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February 3, 2026

BPC #26-022

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

Dear Honorable Members:


RE: SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITS – CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 25-1268

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 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


REBECCA MUNOZ
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

BS 1/20/26
26-022

December 18, 2025

1.11

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL MOTION,
FILE NO. 25-1268, SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITS**

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. It is recommended that the Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and APPROVE the Los Angeles Police Department's (Department) response to City Council Motion, File No. 25-1268, regarding Special Events Permits.
2. That the Board TRANSMIT to the Los Angeles City Council this response.

DISCUSSION

In response to City Council File No. 25-1268, the Department submitted a Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) report to the Los Angeles City Council, dated December 15, 2025. The Motion instructed the Department to submit a report that analyzes the Special Events and Permits Unit (SEPU), Office of Operations and the BOPC, special events permit approval process, focusing on the protocols and requirements for First Amendment activity permits for parades beginning **September 1, 2025**, with an estimated cost to the City of Los Angeles of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or more.

The report outlines the complexities and procedural steps that the SEPU must navigate to process these permits, emphasizing the importance of compliance with City regulations and ordinances. It addresses the logistical considerations necessary to ensure public safety and efficient traffic management during such events, while also highlighting the collaboration required among various City departments to facilitate successful outcomes for event organizers.

As the City faces a significant fiscal crisis, the projected financial implications of these parades can be extensive. As this financial request is formally presented to the City Council for thorough evaluation and approval, it will allow the City to recover the cost of services provided for permitted First Amendment Events under Section 103.111 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. The analysis underscores the essential investment required to support the permitting process for these vital expressions of civic engagement.

The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

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1.11

If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Chief Emada E. Tingirides, Director,
Office of Operations, at (213) 486-0100.

Respectfully,



JIM McDONNELL
Chief of Police

Attachment

**BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS**
Approved *January 27, 2016*
Secretary *Rebecca Muñoz*

FACT SHEET

SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITS Council Motion 25-1268

December 18, 2025

PURPOSE

The Los Angeles City Council adopted a motion relevant to the Los Angeles Police Department's Special Events and Permits Unit (SEPU), Office of Operations (OO), processing of Special Event Permits. The Motion requested the Department to submit a report that analyzes the feasibility of requiring First Amendment activity permits for parades that will cost the City of Los Angeles one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or more that have been applied for or approved by the Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) beginning **September 1, 2025**, to be transmitted to City Council and the Mayor for consideration and approval. Additionally, the report includes an analysis of cost recovery for City services provided during permitted First Amendment events, as specified under Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 103.111; and outline any changes to current police practices that would ensure the City can recover costs associated with services provided at significant events.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with LAMC Sections 41.20, *Closure of Streets*, amended on July 8, 2014, and 103.111(b), *Parades and Assemblies*, amended on June 6, 2005, specific standards and procedures have been established to evaluate applications for special event permits for parades and assemblies. The Los Angeles Police Department was issued the authority to issue permits for events occurring within the City of Los Angeles. These provisions were designed to safeguard public health and safety, protect individuals' rights to engage in expressive activities protected by the First Amendment, and facilitate the recovery of costs incurred by the City as a direct result of these events. Applications, whether complete or incomplete, are submitted to the Department through the online portal or either in person to the SEPU, for thorough review and approval.

FINDINGS

As of September 1, 2025, First Amendment Parades Processed by the SEPU:

- (60) Special Event Street Closure Applications, Form 02.57.00 (06/12) were submitted for parades.
- (0) Parades were denied / (0) Parades were rescinded.
- (0) Parades with costs over \$100,000.
 - Parades with a total cost exceeding \$100,000, including police, fire, traffic management, sanitation services, and other logistical support, are not calculated by the Department.

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SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITS Council Motion 25-1268

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The SEPU meticulously oversees the special event permit process, which is a detailed, organized procedure that can take from a few hours to several weeks or months to complete; depending on the complexity of the event and the information in the application. Special Events Permit Applications, whether complete or incomplete, are submitted to the Department through the online portal or either in person to the SEPU, for thorough review and consideration.

The SEPU conducts a thorough investigation of the application and prepares written reports for both the applicant and the BOPC. These reports detail the conditions, restrictions, compliance requirements, and payment obligations to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), along with notifications to the affected City agencies. Additionally, they outline the provisions established by the California Environmental Quality Act and the Environmental Quality Act of the City of Los Angeles.

Under LAMC Section 103.111(f)(3)(A), *Recommendations of Department*, the BOPC is responsible for providing final recommendations for the Department on each application submitted for consideration, which may result in approval or denial of the request by the Executive Director, BOPC. In situations where the Department receives two or more applications seeking to use the same date, time, and location for events of a similar nature, the Department will continue to conduct a thorough investigation of each application. After this assessment, all applications will be forwarded to the BOPC, which will make the final decision on how to proceed. This process should ensure that all applications are reviewed fairly to help prevent any potential conflicts, thereby effectively maintaining public order and safety.

During SEPU's investigation of Special Events Permit Applications, it is essential to clarify that the estimated parade costs apply only to LADOT. The applicant must submit a payment receipt from LADOT, which serves as the confirmation for SEPU to verify whether the City has been adequately compensated for traffic control services. All other forms of payment for other City entities are not processed or reviewed by the Department. Furthermore, the Department's cost analysis for personnel for these permitted events is not included in the initial investigations and is evaluated after the events are completed.

Per LAMC Section 41.20.1, *Special Event Application Process and Definitions*, upon receipt of a completed application to the Bureau of Street Services One Stop Special Events Permits Office (BOSS), LADOT, and Clean-up Services, and additional City costs can be waived for non-commercial Parades and Assemblies if the event would qualify for a waiver and meet all the requirements, conditions, and criteria.

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Upon reviewing the provisions granted to BOSS as delineated in the City's ordinances, it is apparent that the City's regulations establish a more robust framework for managing street closures and special events. These ordinances detail comprehensive procedures and requirements that BOSS is obligated to follow. This includes verifying business registrations, obtaining nonprofit organization certificates, and adhering to the specified application processes for each business structure. Furthermore, the regulations outline encroachment protocols that address the concerns of affected residents and businesses, as well as notification protocols for various City services. There are also stipulations for informing the Neighborhood Councils, City Council, and the Chief Legislative Analyst. Additionally, the ordinances incorporate a complete payment system for all City entities to remit outstanding or delinquent fees to the Office of Finance.

In contrast to more structured regulations, the ordinance that governs SEPU application processes is significantly less structured than more established regulations, particularly in relation to the monitoring of the City's financial efficiency in obtaining payments from various municipal entities. This ambiguity results in a wide range of cost estimates, waivers, or prevention of charges for First Amendment events. The absence of clarity can create significant challenges in several areas. For instance, when the costs of a parade exceed \$100,000, the guidelines and exemptions may complicate budget approvals and financial accountability. Moreover, the potential for duplicate applications can lead to confusion and inefficiencies, further straining resources and preventing the City from recovering costs.

According to various City reports, the City Council approved modifications to the Special Events Procedure Ordinance to incorporate recommendations from the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Services, as outlined in Report Number 5 BSS, *Special Events One Stop Shop Program Annual Report – FY 2009-10*, dated November 29, 2010. The City Council adopted the recommendations that suspend event sponsors of parades and assemblies from being charged for any necessary City services provided in support of First Amendment events. These policy changes significantly affected the management and oversight of City service fee payments, shifting the responsibility away from the Department.

The SEPU, in consultation with the City Attorney, reviewed the feasibility of this request. At this time, the Department does not track nor maintain records of fees associated with First Amendment activity permits. As a result, it is unable to provide a feasibility analysis based on costs or fees related to such events until such systems are implemented. To address these limitations, the SEPU noted there are no tracking systems capturing permit related expenditures or City service costs related to First Amendment activities. To formalize an accurate fiscal analysis would require establishing a standardized reporting framework involving the BOPC and other City entities, along with policy development to determine cost thresholds over \$100,000 involving in parade permitting and support services.

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RECOMMENDATION/CONCLUSION

- In contrast to more structured regulations, the ordinance that governs SEPU application processes is significantly less structured than more established regulations, particularly in relation to the monitoring of the City's financial efficiency in obtaining payments from various municipal entities. This ambiguity results in a wide range of cost estimates, waivers, or prevention of charges for First Amendment events. The absence of clarity can create significant challenges in several areas. For instance, when the costs of a parade exceed \$100,000, the guidelines and exemptions may complicate budget approvals and financial accountability. Moreover, the potential for duplicate applications can lead to confusion and inefficiencies, further straining resources and preventing the City from recovering costs.
- Evaluate First Amendment parades that incur costs of less than \$100,000 for potential cost recovery. This review should consider factors such as the location of the parade, their frequency, and the number of waivers issued.
- To strengthen the City's cost recovery strategies, it is recommended and essential for the City Attorney to amend LAMC Sections 41.20, 41.20.1, and 103.111, to transfer the authority that governs parades under the Department to the authority designated under BOSS; who currently maintains the overall responsibility, oversight, and financial data related to the management of the City's special event permitting process.
 - Amendments should include requirements for parades of all sizes and costs, recognizing the myriad of City services, fees, and payment waivers associated with these events, formed under the First Amendment criteria.
- The proposed framework should include critical aspects such as permitting processes, cost, funding sources, long-term impacts, required safety measures, and the allocation of City resources, including the police, fire services, and sanitation support. This revision will aim to foster a collaborative environment that prioritizes public safety and effective resource management. Additionally, it should include provisions for assessing fees that reflect the scale if there is an incident of terrorism, new technologies are required, and the complexities of each parade increase.
- A formal recusal process should be instituted to ensure fairness, mitigate conflict of interest and reduce the appearance of impropriety. The recusal must be documented in the meeting minutes.

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- Incorporate a risk assessment for each parade and key financial metrics to evaluate the operational cost, including fees removed by exemptions, waivers, grants and paid by discretionary funding.
- Consider reviewing past Special Event Parade Permits to determine whether these events benefited the City or the community. This review can help predict future submissions and reduce the need to extend fee-reduction waivers, ultimately enhancing the City's fiscal efficiency.

MOTION

BB

Currently, the Police Department, through its Special Events Permit Unit, is responsible for issuing permits for a variety of temporary public events, including parades permitted as First Amendment events. These permits are subject to the approval of the Police Commission and are not transmitted to the Council for consideration. This process is designed to ensure that individuals and groups can organize events to exercise their rights while enabling the City to ensure that these events are managed in a manner that promotes the safety of residents of the City.

The number of First Amendment events in the City has increased dramatically over recent months, as people and organizations have held rallies and assemblies against Federal government policies, as is their right under the Constitution. However, the cost of managing these events for City departments has grown significantly, as many events require traffic management, street closures, and police and fire coverage to ensure events remain safe.

These increased costs come at a time when the City is also dealing with a fiscal crisis, which has severely limited any flexibility departments have to fund staffing or other City services needed for larger First Amendment events in the City. In order to ensure that the Council and Mayor are aware of the costs of these events, the Police Department should be instructed to report on the feasibility of requiring Council approval for events that are expected to have a fiscal impact for the City of \$100,000 or more.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department, with the assistance of the City Attorney, be directed to report on the feasibility of requiring First Amendment activity permits for parades that will cost the City \$100,000 or more that have been applied for or approved by the Los Angeles Police Commission beginning September 1st, 2025 to be transmitted to Council for consideration and approval, and that the report include an analysis of cost recovery for City services provided for permitted First Amendment Events, as allowed for in Section 103.111 of the Municipal Code, and on any changes to current policy or practice that would ensure the City is able to recover costs for services provided at large events.

PRESENTED BY: Heather Hutt
HEATHER HUTT
Councilwoman, Tenth District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]
[Signature]

ORIGINAL

PATRICE Y. LATTIMORE
CITY CLERK

City of Los Angeles
CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

RUBEN VIRAMONTES
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

Council and Public Services Division
200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 395
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CLERK.LACITY.ORG

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

Council File No.: 25-1268
Council Meeting Date: October 29, 2025
Agenda Item No.: 23
Agenda Description: CONSIDERATION OF MOTION (HUTT - HARRIS-DAWSON, McOSKER) relative to a report on the feasibility of requiring First Amendment activity permits for parades costing more than \$100,000 to be transmitted to Council for consideration and approval.
Council Action: ADOPTED MOTION (HUTT - HARRIS-DAWSON, McOSKER) URGENT FORTHWITH

Council Vote:

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

PATRICE Y. LATTIMORE
CITY CLERK

Adopted Report(s) Title
Motion (Hutt - Harris-Dawson, McOsker) dated 10-24-25