest video-camera data from City and privately-owned systems, integrating them into a single panel of glass for coordination and evidence collection. The funding provided will allow the Department to expand RTCC capabilities to enhance situational awareness. Further, an additional \$250,000 will be used for licensing to maintain the operation of the LAPD University application on mobile devices to deliver both State and Department-mandated training for sworn staff.

The Committee requested departments to identify additional resource needs in this letter for the Committee's consideration. Mindful of the City's fiscal limitations, and in line with the \$16.1 million decrease in overtime and expenses through the General Fund Expenditure Reductions, we identified the most critical adjustments requested below. Should additional funding become available during the budgetary process, these items represent our top priorities due to their impact on service levels:

- We requested \$3.3 million in additional funds for *automotive parts and supplies* to align with expenditures from the current year. The Department's black and white fleet currently has an average yearly out-of-service rate of 18.1%. Given an overall reduction in our expense accounts for FY 2024/25, it is unlikely that the Department will find internal savings sufficient to offset these essential costs to maintain our aging fleet.
- In collaboration with the Board of Police Commissioners, we proposed a \$1.0 million increase in our *facilities maintenance* budget. This funding is requested for general maintenance needs at each of our stations, encompassing a variety of tasks such as interior refurbishments, minor electrical repairs, and essential equipment maintenance that directly impacts Department morale. Additionally, we requested funds for landscape maintenance services to manage overgrown trees and plants that currently obstruct camera views critical for the security of our stations and facilities. Failing to maintain these landscapes could not only compromise station security, but also potentially result in fines due to non-compliance with brush clearance regulations mandated by the Fire Department. We want to express our gratitude for the resources provided in the FY 2024/25 Capital Technology Improvement Expenditure Program and the FY 2023/24 Construction Projects Reports.

- We appreciate the inclusion of \$1.4 million for non-reimbursable *civilian overtime* in the Proposed Budget. However, given the static nature of our civilian hiring and operational demands, an additional \$2.7 million would help us meet essential service levels. This is particularly vital for our Police Service Representatives (PSR), who are instrumental in providing public safety services. Despite a reduction in calls for service, our PSRs have been forced to work overtime to meet staffing minimums; however, 9-1-1 response times have not met the National Emergency Number Association-mandated standard that 90% of all 9-1-1 calls be answered within 15 seconds. In 2023, only 54.8% of calls were answered within 15 seconds. To maintain public trust and safety, it is imperative that we bridge this gap, necessitating further financial support.
- We requested \$7.9 million in Municipal Improvement Corporation of Los Angeles (MICLA) funding to replace *one helicopter to maintain* a fleet of 17 helicopters. This funding, should it become available, would replace one of four helicopters with over 15,000 flight hours and over 17-years old. Helicopters exceeding 15,000 flight hours are significantly more expensive to maintain and tend to have more grounded periods for maintenance. The helicopters are used as a force multiplier because they reduce the number of police officers needed during either a critical incident or normal operations; however, an aging helicopter fleet poses threats to officer and public safety.

The Committee also asked about possibilities to restructure for efficiency and budgetary equity focus. As the Mayor developed her Proposed Budget, we worked with the City Administrative Officer to explore ways to repurpose existing positions, and restructure operations to fill critically needed roles while minimizing the need for additional hiring, by focusing on maximizing available resources. Our budget requests are designed with an emphasis on equity by ensuring that the Department is responsive to the public safety needs of all communities and all Angelenos. This approach not only enhances trust, but also strengthens accountability within our operations.

We appreciate the Proposed Budget's provision to continue restoring the Department to healthier operational levels. We seek your support in addressing the highlighted needs and suggestions and look forward to discussing these and other issues with the Committee.

If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Chief Daniel Randolph, Director, Office of Support Services, at (213) 486-8410.

Respectfully,



DOMINIC H. CHOI  
Chief of Police