

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I am a member of Hollywood United Neighborhood Council and I respectfully disagree with my NCs CIS on this issue. My greatest concern about this measure is the inevitability of an officer-involved shooting. The Rangers frequently mention that their training is on par with major police departments, but LAPD still had an officer-involved shooting more than once every two weeks last year. Because of Rangers frequently interacting with unhoused people, most of whom are of color, the risk of an innocent person being shot is extremely high and probably inevitable if this policy is passed. We had an opportunity to ask representatives for the Park Rangers directly several questions regarding this ordinance, which to my eyes they did not satisfactorily answer. What data do Rangers have to show that lack of arms is the cause of the attrition they claim? It seems more likely this is due to pay and benefits. The incidents they cite as necessary to have firearms for have all been peacefully handled, often with LAPD support. Why is a process change necessary? Rangers already have non-lethal methods to incapacitate a threatening person. Why are these not sufficient? We could place armed guards in every school to ensure "safety" but we have decided that this is not worth the risk of unintended consequences. I believe this is the same situation.