



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk

From: Karen Bass, Mayor 

Subject: EXEMPTION REQUEST – LOS ANGELES WORLD AIRPORTS (LAWA),
(1) ASSISTANT AIRPORT POLICE CHIEF (3234)

Date: August 21, 2026

The Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) requested that the approval of one (1) position of Assistant Airport Police Chief, Class Code 3234, be exempted, in accordance with Charter Section 1001(b), from civil service as management, professional, scientific, or expert services exemptions. Charter Section 1001(b) allows up to 150 positions to be exempted from Civil Service rules to provide management, professional, scientific, or expert services of an exceptional character across City departments (including Proprietary Departments). There are an additional 50 exempt positions added by the City Council pursuant to Charter Section 1001(b)(4), of which 37 have been filled and 1 is pending City Council's approval, and 12 are available. Approval of this request will increase the count. As of the date of this letter, this request will be the 39th filled position of the additional 50 exemptions.

This position will lead APD's Office of Homeland Security, Intelligence and Support, overseeing all law enforcement, security, emergency services, professional standards, and personnel operations. Reporting directly to the LAWA Airport Police Chief, the position develops policies for LAX and VNY, ensuring compliance with the Airport Security Program and managing security planning.

The minimum requirements for this position include two (2) years of full-time paid experience as an Airport Police Captain or as a commanding officer managing the internal inspection process, patrol, traffic, safety, or security activities and operations of a law enforcement agency. Experience or background in Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT), intelligence services, Homeland Security, terrorism, and counterterrorism may be required.

The exemption of this position will allow the Los Angeles World Airports the flexibility to recruit and select the best qualified candidate who possesses the necessary specialized experience, talent, and expertise for the position. The duties and requirements as described are appropriate to the class of Assistant Airport Police Chief.

Based on my review of LAWA's request, as well as the review of the Personnel Department, I hereby approve the request for the exemption of one (1) Assistant Airport Police Chief and transmit my action to the City Council, pursuant to City Charter Section 1001(b)(4). If the exempt position is not filled within six months, my approval for the department to fill the position may expire.

cc: Mitch Kamin, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Justin Yoshimaru, Office of the Mayor
Thomas Arechiga, Office of the Mayor
John Ackerman, CEO LAWA
Robert Lowe, LAWA
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