

Your

**PUBLIC SAFETY and
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

report as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY and BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEES REPORT relative to seeking reimbursement for costs incurred by the City for the Michael Jackson memorial event.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Perry – Parks):

1. REQUEST that the City Attorney provide, in closed session, a detailed briefing of the legal basis for compelling the Michael Jackson memorial event organizers to provide the cost reimbursements, including an analysis of their previous advice relative to large venues with ongoing and continuous operations, and the impact of the timing of the Michael Jackson Memorial event with the transmission to, and adoption by Council of, the Special Events Ordinance.
2. REQUEST that the Mayor and the Councilmember from the 9th Council District resume, as soon as the criminal investigation into this matter conducted by the City Attorney is resolved, their discussions with event organizers to seek reimbursement for costs incurred by the City of Los Angeles for services provided associated with the Michael Jackson memorial event.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and City Administrative Officer (CAO) report that costs incurred by the City of Los Angeles for the Michael Jackson Memorial, that it would otherwise not have incurred had the event been held elsewhere, total approximately \$2 million (overtime costs for salaries and expenses). The CLA also reports that the estimated economic benefit to the city from the event totals approximately \$4 million.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On October 23, 2009, Council considered Motion (Perry – Parks) directing the CLA and CAO to report in response to various other Council motions introduced relative to the Michael Jackson Memorial event. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety and Budget and Finance Committees for consideration.

In a report to Council dated November 13, 2009 (attached to the Council file), the CLA and CAO report that the Michael Jackson Memorial event was unprecedented given the entertainer's international superstar status, the world-wide public interest, extensive media coverage, and the activities of his fans prior to the day of the Memorial. To avoid disruptions and ensure that public safety would not be jeopardized during the event, the Police Department was compelled to plan for the higher end of the anticipated crowd size, deploying 3,968 police officers at several key event sites.

The morning of the event, it became apparent that the crowd size would be "relatively minimal (estimated at 20,000)." The Police Department began demobilization after all attendees were

inside the venue and the event was underway. Demobilization was phased over a two-hour period, reducing the number of officers to a few hundred. Police officers who were on overtime were released first. The officers retained were those with specialized skills, such as Metropolitan Division (e.g., bomb detection), and those who could not be released early due to operational needs.

The CLA and CAO go on to report that LA Inc., estimated that city businesses experienced approximately \$4 million in economic activity associated with the event.

Notwithstanding smaller than anticipated crowd sizes, and that no acts of violence or other threats to public safety materialized, it is the belief of the CLA and CAO that City departments acted reasonably and responsibly in planning and deploying staff for the Michael Jackson Memorial event, in light of the potential risks to the public and past experience with potentially large and unpredictable events. The CLA and CAO further observe that the City's Special Events Ordinance had not been presented and adopted until after this event.

At its meeting held December 7, 2009, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the Police Department and the CLA. The Police Department representative discussed the Department's deployment planning for the event, and demobilization. Councilmember Perry stated that efforts to seek out donations from the event organizer will not proceed as long as a criminal investigation into this matter conducted by the City Attorney is underway. The Committee recommended that Council request that the City Attorney report to Council relative to the status of the criminal investigation, and that Council further request that the Mayor and Councilmember from the 9th Council District meet with event organizers to seek reimbursement for costs incurred by City of Los Angeles in connection with the Michael Jackson Memorial event.

At its meeting held the same day, the Budget and Finance Committee concurred with the action taken by the Public Safety Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
SMITH:	YES
CARDENAS:	ABSENT
PERRY:	YES
REYES:	ABSENT
ZINE:	YES

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
PARKS:	YES
SMITH:	YES
HUIZAR:	YES
KORETZ:	YES
ROSENDAHL:	ABSENT