

Communication from Public

Name: Marshall McClain
Date Submitted: 04/29/2020 07:52 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Support for 20-0190



LOS ANGELES AIRPORT PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting the Rights of 1st Responders since 1982

6080 Center Drive, 6th Floor ~ Los Angeles, California ~ 90045-9209

(310) 242-5218 ~ (310) 242-5219 ~ Fax: (310) 242-5201

www.LAAPOA.com ~ Email: info@LAAPOA.com

COVID19 COMMITTEE

April 28, 2020

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Via Electronic Mail Only

Honorable David E. Ryu
Los Angeles World Airports
1 World Way
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Council Member Ryu,

I hope my email finds you, your family and staff safe and healthy.

The Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association (LAAPOA) respectfully requests that CF#20-0190, introduced February 11, 2020, authored and co-authored respectively by Council Members Buscaino and Cedillo, regarding amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 63.41 as it pertains to the Los Angeles City Park Rangers, be scheduled for hearing on Monday, May 11, 2020, before the Committee on Health, Education, Neighborhoods, Parks, Arts, and River .

With the ongoing public health crisis our City Park Rangers are being further tasked with duties that put them in harms way. In fact just yesterday, we had one of our Rangers attacked by a subject in one of our city parks and use of force incident occurred. The Park Ranger was able to take the subject into custody but it further highlights the need and the urgency to properly equip all of our public safety professionals in the city.

Letters of support for CF#20 will be added to Councilmember File for your review and inclusion for the record.

LAAPOA greatly appreciates your response and looks for to a hearing date being scheduled in May. Thank you.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association

Marshall E. McClain
President/CEO
(LAAPOA)

- cc: Honorable Council President Nury Martinez
- Honorable Joe Buscaino
- Honorable Gil Cedillo
- Honorable Mitch O'Farrell
- Honorable Curren D. Price Jr.
- Los Angeles Chief of Police Michel Moore
- Los Angeles Chief Park Ranger Joe Losorelli
- Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Jeff Gorell
- LAAPOA Board of Directors
- PORAC President Brian Marvel
- LAPPL President Craig Lally
- UFLAC President Freddy Escobar
- LASPOS Vice President William Etue

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Cerkel
Date Submitted: 04/29/2020 08:35 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: SUPPORT of CF# 20-0190 Arming Park Rangers



Park Rangers Association of California
P.O. Box 153
Stewarts Point, CA 95480
www.calranger.org
(707) 847-3077

March 17, 2020

Dear Marshall McClain,

Let me briefly introduce myself, I'm Matt Cerkel, the president of the Park Rangers Association of California. I have worked in the Park Ranger profession since 1991 and have served in various capacities in the parks, as a uniformed seasonal Park Ranger Aide with no enforcement authority, as a public officer Park Ranger, as a unarmed peace officer Park Ranger and as an armed peace officer Park Ranger. In my 29-year career I can say I felt the safest and most effective when performing law enforcement duties as an armed Park Ranger.

Your Los Angeles City Park Rangers are some of the most highly trained Park Rangers in the entire state of California, they already receive the same law enforcement training as any Police Officer or Deputy Sheriff by completing the POST Basic Police Academy and therefore your Park Rangers receive extensive firearms training. Your Park Ranger program is a POST participating agency, just like your Police Department. Very few Park Ranger agencies in California meet the stringent requirements to be a POST participating agency and nearly all those that do arm their Park Rangers. Additionally, very few if any Peace Officers regardless of agency who meet your Park Rangers level of training in your city or county are unarmed.

Your Park Rangers are regularly put in dangerous and even life-threatening situations while performing their law enforcement duties protecting your parks and the public visiting them. Currently, if an armed officer response is needed your Park Rangers must depend on waiting for a response from LAPD, which may be extended, depending on what city park your Park Rangers are patrolling and depending on the workload and other incidents LAPD are working. With armed Park Rangers the LAPD would no longer need to routinely provide back-up to the Park Rangers. Your Park Rangers and your park visitors deserve a better margin of safety.

The Park Rangers Association of California supports the proposal to arm your highly trained and professional Park Rangers.

Sincerely,

Matt Cerkel
President,
Park Rangers Association of California
matt@calranger.org
(415)609-3863

Park Professionalism Through Unity

Communication from Public

Name: Bill Westerfield
Date Submitted: 04/29/2020 08:38 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: SUPPORT for 20-0190 Arming of Park Rangers



Park Law Enforcement Association

4397 McCullough Street
Port Charlotte Florida 33948

William Westerfield/President
Retired Chief Ranger, Wyoming State Parks
307-214-2236
wyoranger1@gmail.com

Capt. Carl Nielsen (Ret)/Exec. Director
Park Law Enforcement Association
(941) 286-7410
Nielsen4397@comcast.net

February 20, 2020

Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

My name is Bill Westerfield. I am the President of the Park Law Enforcement Association and the past North American representative to the International Ranger Federation. I am the retired Chief Ranger for Wyoming State Parks. I was an active peace officer in Wyoming with the Laramie County Sheriff's Department (4 years), the Wyoming Highway Patrol (15 years), and Wyoming State Parks (19 years) with over 38 years of combined law enforcement service. I am aware of the issue regarding arming the Los Angeles City Park Rangers. If I may, I would like to share my thoughts for your consideration.

Recreational law enforcement is one of the most dangerous forms of law enforcement. Rangers most often work by themselves, with very little external support from other agencies. Rangers frequently encounter park visitors who are under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol and they are responsible for enforcing all applicable state and local laws to protect park visitors, park facilities and natural and cultural resources. Park boundaries do not exclude criminal activity. The situations they encounter require immediate response. They cannot wait for backup.

Captain Dale Steele/Treasurer
Hamilton County Park District
937-231-8836
dsteele@greatparks.org

Chief George Poulos/Vice President
Miami-Dade County Parks
(305) 278-5197
poulosgj@yahoo.com

Lieutenant Mark Caughlan/Vice President
Larimer County Dept. of Natural Resources
(970) 498-5600
Caughlmw@co.larimer.co.us

One of the major concerns that city administrators face is the addition liability of arming law enforcement personnel. Law enforcement liability is most adequately dealt with through the following considerations: did the agency follow appropriate hiring procedures; did the agency appropriately train their Rangers and did the agency appropriately supervise their Rangers. If these three areas are properly managed, then there is very limited liability to the agency.

Reviewing your city web page, it appears you are adequately vetting your applicants and sending them to a full LAPD basic police academy for training, which provides them with the training to appropriately carry firearms in the performance of their duties. If you adequately supervise your Rangers, you will not incur additional liability.

Provided that law enforcement training has been provided, arming Park Rangers adds no additional liability to the agency yet provides tremendous additional protection to your visitors and to the Rangers. By not providing Park Rangers all necessary tools a professional law enforcement officer needs to perform their duties, I submit that your liability is increased. Properly trained and equipped Rangers do more to protect your visitors, employees, and facilities than relying on support from other agencies that may or may not be able to provide immediate support in critical incidents.

Please favorably consider arming your properly trained, dedicated law enforcement Park Rangers.

Thank you.

Bill Westerfield

Bill Westerfield
President
Park Law Enforcement Association
wyoranger1@gmail.com
307- 214-2236

Cc:
PLEA Executive Director

Communication from Public

Name: Cindy Bloom

Date Submitted: 04/29/2020 08:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Support of Arming Park Rangers Council File #20-0190 Re: City Council File 20-0190 - SUPPORT Dear Elected and Appointed Los Angeles City Officials: 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. Sincerely, Cindy Bloom, President Shadow Hills Property Owners Association, PO Box 345, Sunland, CA 91041-0345



A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



March 8, 2020

Re: City Council File 20-0190 - SUPPORT

Dear Elected and Appointed Los Angeles City Officials:

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Bloom".

Cindy Bloom, President

Communication from Public

Name: Sean Kleckner

Date Submitted: 04/29/2020 08:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Re: City Council File 20-0190 - SUPPORT The Honorable David Ryu Chair of the Health, Education, RE: SUPPORT Armed While On Duty Park Rangers Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 63.41 Amendment CF #20-0190 I am contacting you to encourage advancement of this much needed policy and Los Angeles Municipal Code change. It has never been more important to ensure that as the first responders to any incident at any of the City of Los Angeles Parks; be granted the authority that comes with being a full-time law enforcement professional with this City. The changing of Section 63.41 (LAMC) will grant the tools necessary to provide the level of service and protection the park patrons, park and recreation staff and Park Rangers deserve. – Los Angeles Park Rangers who are sworn peace officers under 830.31 of the California Penal Code, are already trained, qualified and certified by our state’s leading authority on law enforcement: the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST). The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and operates more than 400 sites for recreational use. The Department is the most comprehensive social service agency in the City of Los Angeles, operating 184 recreation centers, 61 swimming pools, 11 lakes, 7 camps both in and out of town, more than a dozen museums and historic sites, 13 public golf courses, tennis courts, and hundreds of programs for youth, seniors, physically disabled persons, and volunteers. It also supervises construction of new facilities and improvements to existing ones. With over over 450 parks and locations patrolled by the Los Angeles Park Rangers through out the vast 503 square miles, public safety at our parks and surrounding communities will be strengthened by this policy change. For the about 23,938 acres of parkland within its city limits, the surrounding communities will experience increased neighborhood safety as it frees up the Los Angeles Police Department resources to respond to local calls. Having received the same level of police academy training as LAPD, Los Angeles Park Rangers do not have the same protective tools as other Park Rangers agencies through out the United States that patrol such large citywide and rural areas. This is non-fiscal, as tax dollars will not be required to provide new training since the Park Rangers are already currently receiving the State required training in the LAPD Academy. The Los Angeles

Park Rangers primary responsibility is to ensure the highest level of safety and security for our parks. The change to 63.41 LAMC provides the additional authority necessary to do so. Park rangers should have the full ability to utilize all law enforcement tools and equipment to ensure the safety and security of the public under all circumstances. This motion, CF #20-0190, introduced by Council Member Joe Buscaino, has been officially endorsed by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Chief Michael Moore, and the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC). I would ask you to move this motion forward for due consideration by the full Council. Are you available to meet and discuss? Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Sincerely, BOARD OF DIRECTORS Los Angeles Airport Peace Association SEAN KLECKNER Director - LAPR (LAAPOA)



SUPPORT FOR ARMING PARK RANGERS
February 13, 2019

VIA EMAIL ONLY

The Honorable David Ryu
Chair of the Health, Education,
Neighborhoods, Parks, Arts, & River Committee
Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring St. Room 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473 -7004

***RE: SUPPORT Armed While On Duty Park Rangers Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 63.41
Amendment CF #20-0190***

I am contacting you to encourage advancement of this much needed policy and Los Angeles Municipal Code change. It has never been more important to ensure that as the first responders to any incident at any of the City of Los Angeles Parks; be granted the authority that comes with being a full-time law enforcement professional with this City. The changing of Section 63.41 (LAMC) will grant the tools necessary to provide the level of service and protection the park patrons, park and recreation staff and Park Rangers deserve. – Los Angeles Park Rangers who are sworn peace officers under 830.31 of the California Penal Code, are already trained, qualified and certified by our state's leading authority on law enforcement: the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST).

The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and operates more than 400 sites for recreational use. The Department is the most comprehensive social service agency in the City of Los Angeles, operating 184 recreation centers, 61 swimming pools, 11 lakes, 7 camps both in and out of town, more than a dozen museums and historic sites, 13 public golf courses, tennis courts, and hundreds of programs for youth, seniors, physically disabled persons, and volunteers. It also supervises construction of new facilities and improvements to existing ones.

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This is non-fiscal, as tax dollars will not be required to provide new training since the Park Rangers are already currently receiving the State required training in the LAPD Academy. The Los Angeles Park Rangers primary responsibility is to ensure the highest level of safety and security for our parks. The change to 63.41 LAMC provides the additional authority necessary to do so. Park rangers should have the full ability to utilize all law enforcement tools and equipment to ensure the safety and security of the public under all circumstances.

This motion, CF #20-0190, introduced by Council Member Joe Buscaino, has been officially endorsed by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Chief Michael Moore, and the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC).

I would ask you to move this motion forward for due consideration by the full Council. Are you available to meet and discuss?

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association



MARSHALL E. McCLAIN
President
(LAAPOA)

MM:md

cc: Hon. President Nury Martinez
Hon. President pro tem Joe Buscaino
Chief of Police Michael Moore
Chief Park Ranger Joe Losorelli

oOo

MOTION

HEALTH, EDUCATION, NEIGHBORHOOD,
PARKS, ARTS & RIVER

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) currently has 22 sworn City of Los Angeles park rangers assigned to its Park Ranger Division. The staffing levels are anticipated to expand to 50 rangers by mid 2020. Every day, park rangers patrol the City's parks day and night, often in remote and desolate areas of the City, and assist other City law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Approximately 70 percent of a ranger's daily duties are related to law enforcement activities and the first responder to an emergency in a City park is likely to be a park ranger.

Every sworn park ranger assigned to RAP's Park Ranger Division is required to complete a six-month Certified Academy Training Course, which includes, among other things, firearm training. The course is administered by California Police Officer Standard and Training (CAPOST), which regulates standards and training for all California law enforcement agencies throughout the state. CAPOST recognizes the City of Los Angeles Park Ranger Division and its sworn personnel as a law enforcement agency with full police powers to detain, arrest, book criminal violators, conduct investigations into criminal activity, and beyond. RAP park rangers are also considered full law enforcement officers under California Penal Code (CPC) section 830.1 and have full police powers throughout the State of California.

For the protection of the public and for the safety of all law enforcement officers in the City, it is necessary to amend LAMC section 63.41, to allow park rangers to be armed while on duty, as authorized by CPC §830.31(b) which states, " a person designated by a local agency as a park ranger, who is regularly employed and paid in that capacity, and whose primary duty is the protection of parks, may be armed by their employing agency."

Park rangers should have the full ability to utilize all law enforcement tools and equipment to ensure the safety and security of the public under all circumstances.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be DIRECTED to prepare and present an ordinance amending LAMC Section 63.41 to allow park rangers to be armed while on duty, in accordance with state law.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks be DIRECTED to report back on the department's plans for Use of Force policies; tactics and training; partnership, if any, with the Los Angeles Police Department on Categorical Uses of Force Investigations; counseling and psychological evaluations following a Categorical Use of Force incidents; and the budgetary impacts of the proposed program to arm park rangers.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Police Department be DIRECTED to report back with policies and procedures for the implementation of the proposed program to arm park rangers.

PRESENTED BY: 

JOE BUSCAINO

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL


FFB 1 1 2020