

LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

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February 26, 2026

BPC #25-342

The Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles, Room 395
c/o City Clerk's Office
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 24-1566 - ENHANCING SAFETY MEASURES FOR LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, the Board APPROVED the Department's report regarding the above-referenced matter.

Accordingly, this report is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Munoz in cursive.

REBECCA MUNOZ
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

25-342
RECEIVED

DEC 03 2025

POLICE COMMISSION

November 15, 2025

1.1

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

Reviewed:

[Signature]

12/3/25

FROM: Chief of Police

Executive Director

Date

SUBJECT: ENHANCING SAFETY MEASURES FOR LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARIES

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and APPROVE the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) response to the City Council (Council File No. 24-1566).
2. That the Board TRANSMIT to the Los Angeles City Council the attached response.

DISCUSSION

The Security Services Division (SECSO) is the primary method of service for addressing safety and security concerns for the Los Angeles Public Libraries (LAPL). In recent years, the workload and need for increased security have surged. As the attached fact sheet explains, SECSO has determined that library safety can be enhanced through the additions of increased security technology such as metal detectors, and increased hiring efforts for security officers.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Deputy Chief David J. Kowalski, Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau, at (213) 486-8780.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
JIM McDONNELL
Chief of Police

**BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS**
Approved *December 2, 2025*
Secretary *Rebecca Mung*

Attachment

**RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT
ENHANCING SAFETY AT LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARIES
OCTOBER 21, 2025**

Background. On June 25, 2025, the Los Angeles City Council instructed the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to report back to the Public Safety Committee on the following:

1. 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, training as required by Senate Bill 533, capital improvements, enforcement of library suspensions, and faster response times from law enforcement to calls for service.
2. Report on calls for service at library branches between calendar years 2017 and 2024, broken down by call type and branch location.

Investigation. Pursuant to this request, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB), directed Security Services Division (SECSO) to report on calls for service at library branches between the above indicated years, as well as recommendations for enhanced safety measures, and potential improvements for response times.

Findings. As directed, SECSO conducted an analysis of calls for service and addressed the areas of safety concern, coupled with a review of current and historical practices which impact security measures.

Calls for Service at Library Branches between Calendar Years 2017 and 2024

An analysis conducted by SECSO with data provided by LAPD Communications Division, delineates the number of calls for service to City libraries:

Geographical Patrol Bureaus / No. of Libraries	No. of Calls for Service
Central Bureau - 20 libraries	11,315
South Bureau - 13 Libraries	7,365
Valley Bureau - 21 Libraries	10,582
West Bureau - 18 Libraries	17,194
Total of 72 Libraries	46,456

A matrix with a more detailed breakdown is included with this fact sheet, totaling the number of calls for service, and officer-initiated activity, subdivided by call type and branch location.

Library Incident Reports

In 2020, during the onset of COVID-19, and partial library openings, the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) reported 979 incidents. Since the reopening of the libraries in May 2021, the number of reports significantly increased in comparison with previous years. In 2022, when all libraries resumed operations, there was a 111% increase of reported incidents, totaling 2,064.

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Although the reporting decreased (1,886 incidents) in 2023, in 2024, the number of reported incidents rose to 2,055. As of August 2025, a total of 1,598 incidents have been reported. It is projected that 2,310 incidents will have been reported by the end of the year.

To maintain a safe and adequate environment, the LAPL has established rules of conduct, posted on its official website under the “About LAPL” section, and available upon request at all service desks. These rules include having respect and consideration for others, dressing appropriately for a public space, and using furniture and equipment for their intended purposes.

Additionally, certain behaviors are not allowed, such as abuse toward others, damaging or stealing library property, sleeping on the premises, illegal activity, and bringing weapons into the library. Patrons in violation of these rules may be asked to leave with the issuance of a Temporary Suspension Letter (TSL). These letters revoke the individual’s access to library privileges across all branches.

In 2023, the LAPL reported to have issued a total of 369 TSLs; which increased to 504 in 2024. As of August 2025, 485 TSLs have already been issued, with a projected total of 700 by year-end. The reporting of issued TSLs may be underrepresented, likely due to fear. The LAPL staff is expected to personally issue TSLs, which can lead to verbal or physical confrontations, oftentimes discouraging enforcement of the suspension process.

Immediate Steps to Enhance Safety for the City’s Library Workforce and its Patrons

A critical action step taken in addressing this concern is deployment of, and visible presence of SECSO uniformed personnel. As of October 2025, there is one Senior Security Officer and 11 full-time Security Officers assigned to LAPLs throughout the City.

Additionally, the LAPD sworn overtime detail¹ was recently reinstated. The detail is comprised of one Police Sergeant and ten Police Officers. They are deployed at LAPL locations that have been identified to have high crime occurrences and code of conduct violations. The overtime details are scheduled seven days a week in the LAPD’s Central, Pacific, North Hollywood, and Hollywood Areas. The presence of uniformed officers provides high visibility, that aids in deterring criminal activity and code of conduct violations. Their presence fosters a safe environment for patrons during their visit. More notably, it offers direct and immediate support to library staff.

Currently, SECSO holds 24 sworn vacancies: 17 Police Officer, four Police Sergeants and three Police Lieutenants. The depletion of SECSO personnel continues to greatly impact appropriate staffing and deployment of uniformed officers.

¹ This LAPD sworn overtime detail is funded by the LAPL.

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An increase to contract Security Officers (SO), from 32 to 75, has been necessary for sustained operations. However, the expansion has presented new challenges, including maintaining accurate work schedules, ensuring proper personnel assignments across LAPL locations, providing sufficient supervisory oversight, and managing overall operations effectively.

As of October 2025, there were 98 SOs hired, promoted, or transferred into SECSO. Conversely, since 2015, 128 SOs have resigned, transferred, promoted out or retired. The division has 114 authority positions, staffed with 65 security officers, which equates to a 43% vacancy rate.

In January 2020, the personnel assigned to the Library Branch were one Chief SO, one Principal SO, three Senior SOs and 28 full-time SOs. Currently, there is one Senior SO and 11 full-time SOs. This is a 64% decrease in uniformed security personnel assigned at the Library Branch.

Global Secure Group Protective Services is the only company that currently provides services to the LAPL which can cause over-reliance on a single vendor. A Request for Proposal has been submitted for approval to contract with multiple security guard service contractors. This would provide further options for a more balanced distribution of assignments and improved operational coverage. With access to additional security guard officers, a reserve pool could be established for the deployment during unusual occurrences, and emergencies.

The LAPL has proactively upgraded their hardware and software systems for increased technology security. There are closed-circuit security cameras at 72 library facilities. However, a new Convergent Technologies security camera system was installed at the Central Library, as well as at 52 additional branch libraries. This upgraded system includes new Axis cameras and Genetec software with an updated access control system. The LAPL installed two 70" large display monitors inside the Central Library security office, with access to cameras citywide. A SECSO SO is assigned to the security office to monitor the displays.

The existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the LAPD and the LAPL underscores the LAPD's commitment to ensuring safety at all library locations. Section C of the MOA outlines the procedures for dispatching calls for service generated for the Central Library and its branches.² In the event of concerns or disputes, the LAPD and the LAPL have agreed to dedicate the necessary time and personnel to meet and promptly resolve any issues. Ongoing communication between the LAPD and the LAPL is essential to foster constructive discussions for the developing, and regular review of policies and procedures.

The SECSO Community Relations Officers continually work on maintaining open lines of communication with LAPD Area commands in proximity to library branches. These partnerships serve as a force multiplier, providing additional resources and improved coordination, for a more effective and quicker response to calls for service.

² MOA Section IV C: LAPD Calls for Service

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In recent discussions between the LAPD and the LAPL, a recommendation was made for the creation of an anonymous safety survey for library staff and patrons. This would give individuals the opportunity to freely provide feedback, concerns, and suggestions. The insights gathered could help improve policies and procedures.

Workplace Violence Prevention Plans and Training

California Senate Bill (SB) 553, is a California law requiring employers to create and implement a written Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP). The law mandates annual employee training, requirements for record-keeping, and outlines procedures for identifying and correcting workplace violence hazards and responding to incidents.

The LAPL has four WVPPs due to its complexity and number of serious incidents that occur: one for the Central Library and three for the branch libraries. This is in accordance with the number of serious and violent incidents that occurred from historical data. The LAPL has a working group to work on a WVPP training program for Library staff. It is projected to start in 2026. The program will be designed to enhance employee awareness and understanding on how to recognize, address, report and prevent this type of incidents.

Recommendations. Based on functional responsibilities, organization, and staffing, as well as current technological capabilities, the LAPD has two recommended options for addressing the ongoing difficulties in enhancing safety measures for the LAPL. The recommendations would provide improvements to the safety of all libraries a response to the concerns posed by the Public Safety Committee, LAPL, and the community.

Increased Security Technology

The installation of metal detectors at library branches could be a proactive investment, that would leverage the use of security technology, to enhance safety in and around library locations for its patrons and workforce. Metal detectors would assist in alerting staff and uniformed officers and personnel of anyone trying to enter the library with weapons or other contraband. The cost could be factored in the annual budget for LAPL, with input and assistance from SECSO for budget requests and seek possible grant funding.

Request of Hiring Exemption

A hiring freeze of positions, including the SO classification, causes difficulty in maintaining adequate staffing levels and mitigating attrition among security personnel. An exemption for the hiring of SOs, similar to other public safety positions such as Detention Officers and Police Service Representatives would support the enhancement of security in public libraries.

**RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT
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OCTOBER 21, 2025**

Conclusions. The staffing of adequate LAPD uniformed officers, security officers, and contract security guard personnel within the LAPD is an ongoing assessment of prioritized needs balanced against available budget, and the staffing capabilities and capacity of the City and the LAPD's hiring system. Security Services Division SOs, work in coordination with LAPL to operate within a safe environment. It is the LAPD's belief that either, or both, of the above noted recommendations would provide improvements to the enhancement of security of LAPL locations, and responsiveness to the concerns posed by the Public Safety Committee, the LAPL, and the community.

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 Astilla

ORIGINAL

MOTION

I HEREBY MOVE that Council ADOPT the Public Safety Committee report dated March 5, 2025 relative to 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, and related matters.

PRESENTED BY _____

JOHN S. LEE
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY _____

TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District

June 25, 2025

CF 24-1566

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to 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, and related matters.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Park – Padilla):

1. CONCUR with the APLCE Committee action of February 25, 2025 for recommendation Nos. 2-6.
2. INSTRUCT the Police Department's Security Services Division, the Office of Unarmed Response, and the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) 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.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted

Summary:

On March 5, 2025, your Committee considered Motion (Price – Hutt) relative to instructing the Chief Legislative Analyst to report on a pilot program for the distribution of naloxone in South Los Angeles and it be funded through the Opioid Settlement funding.

After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to concur with the Arts, Parks, Libraries and Community Enrichment Committee action of February 25, 2025 for recommendation Nos. 2-6, and amend recommendation No. 1 to remove the Chief Legislative Analyst, as detailed above. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
LEE	YES
PRICE	YES
McOSKER	YES
SOTO-MARTÍNEZ	YES
PARK	YES

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-

PETTY F. SANTOS
INTERIM CITY CLERK

City of Los Angeles
CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

VACANT
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

Council and Public Services Division

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PATRICE Y. LATTIMORE
DIVISION MANAGER

CLERK.LACITY.ORG

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

Council File No.: 24-1566

Council Meeting Date: June 25, 2025

Agenda Item No.: 28

Agenda Description: ARTS, PARKS, LIBRARIES, AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT and PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES' REPORTS relative to 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, and related matters.

Council Action: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT AND MOTION (LEE – MCOSKER) - ADOPTED FORTHWITH

Council Vote:

YES	Blumenfield	YES	Harris-Dawson	YES	Hernandez
YES	Jurado	ABSENT	Hutt	YES	Lee
YES	McOsker	ABSENT	Nazarian	YES	Padilla
YES	Park	ABSENT	Price Jr.	YES	Raman
YES	Rodriguez	YES	Soto-Martínez	YES	Yaroslavsky

PETTY F. SANTOS
INTERIM CITY CLERK

Adopted Report(s) Title
Motion (Lee - McOsker) dated 6-25-25

Report from Public Safety Committee 03-05-25

ARTS, PARKS, LIBRARIES, AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT relative to 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, and related matters.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Park – Padilla):

1. INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), in consultation with the Police Department's Security Services Division, the Office of Unarmed Response, and the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) 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.
2. 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;
3. INSTRUCT the Library Department to report on the following:
 - a. Incidents reported via the Online Incident Report System between calendar years 2021 and 2024, broken down by incident type and library branch location
 - b. Libraries that are assigned contract security
 - c. Libraries that have been assigned LAPD overtime details between calendar years 2017 and 2024
 - d. Libraries that are assigned Mental Health Service Providers as approved by Council (CF 22-1551)
 - e. 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
4. INSTRUCT the LAPL in partnership with Community Based Organizations focused on Care First approaches to safety to report on the current care first safety policies in use at library facilities and recommendations to improve and expand these efforts.
5. REQUEST the Mayor's Office to report on opportunities for expansion of the CIRCLE program to specifically assist Los Angeles Public Library branches.
6. DIRECT the LAPL, with support from the CLA and the City Administrative Officer (CAO), to review opportunities for funding and work in collaboration with the LA County Department of Mental Health, Alternative Crisis Response, 988 Call

Center, field intervention teams, mental health urgent care centers and the Therapeutic Transportation Program to support the needs of the Library Department.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted

Summary:

On February 25, 2025, your Committee considered Motion (Price – Hutt) relative to instructing the Chief Legislative Analyst to report on a pilot program for the distribution of naloxone in South Los Angeles and it be funded through the Opioid Settlement funding.

After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to approve the recommendations in the Motion as detailed above. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,
ARTS, PARKS, LIBRARIES, AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
JURADO:	YES
HERNANDEZ:	YES
NAZARIAN:	ABSENT

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-