

MOTION

When militarized federal agents began deploying in Los Angeles and detaining Angelenos without warrants and without due process, they created conditions that would instill fear and anger across the region. As a community that acknowledges and celebrates the immeasurable contributions that immigrants have made to this City, Los Angeles' residents were quick to mobilize in response to this unprecedented and unwarranted escalation by the federal authorities— exercising their first amendment rights to make clear that they would not accept this disastrous federal attack on their families, friends, and neighbors.

The City must do everything in its power to facilitate people's legal right to protest, while creating an environment that mitigates the risk of additional harm caused by further federal deployment, by engaging with the community to create clear lines of communication and expectations for both demonstrators and law enforcement during protests.

In a study titled "Policing Protests: Lessons from The Occupy Movement, Ferguson and Beyond", researchers, working together with senior police officers, drew conclusions from interviews with managers and rank-and-file officers in 15 police agencies around the U.S., and reviewed interactions with law enforcement and protestors over the last several decades to identify best practices to increase community safety while also safeguarding people's constitutional rights.

These recommendations include "Mobilizing third parties like marshals or stewards at protests or other types of public order events [to] help to improve the communication between police and crowds and reduce the likelihood of conflict and violence." The LAPD After-Action Report Implementation Plan also acknowledges the importance of this by including a recommendation that the City "engage community members—particularly those community members and leaders likely to organize and participate in First Amendment assemblies and protests in their area" and "establish contact with activists and demonstrators before, during, and after protests." (Recommendations 5.2.2 and 1.2.3.)

The study also highlights best practices: "Police strategy or tactics should not be oriented exclusively towards the control of the crowd through the threat or use of force but should ensure the effective facilitation of the legitimate intentions underpinning the protesters' action. This should be effectively communicated to protesters, together with an indication of what conduct will and will not be tolerated by the police" and that "Initial contact with the protest group at the commencement of the policing operation should be characterised by 'low impact' visibility, information gathering and monitoring. Police on the ground should engage with crowd members to gather information about their intentions, demeanour, concerns and sensibilities."


The importance of this kind of "graded response" to protests— where officers are initially deployed in regular uniforms, while making sure officers with more robust equipment are stationed nearby but further back to be utilized only in the case that situations significantly escalate— are shown in a recently released study by Mavridis, Troumpounis, and Zanardi which uses a statistical analysis of hundreds of protests to demonstrate that militarized police response to demonstrations lead to higher levels of protest activity.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Civil and Human Rights and Equity Department, with support from the Emergency Management Department and in coordination with the Los Angeles Police Department's labor relations division, to engage and partner with Los Angeles labor unions and immigrants' rights community based organizations to develop best practices, protocols, and trainings for City staff, contractors, and volunteers to serve as marshals or stewards that can proactively engage with community members participating in protest activity.

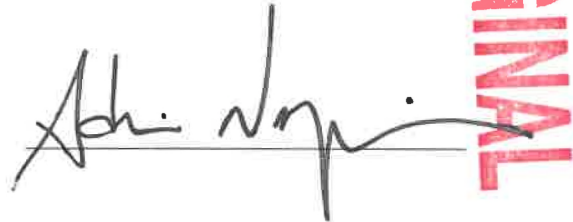
**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Emergency Management Department, with support from the Civil and Human Rights and Equity Department to develop and implement a plan for the deployment of non-police marshals or stewards at protests that do not already have them, who can establish formal lines of communication between the City and demonstrators, convey updating guidance from law enforcement before and during 1st amendment protest activity, and be available to answer questions and provide information and guidance as requested by members of the public.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council request the Los Angeles Police Department immediately incorporate a "graded response" model to their protest response, and that they prioritize communicating any updated guidance during 1st amendment activity to demonstrators, such as which streets are being closed and which activities are specifically being restricted or prioritized for enforcement at any given time.

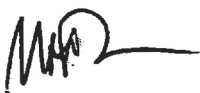
PRESENTED BY:

  
**HUGO SOTO-MARTÍNEZ**  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL



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