



HUGO SOTO-MARTINEZ
Councilmember, Thirteenth District

**Committee Recommendation CRC #54:
Clarifying Council's Policy Authority Over LAPD**

I want to thank the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee for recommending that the attached Charter Reform, corresponding to CRC #54, be submitted to voters for consideration on the November 2026 ballot. I also want to thank the Charter Reform Commission for advancing this proposal and the many community members, advocates, and stakeholders who shared their support throughout this process.

The proposed reform clarifies that the City Council may adopt ordinances establishing general policies governing the Los Angeles Police Department, while preserving the independence of personnel decisions and specific investigations and operations.

This reform would amend Sections 571 and 574 of the City Charter, as reflected in the attached language. Proposed additions are shown in **bold**, while unchanged portions of the sections have been abbreviated with “(...)” for simplicity.

Sincerely,

Hugo Soto-Martinez
Los Angeles City Councilmember for the Thirteenth District
200 N Spring St, Ste. 480, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**CRC #54 as Amended and Recommended by the Rules, Elections,
and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

Sec. 571. Board of Police Commissioners.

(...)

(b) The Board of Police Commissioners shall have the power to:

(1) issue instructions to the Chief of Police concerning the exercise of the authority conferred on the Chief of Police by the Charter, other than the disciplinary authority conferred by Section 1070. **The authority of the Board of Police Commissioners to issue such instructions shall not be exclusive and shall not supersede the authority of Council to adopt ordinances governing the policies of the Chief of Police and Police Department. In the event of a conflict between instructions issued by the Board of Police Commissioners and ordinances adopted by Council, the ordinances of the Council shall prevail;**

Sec. 574. Powers and Duties of the Chief of Police.

The chief administrative officer of the Police Department shall be known as the Chief of Police. Subject to the provisions of the Charter, the rules of the Police Department, **applicable ordinances**, and the instruction of the Board of Police Commissioners, the Chief of Police shall have the power and duty to:

(...)

Nothing in this section shall limit any authority of the Council otherwise conferred by this Charter, and no inference shall be drawn from this section restricting the subjects upon which the Council may legislate, including its authority to enact ordinances establishing the policy of the Police Department, except that the Council shall not pass any ordinance that does any of the following:

(a) directs, prohibits, or otherwise controls the conduct of, or the deployment of personnel or equipment in, a particular incident, investigation, or operation; or

(b) directs or otherwise controls the authority of the Chief of Police over the appointment, discharge, or discipline of specific individual employees under Sections 574 or 1070.

As used in this section, "policies" means rules, regulations, standards, procedures, or directives of general application, whether applicable to the Department as a whole or to any bureau, division, unit, program, or function of the Department