

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I'm writing to request clarification on how several related staffing and budget items fit together following recent Council, Committee, and Police Commission discussions. At the December 12, 2025, City Council meeting, Item 40 addressed the CAO communication associated with the Second Financial Status Report for FY 2025–26, including sworn hiring levels, attrition assumptions, and a directive for LAPD to identify approximately \$25.06 million in ongoing reductions. During that discussion, questions were raised regarding how attrition is accounted for, the resulting “delta,” and the acknowledgment that staff are being leveraged to absorb cost pressures. Subsequent actions appear to reflect that directive, including the potential transfer of LAPD Police Auditor positions to the City Controller, which seems to be one of the first concrete steps toward achieving those ongoing reductions. Today's Police Commission meeting included LAPD's routine staffing levels update, which presented “deployed” sworn strength figures that aggregate LAPD-funded sworn personnel, municipal personnel, and administrative or desk assignments, along with authorization to hire up to 480 recruits. While I understand this update is intended as a high-level snapshot rather than a budget discussion, these figures inevitably influence how staffing levels and fiscal needs are perceived. Taken together, these items raise questions about alignment between staffing presentations and budget mechanics. Specifically, it appears that when sworn attrition occurs (including academy washouts or separations), the resulting vacancy savings remain within the Department's budget and may be used to offset other costs, including overtime, while civilian positions are reduced, transferred, or left unfilled to meet the identified savings target. I'm hoping to better understand whether this approach is fiscally responsible and sustainable over time. I would appreciate clarification on:

- How vacancy or attrition savings associated with Item 40 are typically managed within the LAPD budget
- Whether reliance on overtime is an expected or intentional component of managing sworn attrition under this model
- How “deployed” staffing figures should be reconciled with funded LAPD authorities when evaluating budget and staffing needs
- Whether any analysis exists comparing attrition-related vacancy savings with overtime expenditures over time

I raise these

questions in the interest of transparency, fiscal discipline, and ensuring that staffing presentations, budget decisions, and long-term operational impacts are aligned. Thank you for your time and consideration. Best regards, Christina ***an emailed copy of the above was forwarded to CAO and copied to all Councilmembers and City Controller