

MOTION

In June 2025, the Los Angeles Press Club and Status Coup filed a federal lawsuit against the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), citing multiple instances where officers fired less-lethal projectiles at journalists covering the protests. Soon after, Judge Hernan D. Vera issued a Temporary Restraining Order barring LAPD from targeting journalists with projectiles or excluding them from protest areas closed to the public while they are gathering information. This ruling emphasizes the role that the press serves as the eyes and ears of the public, enabling Angelenos to participate as informed residents and exercise democratic freedoms.

Under SB 98, no specific press credential is required by law, and current LAPD and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department policy reflects this principle. LAPD's Media Guidelines clarify that identification such as press badges or IDs are "optional tools," and when status cannot be immediately confirmed, officers should consult the LAPD Media Team or a Public Information Officer. But in certain instances, such as when officers are enforcing a scrimmage line, this identification process can take up to an hour.

The procedural ambiguity of Press identification in California has resulted in constitutional violations, costly settlements, and federal court intervention. Clarifying and standardizing guidelines for press identification not only upholds constitutional rights, but it also is an urgent matter of fiscal responsibility. By reducing obscurity, the City can prevent repeated violations, limit costly lawsuits, and safeguard taxpayer dollars.

I MOVE the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to create a public campaign proposal to promote how Press can obtain an LAPD press badge. This proposal should include potential funding sources within LAPD's budget.

I FURTHER MOVE LAPD, LA Civil Rights Department (LACR) and the Human Relations Commission, Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and City Administrative Officer (CAO) be instructed to create a Memorandum of Understanding between LAPD, Press Club, and the Radio & Television News Association of Southern California to create an agreement of conduct at 1st Amendment demonstrations.

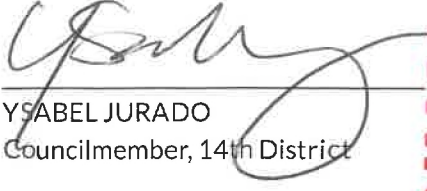
I FURTHER MOVE LAPD, LACR, and the Human Relations Commission to present Recommendations on improvements that could be made to LAPD's Press Badge design, in order for Officers to more easily identify Press. As well as recommend training opportunities that LAPD can host for Press, utilizing LAPD's Revolving Training Fund budget

I FURTHER MOVE the City Attorney and CLA to create Accountability mechanisms and recourse for LAPD Media Guideline violations committed by government agencies.

I FURTHER MOVE CLA, City Attorney, and CAO to report on the feasibility of assigning press designation and identification responsibilities to entities other than LAPD, including government agencies such as the Mayor's Office, City Administrative Officer, LACR's Human Relations Commission, City Attorney, or independent and neutral third party observers such as the National Lawyers Guild, in order to ensure consistent and fair recognition of the press.


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PRESENTED BY


YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY



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