

MOTION
"Back to Basic Car"

PUBLIC SAFETY

For decades, a mantra for Los Angeles law enforcement and elected officials has been "community policing." Generations of leaders have routinely cited its virtue, and committed to making it happen. After scandals or civil unrest, one of the top solutions recommended by blue ribbon commissions and citizen advisory panels is invariably "community policing."

Community policing has been described as a "philosophy of full service personalized policing, where the same officer patrols and works in the same area on a permanent basis, from a decentralized place, working in a proactive partnership with citizens to identify and solve problems." It depends on having regular patrol officers in our neighborhoods -- something residents throughout the City will routinely say does not happen enough. Constituents frequently contact their City Council office to echo concerns that their neighborhood lacks a consistent police presence, or that LAPD response time is too slow. Such reports raise legitimate questions regarding the adequacy of current LAPD deployment and community policing strategies, the overall number of officers assigned to patrol neighborhoods throughout the City, and the ability to quickly respond to a life-threatening emergency.

LAPD's community policing is implemented through its system of Basic Cars, its Patrol Plan, and its 7/40 Mandate -- systems which sorely need review, improvement, reinvigoration, and significant reinvestment of personnel:

- There are currently 168 Basic Car areas spread over the LAPD's 21 geographic divisions, but they are often not assigned actual personnel. A recent 12:00 p.m. "Logged On Units Report" indicated that only 133 Basic Cars and 19 "extra" patrol cars were deployed Citywide.
- Officers contend that the Patrol Plan is not consistently followed and the 7/40 Mandate is not being met. A recent survey conducted by the Police Protective League indicated that 87% of the 1,200 LAPD officer respondents did not believe divisional deployment was sufficient to respond to 9-1-1 calls in a timely manner, and 89% did not believe deployment was sufficient to conduct community policing.
- The number and boundaries of the Basic Car areas has not been reviewed in decades, raising questions about the adequacy of the baseline patrol deployment footprint -- particularly given the significant population growth, new development, traffic, and the overall increase in 9-1-1 calls for police service over the last several decades.
- The LAPD's own reports on Patrol Plan compliance have routinely indicated that the prescribed baseline patrol staffing plans for the individual geographic patrol areas are not consistently met due to vacancies, including illnesses, injuries, and the temporary loaning of officers to other assignments.

At the heart of these problems is the small number of sworn officers assigned to patrol duties -- something which LAPD has been called upon to remedy repeatedly. Historically, LAPD answers the call for more patrol officers with a request for more sworn personnel -- but even when more personnel are hired, the ranks of patrol officers do not increase. **In fact, even while LAPD's ranks have swelled, the number of officers patrolling our neighborhoods has shrunk. On an average day in 1969, with a city population of 2,935,300, LAPD had 6,194 sworn officers, with 337 patrol officers on the streets, assigned to 181 cars patrolling our neighborhoods. On an afternoon in December 2016, with a city population of 4,031,000, LAPD had 9,885 sworn officers, with just 311 patrol officers on the streets, assigned to 159 cars patrolling our neighborhoods.**

LAPD must do better by our neighborhoods and find ways with the thousands of additional sworn officers to re-emphasize the importance of neighborhood patrols. The department can and should review



administrative assignments that can be filled by civilians, audit the purpose and function of specialized units for potential reassignment to patrol duties, require more specialized units to answer radio calls, and move to a "Constant Staffing" system so that Area Captains have the full deployment officers at all times to meet or exceed the Department's Patrol Plan and "7/40 Mandate."

I THEREFORE MOVE to instruct the Police Department (LAPD), with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), to report back with the an explanation of how daily police deployment and patrol staffing levels are determined, including:

1. An overview of daily compliance with the 7/40 Mandate by Area Station,
2. A comparison of the factors used in the former Uniform Deployment Formula with those of the current Patrol Plan,
3. Options for modifying the current Patrol Plan deployment formula by placing more weight on existing factors or adding new ones,
4. Printed copies of the current Table of Organization and Deployment, and the Authorized Fixed Post Chart detailing where all personnel are currently assigned Department-wide,
5. A description of how many personnel are allocated to each geographic division, how many positions are allocated to the Field Patrol Force, how many positions are actually filled and regularly deployed in a Basic Car, and
6. A detailed summary the number of positions assigned to the Field Patrol Force each year since 1969.

I FURTHER MOVE to instruct the LAPD, with the assistance of the CAO and CLA, to report back with options and strategies for establishing a more realistic and robust baseline Field Patrol Force staffing level and formula for all 21 Area Stations, including:

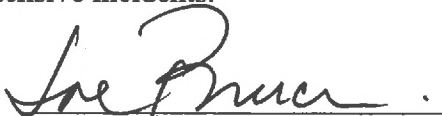
1. The development of new thresholds to ensure that minimum patrol staffing levels are maintained at all times,
2. The creation of a "Constant Staffing" overtime policy and/or staffing pool to backfill Compensatory Time Off (CTO) vacancies specifically in patrol assignments,
3. The ability to link the current sworn hiring plan to an increased patrol staffing goal,
4. The redeployment of sworn personnel from less essential functions and the integration of specialized units into routine patrol support duties, and
5. The prioritized hiring of essential civilian positions currently backfilled with sworn personnel.

I FURTHER MOVE to instruct the LAPD, with the assistance of the CAO and CLA, to initiate an "Impact Study" to re-boundary and expand the current number of Basic Car Areas to better conform to identifiable neighborhood boundaries, improve geographic patrol coverage, reduce response times, and facilitate an increase in the number of Senior Lead Officers, Field Patrol Officers, and Basic Cars assigned to each of the City's 21 Area Stations.


I FURTHER MOVE to instruct the LAPD, with the assistance of the CAO and CLA, to report back relative to the establishment of updated protocols for systematically moving-up police resources from outside divisions to plug significant holes in geographic patrol coverage and maintain reasonable response times in voided areas during periods of heavy call activity and resource-intensive incidents.

PRESENTED BY:


MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District


JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:



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ORIGINAL