

#10

RECEIVED

FEB - 3 2010

OK

MAKING THE CASE FOR SKID ROW CULTURE



Findings from a
Collaborative Inquiry by the
Los Angeles Poverty Department
and the Urban Institute

By Maria Rosario Jackson and John Malpede

This case study was developed for and supported in part by the Arts & Civic Engagement Impact Initiative of Animating Democracy, a program of Americans for the Arts, made possible with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Animating
Democracy
A Program of Americans for the Arts

http://www.artsusa.org/animatingdemocracy/pdf/reading_room/LAPD.pdf



#10
RECEIVED
FEB - 3 2010
llc

February 2, 2010

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Letter of support for City Attorney and LAPD positions that support the Safer City Initiative, HALO Project and Streets or Services

Dear Mayor and Council Leaders,

It is with desperate fervor that I write to you today regarding the elimination of some critical positions that will ultimately affect vital programs in your 2009-2010 budget proposal. I want to express how deeply concerned I am about cuts in the City Attorney's office that will ultimately lead to the closure of some life-saving programs. We certainly understand the need to make changes in how we allocate money to our city budget, but cutting positions and programs that have made such a tremendous and sustainable change in our city is the wrong move.

We implore you to preserve funding in next year's budget to support the Streets or Services program and the HALO project and the City positions that support these programs - both are critical pieces of the Safer City Initiative infrastructure that has accomplished so much in a short time. The Safer City Initiative at its inception, was designed to be a three-pronged approach. If you take away the City Attorney's leadership on the program, all you have enforcement. The program as a whole is what has made a difference in our community.

Los Angeles has yet to embrace the concept of a community court for Skid Row. Instead, *the community*, working with the tools and support provided by the City Attorney's office, created the alternative: the HALO and Streets or Services programs, which provide the much-needed diversion for misdemeanor and quality of life offenders who need services instead of another routine overnight jail stay followed by a return to the streets of Skid Row. . These programs started off slowly, limping along, until the City Attorney's office took a bold stand in trying to move these initiatives forward. **These programs save more money than they cost. Please do not make decisions that would eliminate these programs now when they are beginning to thrive and make a real impact in the lives of so many living on the streets of Skid Row.**

In the past two years Skid Row's violent crime has decreased by over 33% and "sidewalk" deaths, which include those people who died sleeping on the sidewalks, under freeway off ramps, under bridges, and in the street generally from overdoses or neglect, is down a startling 41% as compared to 2005/2006. There are fewer people dying from traffic deaths because jaywalking has been reduced.

The streets are cleaner, trees are trimmed, drug dealers no longer stake claim on our corners and the residents (housed and un-housed) feel safer. Today there are no drug-infested porta-potties

RECEIVED

FEB - 3 2010

#10

ME

Good Morning my name is nirinjan singh khalsa and for the last 6 or so years I have served as a commissioner on our cities human relations commission.

Over time I have had the pleasure to get to know several of you personally and have seen and experienced the degree that you care for this city and the people that call it home.

Those of you that know me, know that I am not prone to hysterical reactions or remarks and beyond the three times I have been before you for confirmation I have never been before you to plead an issue.

But now I must...

There is no question that we are in a severe financial crisis. But In the midst of any crisis the worst thing you can do is make short sighted decisions that will before long leave you worse off that you were to begin with.

Eliminating the newly formed HSD would without question be one of these short sighted decisions that will definitely come back to bite us.

The idea of eliminating these three vital commissions is not only pound foolish it is not even penny wise.

Eliminating these commissions will not save us money. To realize this all we have to do is calculate how much it costs us to roll out more than 100 LAPD officers to one of our high schools when violence breaks out, or take a look at the litigation we are currently involved in and the current and potential legal fees and settlements that we have and will have to pay out as a result of the Mayday malay.

Every year these 3 commissions save the city money, often far beyond the value of its budget, by mitigating issues before they cost us in dollars and cents, and even more important in human tragedy.

Finally for us to eliminate these vital services would send a message to the people of our fair city and to the rest of the country and for that matter to the world that we no longer care about protecting our children, defending the status of women and working to prevent violence in our community.

This is one image financially and otherwise we can't afford.

Eliminating HSD is a bad idea, please don't.

MOTION

Cultural Tourism programs and activities take place throughout the City on a daily basis. However, despite being the second largest industry in the City of Los Angeles, tourism is not guided by any explicit governmental economic policy.

Traditionally, the Los Angeles tourism market has been directed at larger regional attractions such as Disneyland, Universal Studios and Knott's Berry Farm which are all located outside the city's limits. The City currently allocates 2% of the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) to the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau (LACVB) to promote and market Los Angeles County to visitors and tourists. It has been demonstrated in other cities across the country such as Chicago, New York and Philadelphia, that programs aimed at local, cultural and ethnic tourism can also lead to economic development and further enhance a city's communities.

The City of Los Angeles possesses culturally rich and dynamic communities such as Chinatown, El Pueblo, Highland Park, Hollywood, Lincoln Heights, Little Tokyo and Watts that could benefit from a cultural tourism program. Establishing a policy to create and support a Cultural Tourism program in the City of Los Angeles would not only promote the cultural aspects of the City which have been traditionally excluded but encourage economic growth and community enhancement.

In addition to the TOT, the City has various resources such as Business Improvement Districts, Target Neighborhood Initiatives, Historic Preservation Overlay Zones and the DASH program that could be coordinated and integrated with Cultural Affairs and LACVB to develop and enhance a cultural tourism program. For example, the CRA recently received a grant award from the MTA to develop a cultural tourism program via the Internet to promote various transportation lines when visiting culturally rich destinations in the local area. In addition to establishing a city policy, a working group consisting of relevant City Departments and staff along with community groups, should be created to coordinate these efforts.

In order to create and establish a Los Angeles Cultural Tourism Program in the City of Los Angeles, the City Council should adopt a policy and create a working group to develop and coordinate a program.

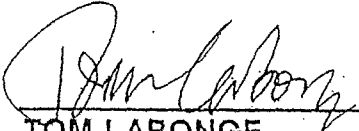
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City of Los Angeles hereby declare its full support to develop a Cultural Tourism Program and promote all cultural, ethnic, historic and unique areas within the City of Los Angeles.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City encourage all relevant City Departments and agencies to coordinate available resources and services relevant to the tourism industry to accomplish this goal.

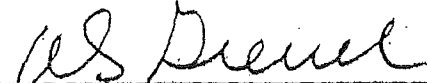
I FURTHER MOVE that the Cultural Affairs Department be instructed to form a Cultural Tourism Working Group consisting of appropriate departments, agencies and community organizations such as the Alliance for Cultural Tourism to: (1) make recommendations on the development and implementation of a Cultural DASH Pilot Program and a Cultural Tourism Pilot Project; (2) identify areas in the City that may be tour ready, evaluate potential funding sources, including but not limited to TOT funds; and (3) report back to the Economic Development and Employment and Arts, Health and Humanities Committees in 90 days on such a program.

PRESENTED BY:


ERIC GARCETTI
COUNCILMEMBER, 13TH DISTRICT


TOM LABONGE
COUNCILMEMBER, 4TH DISTRICT

SECONDED BY:



RECEIVED

FEB - 3 2010

#10
NO

REY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



RICHARD J. RIORDAN
MAYOR

Office of the
CITY CLERK
Council and Public Services
Room 615, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Council File Information - (213) 485-5703
General Information - (213) 485-5705
Fax: (213) 847-0636
Fax: (213) 485-8944

HELEN GINSBURG
Chief, Council and Public Services Division

T. MARTINEZ
Executive Officer

When making inquiries
relative to this matter
refer to File No.

99-1511

April 18, 2001

L.A. Alliance for Cultural Tourism
c/o L.A. Alliance for a New Economy
548 S. Spring Street, Suite 630
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Honorable Richard Riordan, Mayor
Office of Administrative and
Research Services
Community Development Department
Attn: Lillian Kawasaki
Chief Legislative Analyst

Department of Recreation & Parks
Department of Cultural Affairs
Community Redevelopment Agency
Councilmember Hernandez
Council District 13

RE: CREATION OF A COMMUNITY-BASED CULTURAL TOURISM PROGRAM IN THE CITY

~~At the meeting of the Council held April 17, 2001, the following
action was taken:~~

Attached report adopted	_____ X _____
Attached motion (-) adopted.....	_____
Attached resolution (-) adopted.....	_____
Mayor concurred.....	_____
FORTHWITH.....	_____
Motion adopted to approve communication recommendation.....	_____

J. Michael Carey

City Clerk
vp

steno\991511



TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Your COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

reports as follows:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Public Comments	<u>XX</u>	<u>—</u>

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the creation of a community-based cultural tourism program in the City of Los Angeles.

Recommendation for Council action:

INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and the Office of Administrative and Research Services (OARS) to continue to meet with the Alliance for Community Cultural Tourism (ACT), the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau (LACVB) and the Cultural Affairs Department to review the recommendations for a cultural tourism development program presented by ACT and LACVB and report to the Community and Economic Development (CED) Committee with recommendations for the implementation of the program.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted. Neither the CLA nor the OARS has completed a financial analysis of this matter.

Summary:

On March 19, 2001, the Community and Economic Development (CED) Committee considered the cultural tourism development program transmittal presented by ACT, dated March 19, 2001. The CED Committee instructed the CLA, OARS and LACVB to review the recommendations and report back to the CED Committee on the implementation of the program.

In its transmittal dated March 19, 2001, the ACT made the following recommendations:

1. Dedicate a portion of the existing Transient Occupancy Tax revenues to the development, implementation, and ongoing operation of a Cultural Tourism Development Program consisting of the following components:

Establishment of six Visitor Welcome Centers

"Tour Readiness" training to low-income ethnic communities that includes tour planning, docent training, exhibitions, marketing, merchandising, and business planning.

Youth involvement in tour planning and training for career opportunities in the field of tourism and travel.

Infrastructure developments through site-specific improvements of street lighting, signage, security, and transportation in cooperation with the "Pearls of LA" program, Business Improvement Districts and the Community Development Block Grant programs.

2. Appoint representation from leaders in the cultural tourism movement and under promoted communities to serve on the board of directors of the LACVB.
3. Establishment of the Cultural Tourism Development Policy of the City to assure continued oversight of all City-funded tourism related expenditures.
4. Creation of a Cultural Tourism Working Group that can facilitate coordination and communication among all tourism related city departments and agencies. The Working Group should have representatives from the following City departments, agencies and affiliates: Cultural Affairs Department, Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), Department of Recreation and Parks, Human Relations Commission, Department of Airports, World Port LA, Los Angeles Police Department, LACVB and the Los Angeles Sports Entertainment and Commission.

The ACT reported that various cultural arenas within the City have been excluded from tourist maps for visitors. The ACT proposed a partnership with the LACVB. The ACT and LACVB proposed to implement a cultural tourism program which will include intra-community tours of areas such as East Los Angeles, South Central Los Angeles' and Leimert Park's Jazz districts, Little Tokyo and the North Valley, as well as provide tourist information centers or kiosks in these areas. El Mercado de la Paloma was designated as the first pilot program visitors' welcome center.

A successful cultural tourism program was established in Chicago. The Chicago communities took ownership and pride in their neighborhoods. The program used high school students as docents for tours. The Chicago neighborhoods benefitted through increased business from its cultural tourism program.

The LACVB reported that it is in the process of completing an assessment of existing visitor programs and is looking forward to working with ACT to implement the cultural tourism program. This program works with the LACVB's strategic plan. The LACVB believes that the visiting friends and relatives market is the way to introduce the community tourism program. The Academy of Travel and Tourism takes high school students from Belmont and Fremont High Schools and prepares them for jobs in the travel and tourism industry. These students could be used for the Los Angeles cultural tourism program.

The ACT, formerly the Tourism Industry Development Council, organized tours during the World Cup which included East Los Angeles graphics, Grand Avenue, Little Tokyo, Olvera Street, and Chinatown. These tours benefit the community through the circulation of dollars from visitors from around the world. The ACT requests Council support for implementation of the cultural tourism program and the coordination of the CLA, OARS and relevant City departments efforts toward this purpose.

Councilmember Pacheco inquired about the goals of the cultural tourism program and tools for measuring those goals. He asked, "How will success or failure of the program be determined?" Milestones must be set for the implementation and success of the program. The Councilmember inquired as to the availability of a comparison study for Chicago's tourism program. The ACT responded that there were research materials available. The LACVB responded that it compiles information annually and on a three-year basis relative to visitor planning, volume of visitors in hotels, how long the visitors stay and which accommodations are used.

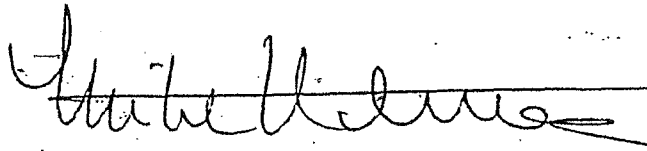

The Chair explained that many hotels in the MacArthur Park areas are operating at capacity due to their European advertising. Cultural tourism must be promoted in the City. City residents believe that this area is a crime area. However, the European visitors come, visit La Fonda restaurant, listen to Mariachi bands in the park and visit other areas in the City. The MacArthur Park area is the beginning of the neon sign district of Los Angeles.

The Chair explained that during a trip to Washington, D.C., he noted a visitor's magazine in the hotel room promoting the viewing of panda bears at the zoo. During his trip, he went to the zoo to see the panda bears. The zoo visit was a direct result of the advertisement in the visitor's magazine. Los Angeles has a lot of cultural history which should be promoted in visitors' magazines.

This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



RPT.

ADOPTED

MCP
3/28/01
199151

APR 17 2001
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

#10 09-0600-5159
RECEIVED

FEB - 3 2010

llc

February 3, 2010

The Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa
The Honorable Los Angeles City Council Members

Re: Elimination of 1000 City Jobs & departments such as
Department of Human Services, Department on Disability, Environmental
Affairs and others

The City-Wide Advisory Affirmative Action Committee would like to ask you to delay any vote resulting in lay off of over 1000 City employees and elimination of the Human Services Department, Department on Disability, Environmental Affairs, and other departments. Rather, we would ask that you continue to explore alternative strategies to avoid lay offs and to retain these departments intact until we have information on whether such action may have an adverse impact on groups that may already be underrepresented in the City workforce.

These proposed layoffs and possible elimination of the aforementioned departments will have an immediate, adverse impact on the lives of our City employees and the most vulnerable citizens of Los Angeles. The recommended elimination of these departments will not only displace employees into an extremely tight job market but will also have an especially negative impact on our community by reducing or eliminating services to the most under-represented and under-served populations such as minorities, the elderly, disabled, children, youth, families, and women in need. It is critically important for these departments to continue to serve as the voices and advocates dedicated to representing and reaching out directly to the Angelenos they serve. The recommendation for larger departments to assume responsibility for these services does not come near to assuring continuation of the quality of expertise, direct services, and specialized attention and resources that the current departments render.

While we understand the tremendous pressures City government is under in devising solutions to these unprecedented financial circumstances, we request that the City Council delay its vote on layoff of 1000+ employees until we have more specific information on whether the elimination of these departments and/or layoffs will have an adverse impact on groups that may already be underrepresented in the City workforce. In addition, we are appealing to the City leadership to continue to explore creative ways to retain intact the services of the Departments of Human Services, Disability, Environmental Affairs, and other departments. Our membership is ready and willing to contribute ideas and efforts toward maintaining City services more effectively and economically in support of reaching these goals.

Sincerely,



ANN MARIE DELA RIVA
Chair
City-Wide Advisory Affirmative Action Committee

REPRESENTING:

Affirmative Action Association for Women
Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel
Association of City Employees with Disabilities
Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association
Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association
Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees



10

RECEIVED

LAPD PAYS FOR ITSELF WITH...TECH-ENABLED CRIME SAVINGS

FEB - 3 2010

MA



By educating municipal leaders and the public on the cost savings of reducing crime, The Los Angeles Police Department has preserved its funding even as the city faces a \$406 million budget crisis.

When one person kills another, it costs society \$4 million. That number comes from adding up expenses such as incarceration costs, police costs, medical treatments for crime-related injuries and property losses. And it is a relatively conservative number; cost estimates range from \$4 million to upwards of \$11 million per murder, according to the nonprofit think tank the RAND Corporation.

That high cost – along with the estimated cost of other crimes such as rape, robbery and assault – is largely the reason that the Los Angeles Police Department has been so successful in growing and maintaining its now \$1.3 billion law enforcement budget, even as the city faces a deficit in the general fund of \$406 million.

In fact, Los Angeles has made its case for expanding its funding in a struggling economy largely by crunching the numbers, and it is a strategy that departments in other cities might find worth studying. Because even as other police departments in cities ranging in size from New York to Aspen are getting hit with big cuts, Los Angeles expects to add 200 officers to its current force by October. This will bring the total number of officers to 10,000 – up from fewer than 9,200 in 2002.

“Our whole premise is that the police department is an investment, not a cost to society,” says Deputy Chief Charlie Beck, Chief of Detective Bureau, of the Los Angeles Police Department. “If you don’t have adequate public safety and you don’t have the reputation of public safety, you incur some tremendous costs to society. You can’t attract businesses. You can’t grow your population.”

It’s an argument that many police departments have made – and they’ve still faced budget cuts. But officials in the Los Angeles Police Department say that by focusing on the bottom line, it’s possible to prove that cutting crime really does pay off for municipalities.

Since 2002, the number of homicides in Los Angeles has dropped by more than 50 percent. The number of homicides in the city in 2008 was 383, down from 647 in 2002, the year that the department’s current administrative team took the reins. Based on an estimated cost of \$4 million per homicide, that’s \$1.05 billion in annual savings right there. And RAND Corporation actually estimates that each homicide in Los Angeles costs the city around \$8 million, which puts the yearly costs savings at \$2.11 billion.

And homicides are not the only violent crime that has been reduced. The number of rapes – which RAND estimates costs Los Angeles around \$200,000 per incident – had dropped 45 percent since 2002. If you compare the number of rapes in the first 8 weeks of 2002, which was 184, to the 101 rapes so far in the first 8 weeks of 2009, that means the city has already logged in savings of about \$16.6 million this year by reducing the number of rapes alone.

Slashing the Crime Rate Can Save Millions – or Even Billions

In fact, the city's crime rate is the lowest it has been in 40 years. Even more importantly, crime is continuing to decrease in the face of bad economic times, which usually leads to higher crime rates. Since 2002, the city has actually experienced a 38 percent reduction in Part 1 crimes, which covers everything from homicide to theft. And already this year, as of the end of February, Part 1 crimes were already down 5.4 percent compared to last year's levels. Homicides are down 24 percent compared to the same time frame in 2008. Overall, Part 1 crimes have dropped a whopping 38 percent since 2002.

But Deputy Chief Beck stresses that crunching the numbers is just the first step in convincing city officials and residents to remain committed to funding law enforcement efforts. If you're a police department looking to preserve funding in the face of a city budget crisis, "you have to demonstrate that you are using the money wisely," he says.

How do you do that? "You don't just invest in hiring more police officers," Beck says. "You also look at force multipliers such as technology."

When it comes to technology, Beck says that departments need to start by making sure they have the basics, such as an effective computer aided dispatch 9-1-1 system and a 3-1-1 system to keep the dispatch system from being overloaded. "If that technology doesn't work, then everything else collapses," Beck says.

After that, technology such as video surveillance and automated license plate reading systems can be highly effective at fighting crime as well – without requiring additional officers to be hired.

"We've been very happy with the results of closed circuit TV systems in the city," says Deputy Chief Beck. "And license plate readers are another very effective way to multiply your ability to fight crime."

Getting to the Root of the Crime Problem

In addition to these technologies, the Los Angeles Police Department has instituted a rigorous Compstat (short for "computers and statistics") program, which focuses on determining why crime is happening and then fixing the root cause rather than just addressing the symptoms.

As part of this program, the department gets daily information not only on how many crimes are committed but also information on where they were committed, what time they were committed and a host of other data that helps police determine what might be causing the crime problems – and make changes accordingly.

For instance, the department installed surveillance cameras and mobilized community groups when crime started increasing in certain housing developments. They began working with the local schools to reduce truancy rates when they began to see an increasing number of robberies during the day, and the number of robberies dropped.

“We’re always looking at how changing one of the three pieces of the equation – the victim, the perpetrators or the location – might fix the problem. Sometimes the solution can be as simple as fixing a lighting issue or as straightforward as locating and shutting down a methadone clinic,” says Beck. “Once you address the issue, then the problem goes away.”

Beck is quick to point out that the “old way” of doing things – having more officers on patrol where crime has increased – is still effective, but stresses that it is really just an interim measure. “When a problem first pops up, you still use high visibility patrol first. But it’s a short term solution,” Beck says. “That gives you time to figure out the root of the problem.”

Mobilizing the Community Around You

Once you have the money and have proven you are using it wisely, Beck says, the third key is letting the community know about your successes. “You need to publicize your success,” says Beck. “That does a couple of things. It increases the public’s perception – and the reality – of safety, and it generates enthusiasm for what you’re doing. Everyone wants to be a part of a success story.”

For instance, the Los Angeles Police Department has been very effective in getting the word out about its success using video surveillance to reduce crime in Jordan Downs, one of the city’s most well-known and most crime-ridden public housing developments.

So where might police departments in other cities raise some extra much-needed cash? Los Angeles gets most of its extra funds from a rather non-traditional tax source – an increase in residents’ trash tax.

But Beck also suggests that departments take a cold, hard look at what they are spending their existing budget on today. “You need to look at investments in the future rather than just fixed costs. This also helps you prove that you’re using money wisely,” Beck says. “As the economy gets worse and the public tries to spend what little money it has, it’s definitely the worst time to cut public safety. But the unfortunate reality is that there are many options for public money. We’re just one of them. And you have to prove the investment is worth it.”

<http://ezine.motorola.com/ezine/government?c=19&title=LAPD+Pays+for+Itself+%0Awit+h+Tech-Enabled+Crime+Savings&a=358#>