

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/19/2020 03:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I was unaware that Park Rangers were not allowed to carry firearms. I find this outrageous and would like this to be reconsidered to allow Park Rangers to carry firearms to protect themselves and others.

Communication from Public

Name: Franklin Fontanilla

Date Submitted: 03/19/2020 12:08 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I support this motion. I feel that Park Rangers are put in harm's way many times and are unable to properly deal with certain situations because they are unarmed and are vulnerable. They are peace officers. They do a valuable service to our communities, and deserve to be safe.

Communication from Public

Name: Joanna

Date Submitted: 03/19/2020 11:50 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I support this motion and believe the rangers should be armed as they have the necessary training to do so safely. This would allow the rangers to continue doing their job well while helping ensure the public's safety as well as their own.

Communication from Public

Name: Will B.

Date Submitted: 03/19/2020 06:53 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: -Margaret A. Anderson-Park Ranger gunned down at a snow-chain checkpoint -Steve Renard Makuakane-Jarrell-Park Ranger gunned down on a dog off leash contact -Robert Lewis McGhee Jr.-Park Ranger gunned down on a stop sign violation contact -Kenneth Carmel Patrick-Park Ranger gunned down on a traffic stop -Paul H. Salyer-Park Ranger gunned down when checking a campsite -Danny Blumenthal-Park Ranger gunned down while doing maintenance and checking a restroom with another Ranger These are just a few examples of Park Rangers killed by gunfire on duty while performing tasks or making contacts that might be considered “routine, low risk” by people that have no law enforcement background or training. This doesn’t even list murders of Rangers (or even Rangers that survived attacks) by methods other than gunfire or Rangers killed when responding to calls where there was a known or suspected weapon. Remember that the initial context for a stop or dispatched call doesn’t determine the outcome of the call, much less the mindset or motivation of a contacted person. There is no law enforcement “lite.” Even when not performing a “law enforcement” duty, Rangers are still law enforcement officers, and thus a target. The mere presence of a firearm on an officer’s belt can deter or prevent violent altercations and assaults on officers and promote general compliance. This is in addition to the obvious necessity of having a firearm to overcome a deadly threat. LA City Park Rangers are trained to POST standards and attend a standard law enforcement academy. Firearms are one part of the necessary, standard tool kit used by other effective, trained law enforcement officers (CHP, local police, sheriff’s deputies, game wardens, arson investigators, etc.). The mere title of a law enforcement officer shouldn’t change the tools available to them when time-tested evidence across the nation and around the globe has demonstrated what is needed to do the job. Why should Rangers be expected to do their jobs with less than the basic tools of any other officers that are trained the same and face the same circumstances? They shouldn’t. Please provide the appropriate tools to Rangers so that they can do their jobs safely and effectively while providing maximum service to the public.

Communication from Public

Name: Kristin Sabo

Date Submitted: 03/19/2020 02:11 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable councilmembers: Park Rangers who successfully complete a full POST Academy should definitely be armed. "Being armed" isn't owned by LAPD as some claim. Many other departments besides LAPD in the City have armed officers, including LAWA, the Port, Animal Services, BOS. Even LAFD has some armed investigators. The hang-up that 'guns don't belong in parks' is delusional. This sentiment seems to be rooted in safer, more privileged neighborhoods in the City that are completely out of touch with how most of us experience crime in parks throughout the rest of Los Angeles. The control this privileged minority has had over this particular issue over the years needs to end right now. Serious criminality in City Parks exists and isn't going away any time soon. LAPD is not the agency for this job - they have a different focus than Park Rangers and IT SHOULD BE THIS WAY. Bottom line: To best serve the majority of Angelenos, we need POST-certified Park Rangers doing their multifaceted jobs in our parks and they should be armed for everyone's safety. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Christopher Reichman

Date Submitted: 03/19/2020 02:03 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Christopher Reichman and I am a mortician in Glendale, CA. I would just like to make this short and to the point. I am a very vocal advocate for the right to bare arms and the right to defend oneself from attempts of violence from another. It is with those ideals in mind that I write you today. I am writing in to support the arming of Park Rangers while they are on duty serving the county of Los Angeles. Perhaps in the old days park rangers wouldn't have needed to be armed. Times have unfortunately changed. The rise of the homeless epidemic as well as skyrocketing mental illness and drug use in our society has made the jobs asked of our park rangers very dangerous and alarmingly more life risking than ever before. Park Rangers in today's world routinely encounter mentally ill, unstable people who Don't listen to reason and will resort to violence very easily if provoked. I've encountered them myself many times in the past number of years and it only seems to keep getting worse. We can't expect our park rangers to protect our communities, and forests and enforce our laws if they have to face these kinds of threats on their lives at times with nothing but pepper spray or a baton. The times are such that these young men and women serving as rangers should be trained to handle a pistol and required to carry while on duty. They are the forests And parks law enforcement officers and we need to do a better job in protecting them and allowing them to protect themselves from life threatening situations. I fully support training and arming of park rangers in Los Angeles county and I know most of my family and friends agree with me. I will encourage them to all write to you as well. Most of call I encourage you to do the right thing and let these men and women protect their lives with proper self defense training and arming of park rangers. Thank you. Sincerely, Christopher Reichman