

**TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

File No. 13-0084

Your PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

reports as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the use of social media by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Buscaino – Englander):

INSTRUCT LAPD to report to the Public Safety Committee within 45 days with recommendations to modify Department policies on the use of social media outlets while on duty to allow Senior Lead Officers to use Facebook and other similar social media tools to communicate with their residents and participate in online Neighborhood Watch Groups.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

SUMMARY

On January 18, 2013, Council considered Motion (Buscaino – Englander) relative to instructing LAPD to report relative to the use of social media. Motion movers state that residents have asked for the participation of their Senior Lead Officers in Facebook groups. However, under current Department policy, participation in social media websites by individual officers is limited. LAPD has made great strides using social media to investigate and prevent crimes, and engaging in resident contacts and general information sharing. Given the important role Senior Lead Officers play in support of Community-Based policing activities, Motion movers believe that LAPD should update social media policies to reflect current communication expectations. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held February 22, 2013, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with LAPD staff. LAPD representatives stated the use of social media to communicate with the public is encouraged. There are no restrictions on its use. The Department has identified two experts in each Bureau to assist Divisions take advantage of social media. Also, a training program is being developed to assist detectives and field officers. Committee recommended that Council approve Motion.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	ABSENT
PERRY:	ABSENT
BUSCAINO:	YES
KREKORIAN:	YES
ZINE:	YES

JAW
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