

REPORT FROM

## OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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Date: April 24, 2026

CAO File No. 0220-06393-0000

Council File No. C.F. 25-1433-S1

Council District: 4

To: The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer 

Reference: C.F. 25-1433-S1

Subject: **ONGOING FUNDING SOURCE FOR DAILY SECURITY SERVICES AT RUNYON CANYON PARK, PURSUANT TO C.F. 25-1433-S1**

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

1. Instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks to absorb costs for the remainder of the current fiscal year that are not covered by the funding provided (\$125,000) in 2025-26 by Council District 4 for security services at Runyon Canyon Park; and,
2. Evaluate sources for ongoing funding, estimated at \$150,000 annually, for these services in 2026-27, as part of the Council's consideration of the Mayor's 2026-27 Proposed Budget, in compliance with the City's Financial Policies, should this be a funding priority for the Council.

### SUMMARY

On February 13, 2026, the Council adopted Motion (Raman – Soto-Martinez), dated December 12, 2025, regarding security services at Runyon Canyon Park. The Council instructed this Office, with the assistance of the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department), to report on an ongoing funding source for security services at Runyon Canyon Park (Park) from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., to ensure the continued enforcement of its closure after Sunset, as mandated by the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC).

The Park is a 160-acre park located in Council District 4 at the eastern end of the Santa Monica Mountains, which is managed by the Department of Recreation and Parks. It is frequented for its panoramic views of Los Angeles, hiking trails, visibility of the Hollywood sign, and designated off-leash areas for dogs. Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section (LAMC) 63.44.14(c), the Park is mandated to close one hour before sunset and open one hour before sunrise. The LAMC also designates the Park as a park located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

In December 2025, Councilmember Nithya Raman introduced a Motion requesting security services to ensure the Park's closure and to prevent fires, vandalism, illegal dumping, and other after-hours activities that compromise public safety and damage City property. The Department reports that it has provided security services at the Park since summer 2025. The services are provided by an outside contractor hired through the Los Angeles Police Department's Security Services Division and include closing the Park at 8 pm, patrolling the canyon for six hours, and checking the gates every hour. The Department reports that the daily cost for two security guards and two patrol vehicles is about \$410 per day (or \$150,000 annually).

As of April 15, 2026, Council District 4 has provided a total of \$125,000 in discretionary funding for these security services at the Park in 2025-26: \$12,500 (C.F. 25-0888); \$37,500 (C.F. 25-1271); \$25,000 (C.F. 25-1433), \$25,000 (C.F. 26-0154; pending transfer) and \$25,000 (C.F. 26-0476; pending transfer). The Department reports that \$75,000 of these funds were expended to pay for security services provided at the Park from August 2025 to January 2026. The Department further adds that there are outstanding payments of \$23,694 to be made for services provided in February (\$11,282) and March 2026 (\$12,412). Funding from Council District 4 (C.F. 26-0154) is proposed to cover the service periods of February and March 2026. The Department states that a new service contract is expected to be effective for April, May, and June 2026, which will have a monthly cost of \$12,000 for security services at the Park. The Department anticipates that funding from Council District 4 (C.F. 26-0476) will cover the services for April and May 2026.

The Department states that it does not have designated funding to pay for these security costs for the remainder of the year. This Office, however, anticipates that the Department will have sufficient savings in various expense accounts at the year-end to pay for the estimated costs for June 2026 (\$12,500) and any additional charges from previous months not covered by the funding provided by Council District 4. These estimates are based on our projections prepared for the Year-End Financial Status Report. Therefore, this Office recommends that the Department absorb the costs to provide these services for the remainder of the year using its projected expense account surpluses (Recreation and Parks Fund).

The Department reports it does not have designated ongoing funding to pay for these security costs and did not include a budget request in its 2026-27 budget submission for these services. The cost of continuing this service in 2026-27 at current levels is projected at \$150,000. This proposal is anticipated to have an ongoing fiscal impact on the General Fund, if the Department is unable to absorb these costs in 2026-27, and therefore should be evaluated in the context of all City priorities during the annual budget process. Should this request be a funding priority for the Council, this Office recommends that the Council evaluate sources for ongoing funding for these security services during the Council's consideration of the Mayor's 2026-27 Proposed Budget, in compliance with the City's Financial Policies.

## **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Approval of the recommendations in this report will have no additional impact to the General Fund at this time.

## **FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT**

The recommendations in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies in that requests for new or expanded programs will be considered during the course of the annual budget development process, and only in extreme circumstances be considered on an interim basis during the course of the fiscal year.

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