

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Melanie Pentecost  
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**Council File No:** 24-1566

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am commenting in support of Traci Park's City Council File 24-1566 to give more support to libraries in the area. I have worked in these buildings for over a decade and have seen slow response times to violent altercations, and lackluster enforcement to repeated offenses. The Venice Library in particular has been a hotspot of violence and drugs, including encampment takeovers of the parking lot where staff felt unsafe to exit their vehicles. Things like this can be easily remedied by an increase in visible patrols and enforcement of municipal code 41.18 to prevent such groups from growing in numbers. As for random security issues, we understand that LAPD response can be slow, but personally I have had poor interactions with police officers, such as one chastising us for using the panic button when there were two separate assaults going on, saying it should only be used for "kidnapping or armed robbery." This exchange happened just last month. Another case where, as a way of explaining the situation, I told a police officer the person who was trespassing in the library after closing was not mentally coherent, and he proceeded to lecture me about all the things police couldn't do for those dealing with a mental crisis instead of going into the library and removing the person so we could go home. Having more transparency between LAPD and LAPL is important for enhanced security and I hope steps will be taken to make sure the LAPD response quality is uniformly excellent, as many other interactions I've had with LAPD has attested to what they are capable of. We strive to make our library a welcome place for everyone, as libraries are meant to be useful hubs of shelter, entertainment, homework/study, a safe space to gather or have social outings, and one of the most crucial means of affirming people want to come to the library is making sure they feel safe when they are inside.