

Communication from Public

Name: Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

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Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Shadow Hills Property Owners Association (SHPOA) represents about 2200 households in the NE San Fernando Valley and we are in favor of Council File 20-0190 which would allow City Park Rangers to carry a firearm while on duty. The men and women who patrol our parks went through the same extensive training, including use of a firearm, as other sworn police officers, including those of LAPD. 1. Our parks are frequently the site of homeless people and drug addicts and require a higher level of law enforcement, i.e., armed officers. Many times, rangers are in remote areas of parklands and are confronted by people, many who are on drugs, with deadly weapons and/or bombs. The rangers have no way to defend themselves, and if in a remote and not easily identifiable area of a park, are unable to give a specific location for LAPD backup to assist. 2. The rangers are losing skilled personnel to other law enforcement agencies due to attrition. This is even more dire since there are only 25 park rangers to cover the entire city. 3. Besides being our parks' first responders, LA City Park Rangers are also tasked with a broad range of duties, including wild-land fire fighting operations, rope rescues, medical call responses, and so on. Based on the foregoing, we feel that our Park Rangers must be able to carry a firearm to (1) keep our parks safe for patrons, and (2) keep our Park Rangers safe when confronted with potentially dangerous situations.