

MOTION

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) is responsible for maintaining and operating the City's park system, ensuring that facilities are clean, safe, and accessible to the public. Currently, the responsibility for park gate closures rests with the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) Security Services Division. While this division provides an important public safety function, relying on the Security Services Division for gate closures might not be the most efficient method to ensure parks are closed on time.

Historically, the Park Gate Closure Program (PGCP) was administered by RAP's Park Ranger Division. In 2006, however, park closure duties and related staff were transferred to the Department of General Services – Office of Public Safety (GSD-OPS) following the downsizing of the Park Ranger Division. In 2012, when GSD-OPS was absorbed into the LAPD, responsibility for the PGCP shifted to LAPD's Security Services Division. Since then, staffing and budget limitations have made it increasingly difficult for the Division to meet the intended goals of the program.

Currently, only a portion of City parks included in the gate closure program are being secured each night. On average, fewer than half of the parks are closed during each deployment period, with nightly closures varying depending on the number of personnel assigned. Priority is typically given to parks on designated lists, while other parks across the Valley, West Los Angeles, and the Harbor are rotated into the schedule as resources allow. The number of parks closed is directly tied to staffing levels, and large venue events can further reduce capacity, shifting both the order and the number of parks that are secured on any given night. Ensuring parks are closed on time is essential to preventing vandalism, illegal dumping, and other after-hours activities that compromise public safety, damage City property, and diminish the quality of life for surrounding neighborhoods.

Given the ongoing staffing and operational challenges, the City should identify a more permanent solution for park gate closures. A long-term approach should ensure parks are consistently secured, establish clear responsibility and accountability, and make efficient use of City personnel and resources.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Police Department, and City Administrative Officer, to report on options for establishing a permanent Park Gate Closure Program, including the feasibility and operational and fiscal impacts of transferring responsibility for park gate closures or other appropriate alternatives, and any staffing, resources, or implementation measures necessary to ensure City parks are consistently secured.

PRESENTED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:




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