From: Andrew Rudick
To: Los Angeles City Council
Matter: CF:26-0489, CLA Report dated 6/10/26
Comment Submitted: 6/11/26

Los Angeles City Council,

In the Charter Reform Commission's (CRC) Final Report, "police" was mentioned **134 times**. "Board of Police Commissioners" was referenced **35 times**. ***See pages* 217-232 of the Charter Commission's Final Report** for critical constitutional and institutional concerns which have been studied and reported extensively.

The CRC Final Report ultimately made LAPD reform a watershed issue—to highlight what commissioners overwhelmingly heard in feedback from the public, as a desire and mandate to effect change through law enforcement accountability.

This CLA's report does not reflect the merits of the CRC's Final Report, the public's exhaustive comments and submissions and presentations; and I'll go as far to say, suspiciously so.

The untimeliness and delays of the Charter Commission's official recommendations from City leadership is an abrogation of duty on this issue (likely in part due to a lack of resources in the CLA's office to timely and accurately review the CRC's report, but who knows), and an embarrassment.

This Council, on this issue, should not adopt the CLA's recommendations to sit on your hands while taxpayers and residents directly suffer this City's incompetence.

Please introduce to voters the amendments and/or additional language to Section 571(b), Sections 574 & 577, Section 1070, and the other commonsense proposals your legislative teams may have followed, in addition to consideration of neutral and unbiased expert assessments. "Further study" is a copout for the provisions which have been studied, and unacceptable.

Until a measurable change in LAPD misconduct and liability from those serving as sworn public peace officers/employees of L.A. City is achieved, contingency measures should prevail as a check on a department consistently and unnecessarily costing local taxpayers tens of millions of dollars per year.

Some select quotes from the Charter Commission's Final Report:
(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hHa0OLsFg9EmPPlO6QgUsGfzTKwQgOtp/view)

"What We Heard [...] Police accountability gaps remain – The City Council should have authority to enforce accountability policies." –Pg. 2 of the CRC Report.

"Theme 2: Rebuild Trust Through Accountability [...] Strengthen police accountability with Council oversight authority." –Pg. 3 of the CRC Report.

"Why It Matters: Closes gap where Police Commission can ignore Council policy directives. Ensures democratic accountability over policing policy." –Pg. 36 of the CRC Report

"What It [the Charter provision recommendation] Does: "Solidifies Chief of Police authority to pursue removal of officers with documented, repeated misconduct. Gives City Council override authority if Chief and Board of Rights decline to terminate or choose to terminate." –Pg. 36 of the CRC Report.

It also shouldn’t have to be said, but apparently it does: please increase the damn size of the Council. This isn’t the nineteenth century.

Finally, the City Attorney, who was recently somewhat historically defeated days ago in a primary nominating election, should not be reporting back on anything related to the Charter recommendations, given the City Attorney’s history, fiscal mismanagement, and retaliatory behavior (in my opinion).

Sincerely,

Andrew Rudick

Council Authority Over Police Policies

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sec. 571. Board of Police Commissioners.

(a) Members of the Board of Police Commissioners shall serve for a maximum of two five-year terms, except that a member may serve up to two years of an unexpired term plus two terms of five years. A member of the Board of Police Commissioners shall be limited to two consecutive one-year terms as President of the 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;

(2) evaluate the Chief of Police annually, set or adjust the compensation for the Chief of Police within the salary guidelines established by Council after recommendations concerning those guidelines have been made to the Council by the City Administrative Officer; and forward a copy of the evaluation and salary determination to the Mayor and Council for information;

(3) appoint and remove an Executive Director whose position shall be exempt from the civil service provisions of the Charter and who shall not be a member of the Police Department; and

(4) appoint and remove an Inspector General of the Police Department subject to Section 245, whose position shall be exempt from the civil service provisions of Article X of the Charter and who shall not be a member of the Police Department.

Protect First Amendment Rights

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:

(a) suppress all riots, disturbances and breaches of the peace, and to that end may call on any person for aid. The Chief may pursue and arrest, within the limits of the City, any person fleeing from justice, and shall without delay bring all persons arrested by the department before a judge of the proper court for trial or examination. The Chief may receive and execute any proper authority for the arrest and detention of criminals fleeing or escaping from places outside the City. The Chief shall ensure that the Police Department supports and protects the constitutional rights of all persons, regardless of immigration status, to peacefully assemble and protest, and of duly authorized representatives of any news service, online news service, newspaper, or radio or television station or network to report on such assemblies and protests. Peaceful protest is not the same as violence or rioting, and the Chief shall ensure that the Police Department avoids using violent means to manage peaceful crowds;

(b) administer the affairs of the department as its chief administrative officer, except as to matters under the control of the Executive Director of the Board of Police Commissioners;

(c) appoint, discharge, discipline, transfer and issue instructions to the employees of the department, other than the Secretary of the Board, the chief accounting employee of the department, the Inspector General of the Police Department and his or her staff, the Executive Director of the Board and his or her staff, all subject to the civil service provisions of the Charter;

(d) consistent with due process and applicable laws, directly remove officers from employment if those officers have caused, engaged in, are causing harm, or engaging in any misconduct;

(~~d~~c) expend the funds of the department, except those funds under the control of the Executive Director, in accordance with the provisions of the budget appropriations or of appropriations made after adoption of the budget;

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Safety with accountability.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY OVER POLICE POLICIES
What It Does: City Council will retain policy authority over the Police Department and if there were to be a conflict between instructions issued by the Board of Police Commissioners and ordinances adopted by the City Council that the Council's ordinances would prevail
Why It Matters: Closes gap where Police Commission can ignore Council policy directives. Ensures democratic accountability over policing policy
Charter Impact: New provision establishing Council authority
PERSONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR OFFICERS
What It Does: Requires City to purchase liability insurance of at least $1 million per officer, with $50/month contribution per officer, indexed to CPI. Insurance pays settlements before tapping the General Fund
Why It Matters: Reduces taxpayer burden for officer misconduct settlements and creates financial accountability
Charter Impact: New section establishing liability insurance requirement
STRENGTHEN REMOVAL AUTHORITY
What It Does: Solidifies Chief of Police authority to pursue removal of officers with documented, repeated misconduct. Gives City Council override authority if Chief and Board of Rights decline to terminate or choose to terminate
Why It Matters: Adds accountability layer for officers with patterns of harm. Provides democratic check on administrative decisions
Charter Impact: Amendment to disciplinary authority provisions
PROTECT FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS
What It Does: Explicitly protects protest and First Amendment rights in the Charter, requires LAPD to protect constitutional rights.
Why It Matters: Affirms city's commitment to constitutional rights and establishes clear standards for police response to protests
Charter Impact: New Charter provision protecting assembly and speech rights