

MOTION

Los Angeles' library system and its 72 branches are foundational to our City's health and wellness. Serving millions of visitors annually with an array of programs and community resources, our public libraries are more than just repositories for books, literature and media. They are also centers of knowledge and learning where, according to the Los Angeles Library's mission statement, Angelenos have "free and easy access to information, ideas, books and technology that enrich, educate and empower every individual."

The more than 1,200 library employees who go to work each day embody this mission. However, like many City workers, our librarians are on the frontlines, shouldering society's failure to respond to the growing addiction and mental health crises playing out every day on our streets. They are regularly asked to respond and assume responsibilities above and beyond what should be expected of them.

These challenges were reflected in an August 2020 report to the Board of Library Commissioners when the Library Department reported the following incidents over a two year period at its library branches: more than 100 instances of sexual misconduct; nearly 200 incidents of assault/battery; nearly 300 instances of criminal threats; and nine sexual assaults.

While post-pandemic data is unavailable, during an October 22, 2024 Los Angeles City Council meeting, library staff implored councilmembers for help, speaking to ongoing verbal abuse, sexual harassment, violence, intimidation and threats to physical safety. They also spoke of inadequate training, the need for a comprehensive safety plan and a reevaluation of security services.

City leaders have a fundamental obligation to ensure its public goods are safe and welcoming for everyone, which is why Council council should urgently explore how it can support its library staff by creating a safer workplace.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council instruct the Police Department's Security Services Division and Library Department to report on immediate steps that can be taken to enhance safety for the City's library workforce and its patrons, inclusive of enhanced security, workplace violence prevention plans and trainings as required by SB 533, capital improvements, enforcement of library suspensions and faster response times from law enforcement to calls for service; and

I FURTHER MOVE that Council instruct the Police Department and Fire Department to report on calls for service at library branches between calendar years 2017 and 2024, broken down by call type and branch location;

I FURTHER MOVE that Council instruct the Library Department to report on the following:

- Incidents reported via the Online Incident Report System between calendar years 2021 and 2024, broken down by incident type and library branch location
- Libraries that are assigned contract security



- Libraries that have been assigned LAPD overtime details between calendar years 2017 and 2024
- Libraries that are assigned Mental Health Service Providers as approved by Council (CF 22-1551)
- Number of library suspensions filed between calendar years 2019 and 2024, broken down by library branch location, in addition to challenges to enforcing library suspensions

PRESENTED BY: Traci Park
TRACI PARK
Councilwoman, 11th District

SECONDED BY: Amador Pachilla

ORIGINAL