

Communication from Public

Name: Ruben L.

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:19 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am AGAINST the proposed change to code to arm park rangers. As stated by the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council in a public comment on this Council File, many park rangers regularly interact with the homeless, among whom instances of mental illness and drug abuse are higher than the rest of the population. Despite the extensive training and professional conduct of the majority of park rangers, putting a gun in anyone's hands is an invitation to violence. My concern is that this measure will do nothing to increase the safety of the public or of park rangers, and instead create dangerous situations. Putting a gun into any situation raises the stakes, with the worst outcome being unjustified murders of civilians. Our park rangers already have access to effective less-than-lethal uses of force and extensive training to control a situation if it gets out of hand. They also work closely with the LAPD. Instead of arming park rangers, the city should invest in further training and updating current equipment. Once again, I am AGAINST the motion to amend LAMC Section 63.41 (Council File Number 20-0190).

Communication from Public

Name: Katie Visser

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:53 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I urge public officials NOT to arm park rangers in Los Angeles parks. This action perpetuates a culture of violence and intimidation toward LA's homeless population. Do not add to the culture of violence toward marginalized people that has run rampant in our nation has a whole. Put a stop to it by not showing an example of violence and intimidation. DO NOT arm park rangers. "I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand." - Atticus Finch in Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird

Communication from Public

Name: Sawyer Brooks
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:55 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of LA County and I frequently visit Griffith Park for hiking and for taking visitors sightseeing. As a concerned member of the public, I strongly OPPOSE this motion, particularly for the reasons already accurately outlined by the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council in opposition (http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-0190_CIS_06032020113503_06-03-2020.pdf). I have visited the park during night and day, from the peaks to the observatory to the river trails, and have never felt threatened in it, including by anyone currently experiencing homelessness. While I trust that the rangers in Griffith Park are highly-trained professionals, arming them would deter under-privileged members of our community from visiting Griffith Park, due to legitimate concerns regarding historical use-of-force by police in this city, county, and nation. I hope that no member of our community is ever discouraged from visiting the excellent recreational or educational opportunities in Griffith Park. I would urge the City and the Councilmembers to instead consider investing the taxpayer money that would be spent arming these officers on alternative tactics to keep them and the public safe. I don't know what training courses these rangers have already had, but perhaps additional de-escalation training could help them safely defuse tense situations without use of force.

Communication from Public

Name: Katharine Mullen
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:04 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to keep our park rangers unarmed. It is crucial that our parks be places of refuge and peace for our diverse city. Arming rangers sends the wrong message, and certainly would act to distance park rangers from their communities. Our park rangers are stewards for our shared resources. They certainly do not need lethal force. Please do not militarize our park rangers. At this moment in time especially, as so many peaceful protesters face excessive force by City of Los Angeles police officers, it is clear that we need fewer guns and to stop trying to solve complex problems by shows of force. If we want peace in our parks, guns for rangers aren't the solution. The long route to peace is the only way: that is helping our fellow citizens with mental health services, better educational opportunities, and more healthy lives. Arming rangers might seem like a shortcut for their safety and peace in our parks, but it is the wrong direction, and will result in more violence and less trust from the community.

Communication from Public

Name: Johnny
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:34 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: we do NOT want Park Rangers to carry guns

Communication from Public

Name: Hannah Kushnick

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Since its founding in 1896, Griffith Park has always been a "safety valve" for the city of Los Angeles. A place where all Angelenos can enjoy access to nature and rare public space without paying an entry fee. Its founder and donator Griffith J. Griffith knew that major public parks were not a luxury, but a necessity for large cities. Almost 125 years later, Los Angeles is still striving for Griffith's vision, and it goes without saying that the park now attracts an audience that is significantly more diverse than it did in his time. In 2020, touting "more firearms" and "LAPD training" does not necessarily lead to visions of increased security or safety, especially for people of color and other minorities. LAPD-training does not have a sterling track record of treating all Angelenos equally even today, and indeed LAPD actions inside the park have historically escalated conflict, not reduced it. In 1961, a racially tinged dispute at the Merry-Go-Round erupted into a full blown park closure, with over 60 officers closing down the park for days. In the 70s and 80s, persecution of LGBT individuals was so harsh that volunteer citizen squads were formed to police the policing. Public interactions and expectations of park rangers are significantly different than those with uniformed police officers and the two should remain separate and distinct entities. The park needs more rangers, and those rangers need to be on the trails -- offering help and assistance, interpretation and guidance, and enforcement of park rules. And I don't think they need to be armed to do any of that. At the very least, I urge the Council to reconsider this motion and do more outreach to additional neighborhood, citizen, and outdoor groups for input. Three statements from neighborhood councils is simply not enough input to change a policy for a park that sees more than 10 million visitors a year. If the park rangers are losing ranks due to increased violence, we need to see that data. If the rangers cannot call on LAPD for the rare instances when they need to be armed, why can't they? And if they can, why do they need to be armed?

Communication from Public

Name: Jacqueline Sly

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 09:48 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We need to move to a community policing method that prioritizes a non-violent approach toward the community. We should absolutely NOT be arming park rangers. This is an action I would have been opposed to before the Spring/Summer of 2020. However, since this is being discussed in June 2020, it is important to underscore that the recent events locally and nationally re-emphasize a history of excessive force and police brutality in Los Angeles and across our nation. As we, nationally, turn inward for self-reflection and pull together as communities to discover what we can all do better to protect, serve, and love all our citizens - we absolutely CANNOT be installing programs to be providing arms to park rangers. This is inappropriate for so many reasons. Yes, park rangers have an important and respected role to play in our community. Yes they are highly trained and skilled individuals. None of these are reasons that they need guns. Our park rangers are tasked with providing for our citizens safety inside our parks, in protecting our parks resources, and giving our citizens the opportunity to recreate with their friends and love ones outdoors. This can be done without firearms. The threat that these firearms would pose to those who want to exist in public spaces, particularly our marginalized community members, cannot be tolerated. This side steps the issue that our local and national police agencies need reform. We surely do not need to be creating additional armed police forces while we very much have the great work to do of resolving the long standing issues with our current police force. Give these park rangers the real resources they need to do their job - through increasing funding for their personnel, programs, facilities. Don't deplete their existing funding pools by retasking those dollars to outfit the park rangers with expensive firearms. If external funding was going to be provided for the firearms, instead put that money towards improving the existing budgets to increase park ranger personnel, provide more family and community programming or toward facility renovations/improvements/new facilities.

Communication from Public

Name: Jenny DeArmitt-Stran

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 09:36 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a citizen concerned with the notion of arming additional public servants. Previous comments expressed concern with the true amount of training park rangers receive in terms of it being comparable with police officers. I think it is unlikely that they have had any training in overcoming racial bias or conflict deescalation, since LAPD's is obviously lacking. Park rangers deserve to be able to defend themselves, and I believe the nonlethal methods they already possess are adequate for this purpose. What is the justification for adding lethal means?

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Dominguez

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 08:34 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I would like to state my disapproval of the amendment to allow park rangers to carry firearms and act, in a sense, as law enforcement officers. I especially oppose rangers receiving training from LAPD as we, as a society, begin dealing with police behavior and attitudes that should not be tolerated anywhere in this nation, which can lead to civil rights violations or worse. It is not the duty of rangers to act as an auxiliary of police, but as stewards of our natural spaces.

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Piscitelli

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:30 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Is this a joke? Arming park rangers? How idiotic are you, especially in the current climate, to arm PARK rangers? They need that for joggers? Stray children? Stop this motion as you'll cause much more harm than any imaginary good.

Communication from Public

Name: Dayaan Scarborough

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:33 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The last thing los angeles needs is more guns and more armed forces ready to kill civilians at a moment's notice, especially considering the constant ongoing murder and abuse of black and brown people. LAPD officers attack innocent people every day; their training means nothing in the face of that, and gives me no assurance that distributing more weapons will bring anything to parks but more death. We should absolutely not arm park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Bridget I

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:33 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, namely the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. However, I believe arming them creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. It does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Debra Leavitt Gilmore

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:15 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Seriously? We don't have enough going on already and you want to allow park rangers to carry guns? Why? Why is this even a remote consideration? Please do not allow this ridiculous and incredibly dangerous bill to pass.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:21 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, namely the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. However, I believe arming them creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. It does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Lindsey Darrah
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:48 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Feliz, Griffith Park is my actual backyard. I hike its trails several days a week, and take all my visiting friends and family to LA icons like the Observatory, the Greek, the train ride, and carousel. Its my favorite place in LA. Its where I go when I need to feel peace. I'm in it morning, noon, and night and I've never felt unsafe (although I did once see the biggest snake of my life - but it went on its way with no fuss and I went on mine). As far as I can tell from reading the motion document, the primary justification for this request is that because LA park rangers receive firearms training, they should be allowed to carry guns? There's no direct reference in either the motion request or the Hollywood council's impact statement to any actual crime. No mention of any consistent, increasing rate of lives being threatened or in danger while enjoying a Los Angeles park. I get that wealthy homeowners carry 5x more weight than individual renters and casual park visitors. But there is decades of research showing that introducing weapons into a community serves to escalate violence; that more cops and more guns do not make **anyone** safer. The homeowners possibly don't know this or more likely don't care, but as our representatives I hope you'll consider both the safety and well-being of their ignorant, reactionary asses as well as ours.

Communication from Public

Name: Benjamin Ellenberg

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:49 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I can't believe the city's thinking remains to be that the solution to every problem is more guns and more cops. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Jason Siadek

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 07:51 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not weaponize our rangers and add a mortal danger to enjoying our park system. The threat of violence does not make the park any safer for anyone.

Communication from Public

Name: Evelyn Serrano

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 08:06 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Are you not paying attention? You really want to now escalate the violence by arming rangers? Why is it that the only solution we are finding to challenges is a violent one?

Communication from Public

Name: Alexandra Noyes

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 08:13 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT arm Park Rangers in Los Angeles. More firearms are not what is needed in this country, and allowing Park Rangers to carry them will only perpetuate the problems that are already rampant in our communities and our country. The money that would be needed to fund this act could be put to much better use in the community, such as being allocated to homeless shelters, and city programs for those in need. Please do NOT arm Park Rangers in Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Eric Packer

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 08:23 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, namely the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. Militarizing them will not protect our rangers or our community in a meaningful way. Instead, it creates a potential threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These people are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers. Given the repeated and aggressive use of violent action by police in an effort to "de-escalate" peaceful situations, we simply cannot trust that our rangers will receive the appropriate training to move forward with this drastic action. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move pushes us in the opposite direction. Please denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Tiffany

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:38 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers would be an incredible and dangerous escalation of force that will put many people, particularly marginalized people at risk. We must move towards a non-violent approach towards our community.

Communication from Public

Name: Lauren Fields
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:56 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Vote NO on arming Park Rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Kayla

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:56 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As an Angelno I urge you to vote NO on the proposal to arm park rangers. I fear this will be used to intimidate and use deadly force against LA's homeless population. We've seen time and time again how deadly force is used disproportionately against black civilians and black civilians make up 42% of the homeless population in this city. Please do not further put our black population at risk. Additionally, as an avid hiker I do not want to fear for my life if I come across a park ranger in an area where I'm isolated and without resources to access help. VOTE NO!

Communication from Public

Name: Lyndsay

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers provides no added safety to the public. In a moment where people are in the streets protesting the use of lethal force, being permanently injured by "less-than-lethal" bullets, the City has an opportunity to remember that its citizens are people who want to move through the city's parks and streets safely. They are not protected by more guns surrounding them, especially the minority communities (predominantly black, disabled, and transgender) who will most likely have those weapons drawn and even fired on them. I urge the city's leadership to reconsider the use of force to maintain the peace and remember the social outreach services that allow people in need and distress to get healing and help.

Communication from Public

Name: Abby

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: the force that the LAPD have used in recent days on peaceful protestors rightly excising their ability to protest and engage is free speech suggests that having armed park rangers is not only reprehensible but potentially dangerous. it is also utterly unnecessary.

Communication from Public

Name: Katherine Grant

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:30 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We should not arm park rangers. It is incredibly clear that the LAPD are unable to handle the responsibilities of being armed. The answer is not to arm more people. We need to look for non-violent solutions.

Communication from Public

Name: Valerie Hurt
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:30 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please don't arm park rangers. We really don't need more guns and more militarization. Really terrible idea. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Ayers

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:43 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers absolutely DO NOT need to be armed on duty. Their role is to monitor park activity and maintain and preserve. They are not law enforcement. They must not be armed. Bear spray is the only acceptable "weapon" for protection against rogue wildlife. Suggesting they need to be armed is unacceptable.

Communication from Public

Name: Helen Showalter

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I think arming our Park Rangers would be putting people in danger for no reason. It is clear that having arms in the field does not bring justice, it brings violence.

Communication from Public

Name: Darah Head
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:54 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: NO!

Communication from Public

Name: Matthew Murphy

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 04:47 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: It is completely unnecessary for park rangers to carry firearms. The idea that they would be assaulted by "bombs", as Foothill Trails community impact statement suggests, is patently absurd. Arming the rangers will only lead to more dangerous altercations.

Communication from Public

Name: Clinton W. Steeds

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 04:18 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I believe arming Park Rangers sets a terrible, adversarial tone. If force is required to solve a situation, the police are available for that. Armed patrols roaming the city's parks only serve to inform our communities that they are being watched, that they are suspects. It creates division and resentment in a place where Angelenos should be coming together to enjoy the amazing bounties of our city as one city. It sets the wrong tone for what our city is, for who our city is, for the progress we've made. Fear is a normal response for anyone to have to the dangers any of us might encounter living in a large city. However, I believe those calling for arming the Park Rangers are responding to their fears not with caution but with cowardice. This kind of cowardice will create more unsafe situations, not fewer. Park Rangers, not the LAPD, patrol our parks for a reason. If you arm the Park Rangers, you might as well have the police do the job. And you might as well kiss our reputation as a progressive, inclusive city goodbye.

Communication from Public

Name: Heather LeRoy
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 04:40 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please don't arm park rangers. Innocent people will be hurt.

Communication from Public

Name: Nick Marino

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 03:01 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I absolutely disagree with the motion to arm the City of Los Angeles park rangers assigned to the Park Rangers Division. As a Los Angeles County resident who often takes advantage of the City of Los Angeles parks, I really don't want guns or armed rangers in the parks. I echo the sentiments of the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council: "We believe that the city's vast resources and energy should be used to provide services and get people on a path to housing. Therefore, the City and all of its Departments and residents, must change the approach to unhoused communities in our public spaces, and provide health-based solutions and resources that improve living conditions for all of us." And personally speaking, on the most basic level I really don't need to add the risk of getting shot by a confused or mistaken park ranger to my list of concerns when I'm using the parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Keanakay Scott
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 03:01 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I do not want armed park guards! We have enough to deal with as Black people with police brutality don't add armed park guards too.

Communication from Public

Name: Jess

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 03:39 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The public does NOT want Park Rangers to carry guns. This is an outrageous and incredibly destructive notion. More guns leads to more violence and death. This cannot happen. PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS PASS. NO MORE GUNS!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Jay Flores

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 03:42 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: With everything that has happened, both recently and historically, at the hands of the LAPD, it is not only offensive to the city of Los Angeles, but also unnecessary for park rangers to be armed while on duty. There is no reason to give cause to more murders and harassment in public spaces. Arming park rangers would create an unnecessary threat for those simply wanting to spend a day with family or some time to themselves within their city. The argument can be made that rangers, much like the LAPD, exist to secure the safety of the areas they inhabit, however with recent events and the LAPD's history of unwarranted violence, the park rangers can be awarded no such trust. Park rangers should not be armed.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Adams

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 03:42 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am appalled at the suggestion to arm Park rangers with guns. The presence of guns in our parks will only incite violence. The natural beauty and safety of our parks can only be harmed by this. Let's be clear - if you arm park rangers people will die. And these people will disproportionately be Black and Latino. Do not arm park rangers under any circumstances.

Communication from Public

Name: Leila Cohan-Miccio
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 04:55 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT arm park rangers. This puts all our citizens - but especially black folks - in danger. Let's avoid further militarizing of our city.

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Blaisdell

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 04:56 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As a citizen of Los Angeles who spends a lot of time in public parks and trails, please do not give firearms to park rangers. It will only increase the danger to our citizens and the park rangers themselves. This is an incredibly poorly thought out idea.

Communication from Public

Name: Brent Sievers

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 04:57 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This amendment will only result in more marginalized Angelenos being shot by law enforcement. For that reason I am vehemently against it. City resources need to be moved away from further arming law enforcement and towards the roots of the problem such as lack of affordable housing and homeless services.

Communication from Public

Name: Encino resident
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:14 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I completely disagree with the proposed amendment to arm park rangers. We do not need armed rangers in our parks. Adding more guns to a situation never improves it. Park rangers already have a myriad of duties, NONE of which should involve the need for lethal force.

Communication from Public

Name: Callie Rogers

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:09 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We should not be arming more people. We need to decrease guns and increase gun safety and arming park police will only make it worse. I am against this.

Communication from Public

Name: Anna Bihari

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:10 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming the rangers is a terrifying thought. I have read countless reports of the harassment of the unhoused around the city, and to imagine what kind of escalations would take place if we allowed firearms to be a part of the conversation. Especially in places that tend to have a lot of people roaming around. It would spell disaster.

Communication from Public

Name: Bennett Snyder

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:33 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The proposal to arm park rangers is very unnerving. Deadly force should not be a first option in a public park. Arming more people will make shootings more likely, not less. Considering the violence from law enforcement over this past weekend and throughout the years, we should be hesitant at least to accept the reassurance that the park rangers receive the same training as the LAPD. There should be more training in de-escalating dangerous scenarios, and significantly less focus on the tools of death being spread even more widely. The parks are a place that people go to relax, and the homeless go to shelter when there are no other options. There are many innocent bystanders who would be caught in the crossfire if something drastic did happen. Why not put the effort instead into trying to prevent such scenarios with better community building and de-escalation training?

Communication from Public

Name: Paul Yoon

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, as a District 4 resident and lifelong resident of Los Angeles, I strongly oppose the arming of park rangers with a firearm. If the primary concern is the safety of park rangers in altercations with homeless citizens, please consider instead nonviolent deescalation tactics and . Adding a lethal weapon to the equation is not going to make our parks safer nor will it make the park rangers' jobs safer.

Communication from Public

Name: Steven Wilson

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:34 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to state my strong disapproval of Joe Buscaino's motion to arm the Los Angeles park rangers. I believe it is mal-intended to intimidate local homeless, and has nothing to do with the safety and protection of the rangers. Nothing good can come from this measure except unnecessary deaths. In a time when our country is suffering from excessive use of deadly force, the last thing this city needs is to set a poor example. I urge you to be on the right side of history on this one and vote NO on arming Park Rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Alison

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a registered voter in the city of Los Angeles and I am absolutely opposed to Park Rangers carrying guns. There is no viable reason for Park Rangers to carry guns and this will pose a threat to citizens. This is just an attempt for the city of Los Angeles to cling onto to their systemically racist policies. The anti-racists in our city won't allow this and will continue to fight against you.

Communication from Public

Name: Julie Sharron

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: What on GOD'S GREEN EARTH would make anyone think that this is a good idea?! I am flummoxed. This could only possibly result in even more Angelenos being shot by law enforcement.

Communication from Public

Name: Eron Rauch

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:52 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: It has come to my attention that there is an amendment to allow park rangers to be armed. As someone who believes our parks are one of the city's civic gems, and that they should welcome everyone in our community, I strongly encourage the council to reject this amendment. We've repeatedly seen the tragic results of prioritizing armament over de-escalation amongst public officers all across the nation. Arming park rangers will only inevitably add to the frequency of these officer-involved shootings. More so, these shootings disproportionately affect people of color and other marginalized groups. In the midst of a powerful national movement to try to prevent these incidents, the very gesture of the city increasing the number of armed officers in public spaces can only serve to signal that marginalized people are not welcome amongst the beauty of our shared park system. While armed rangers might initially make a few people feel safer, in reality, it only places the rangers and public in a greater likelihood of a tragedy, and makes our parks seem less welcome.

Communication from Public

Name: Laura Murray

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:55 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am strongly opposed to this measure. Griffith Park has become one of my favorite thing about Los Angeles, and I have always felt safe there. Even when I am hiking alone in relatively remote areas of the park (which are not very remote), I feel safe. I want my neighbors, including my black and brown neighbors, to also feel safe enjoying our parks. This measure would make me feel less safe in our parks, and arming Park Rangers completely undermines the mission of our parks as open spaces that are welcome to all. In addition, it makes it much more likely that a situation -- whether a misunderstanding or a real threat -- will escalate quickly and that someone will be hurt or killed. I value the safety of our Park Rangers, but I do not think this measure would limit violence or the threat of violence in our parks or their surrounding communities. I would much rather see the City use funds to work on housing and mental health issues.

Communication from Public

Name: RJ V

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:09 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Right now, more than ever, we are experiencing more and more irresponsible and reckless policeman who choose to react on violence first before calming a situation down especially on people of color. Giving Park Rangers the right to carry a gun is opening even more irresponsible action. If policemen, who are supposed to be highly trained to dissolve an issue without violence, are having issues themselves what can we expect from Park Rangers? Our community will NOT accept park rangers to carry a gun. We need to steer the direction of resources to helping the homeless, funding education, and educating our community. WE DO NOT NEED TO GIVE PARK RANGERS GUNS.

Communication from Public

Name: Brynna Pietz

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:11 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The absolute last thing Los Angeles needs is another armed agency. Setting aside the fact that we have no idea if Park Rangers have any training in how to manage a situation that might require the use of force, it is abundantly obvious that Los Angeles has a COP PROBLEM. That problem is not solved by creating more poorly trained cops and calling them Park Rangers. This is an embarrassment. This city needs housing, healthcare, mental health, and education. We do not need to spend another dime arming and training more officers who are only going to use excessive force and violence on Angelenos, especially Angelenos of color. This amendment deserves full opposition from the council, and I especially will be monitoring the vote of my councilman, Mike Bonin.

Communication from Public

Name: Shawnté Salabert

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:12 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I do NOT support this motion to allow city park rangers to carry firearms. I think it's clear to see that Angelenos are asking for less firepower for those who 'serve and protect' our city - and that includes our parks. Guns are not crime solvers; guns typically only serve to escalate situations and create crimes. And we all should know the poor track record of our city police when it comes to turning guns on our community members - especially black people and other people of color. Instead, why don't we arm our park rangers with extra knowledge and resources? We are fortunate to live in a city rich with creativity and flush with passion. If rangers are worried about the danger they face on the job (I keep seeing homelessness used as the reason for wanting to arm rangers), why not name those specific perceived dangers and search for solutions that already exist within our community? There are trainings for working with homeless populations. Organizations that can come in and provide crisis intervention and counseling. Techniques for de-escalation. I think a great many of us not only respect, but actually adore park rangers - we are proud of our parks and natural spaces! Of course we don't want them to feel unsafe - but there are ways to help widen their safety margin without resorting to more proliferation of firepower in our city, especially in its parks, which serve as refuge to all Angelenos. Please strike down this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Pamela M Paterra

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:18 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Absolutely not! This seems unnecessary, dangerous, and reckless in my opinion. The last thing we need is more guns out in the world, and certainly not in the hands of the inexperienced. Children and families make up a great percentage of the public that frequent parks. The city is opening itself up to a great deal of liability. This is no way to deal with the homeless situation. Think of a better solution.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:29 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: There is absolutely no need for park rangers to carry firearms. With the spotlight on law enforcement mistreatment of people of color, why would it even make sense to arm more people? I live in a neighborhood directly bordering Griffith Park and would not feel safe adding more firearms into the community.

Communication from Public

Name: Kerri Healey

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:33 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming Park Rangers is a dangerous and unnecessary. Pumping more guns into our community is not the way to address neighborhood council complaints.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:39 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming Park Rangers with guns is not the answer. Nearby property owners can call the police is they are having issues. I have absolutely no faith Park Rangers will be properly trained to use their new toys. I will feel LESS safe knowing they are armed.

Communication from Public

Name: Candice Tobin

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We should not be arming park rangers! What a horrifying prospect. This is not a decision that favors the community, it is only in service of those with privilege. Our parks and public spaces are for the benefit of everyone, and adding the threat of gun violence adds anxiety to many peoples lives. Please reconsider. Public parks should be peaceful spaces without guns.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:43 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, namely the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents during the protests starting May 30th, I am vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. I want our park rangers to be protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. However, I believe arming them creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which is the right of any resident. These groups are already at a greater risk of being victims of police violence, and park rangers being trained in the same manner as the LAPD only increases the likelihood of excessive force and deadly incidents. It does not assuage the fears of concerned residents like myself. We must move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. This move of arming the park rangers would push us in the opposite direction. Please consider denying this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: Molly
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:44 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Why on earth would park workers need weapons? Make our city safer instead of arming city workers!

Communication from Public

Name: Rachel

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

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This will be extremely harmful to the homeless population, who are already at a greater risk of being targeted by the police.

Communication from Public

Name: Rebecca Henretta

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Militarizing our public servants is absolutely a mistake, and a misunderstanding of the park ranger's role in the community, which is to foster everyone's enjoyment of our natural resources. Arming park rangers isn't a means of protection; it will only escalate violence and amplify structural racism. We don't need to emulate the failed model of LAPD's police brutality in our parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Rachael Mason
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:48 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: We do not need more guns. The fact that these people receive the same training as the LAPD does not exactly put my mind at ease. Guns tend to escalate violence and we need less of that right now.

Communication from Public

Name: Despina Stokou
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:45 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: You cannot possibly be thinking that it is a good idea to introduce MORE guns in our "law enforcement" - Allowing Park Rangers to carry guns is an immediate threat to our communities our children, especially communities of color in this city. What do they have to pretend themselves against???? Sneakers and water bottles or dogs and kids playing?

Communication from Public

Name: Ryan Jenkins

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:46 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I would like to register my opposition to the idea of arming park rangers in the city of LA. It's very clear from the overwhelming racism and violence that has characterized the LAPD action over a long history and in recent days that Black residents would face the brunt of this proposal. The recent events surrounding Chris Cooper (the Black birder in central park) shows vividly how Black americans are in danger from just enjoying natural spaces in our city and how that danger would be amplified with more armed personnel in our parks. We need less guns and more respect for the entire community.

Communication from Public

Name: Kyle Anderson

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:01 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The notion of arming park rangers in Los Angeles is an incredibly bad one. Residents visit parks as a means of getting outside, exercising, enjoying the beautiful city. By arming park rangers it creates an implicit threat toward marginalized groups simply hoping to enjoy the same rights as anyone would. Park rangers may receive similar training to the LAPD, but after this week's abysmal and frankly horrifying actions from the police department with regard to people peacefully gathering in legal and orderly protest, bringing that to the city's municipal parks would tarnish the very idea of public open spaces. They would neither be public nor open. Protecting the property value of the surrounding area is not an excuse to threaten and endorse violence on citizens from even more city employees. We should move toward a system of non-violent policing within the community; in the short term, though, we should at the very least not give park rangers weapons.

Communication from Public

Name: Mark T. Hrisho

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:05 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I live near Griffith Park and love every Los Angeles park that I have had the pleasure of visiting. I also appreciate the work that our Park Rangers do and understand that they have been tasked with a difficult and dangerous job. However, I firmly believe that arming the Park Ranger Division would be a mistake. In the impact statement provided by the Foothill Trails Neighborhood District the two cited groups that Park Rangers deal with on a regular basis that would require them to carry firearms are the unhoused and habitual drug users. These two groups, while they often come into conflict with law enforcement officers, do not stem from a law enforcement problem. They are the victims of public health crises that our law enforcement officers are forced to deal with because of how social services have been continuously made a low priority. Arming the Park Ranger Division would not only fail to solve the underlying problem that causes the regular confrontations between themselves and these two groups, it would have the potential to escalate encounters with them to a lethal conclusion. Furthermore, arming Park Rangers would introduce the chance to escalate every encounter they have with the general public in the same way. With the current political outcry against systemic racism within our law enforcement organizations and the brutality that results from it, I do not think it should be difficult for the City's government to imagine the possibility of Park Rangers harming innocent people if they are armed in the way being proposed. Therefore, I ask that you do not arm the Park Ranger Division and instead find another way to deal with the problems they face.

Communication from Public

Name: Kelsey Stefanson

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 02:05 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: On the heels of the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents in recent days, I am extremely opposed to arming park rangers. Doing so will create a threat towards people in public spaces, which is the right of any resident. We already have an enormous police force with deadly weapons; we do not need the servants in our parks with the same firepower. We should absolutely not arm park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Christina McKenzie

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:24 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park rangers should not be armed. Giving any sort of policing institution a weapon is as good as giving them permission to use deadly force, a permission that this city has been all too lax with. Our parks should be a place that residents feel safe to exist in, without the concern or anxieties that an armed park ranger could induce. Park rangers should be trained to prioritize non-violent procedures to dealing with incidents.

Communication from Public

Name: TW

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:27 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We don't need more armed government employees having free reign to terrorize LA citizens! There are ways to ensure public safety WITHOUT the use of deadly arms! DEFUND AND DISARM, and DISARM THE COUNTRY!

Communication from Public

Name: Rosie Knight

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:30 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: There is absolutely no need for Park Rangers to be armed. Aside from the fact that there is, as I stated, no need, there is also the obvious matter of the way that arming law enforcement immediately puts the lives of Black people in danger. We are currently living through a historical uprising against the brutality of the police where millions of citizens are making it clear that they have no interest in militarized armed forces roaming our streets. The murder of Black people by law enforcement is a public health crisis and allowing Park Rangers to be armed would only exacerbate it. Every single person has the right to use the outdoor spaces in this city without the fear or violence or retribution by armed officers. Young Black people are already unnecessarily harassed for trying to exist in public spaces and the idea of putting them at more risk by allowing Park Rangers to be armed is disgusting. It also immediately puts our unhoused community in peril as these are often spaces that they have to utilize and we have already officers using undue force on them without the ability to draw a gun. Read the room and look at the citizens of your city marching against police violence, then consider where you would be better served putting your resources, like creating safer public spaces for everyone! Without causing the inevitable murder of marginalized people who dare to want to use the.

Communication from Public

Name: Nick Watson

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:30 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park rangers do not require guns. Police are already far too heavily armed and militarized, and studies show that this inevitably results in the deaths and injuries of innocent people. Vote no on this proposition - be on the right side of history.

Communication from Public

Name: Annie Guidice
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:38 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Why in the name of everything sane do we want Park Rangers carrying guns?? Just no. I call on my councilman Bob Blumenfield to vote NO on this motion!

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Beebe

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:39 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am a Los Angeles County resident and I vote in every election. Please DO NOT arm park rangers. In a city that already has so many problems with police violence, I believe the worst thing you can do is give more people guns. All this does is put the people of Los Angeles in danger. It promotes violence and conflict instead of kindness and community. Instead of arming the city's park rangers, I urge you to focus on de-escalation, negotiation, and other peaceful tactics.

Communication from Public

Name: Kelly Mayfield

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:40 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: There is no reason for Park Rangers to be armed. The whole reason behind the protests is police and institutional violence and murder. By arming park rangers, you are escalating the situation needlessly. You are making public spaces more deadly.

Communication from Public

Name: Chineza Ezinkwo
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 12:52 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In no uncertain terms do I wish to express my OPPOSITION to arming Park Rangers with guns. It is not the duty of Park Rangers to police citizens within public parks with deadly weapons. This is not a good use of funds, training, or time for the Recreation and Parks department. If there is a desire to address use of public spaces by LA's homeless citizens then social work training is what those funds should be allocated for. Arming Park Rangers will only lead to deadly altercations. Please vote no on Measure 20-0190.

Communication from Public

Name: KC Shi

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 12:52 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am opposed to arming park rangers, and if the recent protests are any indication, I think many members of the Los Angeles community agree. I firmly believe putting firearms in the hands of rangers would not make parks safer. If anything, it would have the opposite effect, putting people of color at risk of being shot for simply existing in a public space. The fact that the rangers receive the same training as the LAPD is NOT a point in their favor, as law enforcement personnel who receive the same training were nonetheless involved in dozens of officer-involved shootings last year. If we want to demilitarize our policing system and protect black lives, we should keep these guns out of our parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Pete Block

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 12:53 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Peter Block, and I'm a resident of Los Angeles. I urge the council to vote no on this amendment and that council members JOE BUSCAINO and GILBERT A. CEDILLO rescind this amendment for future voting. The people of LA must be able to enjoy the parks and national forests surrounding LA without the concern for escalation with the high potential for loss of life, especially if those people are people of color. People of color are concerned for any interaction with an officer of the public when in their own neighborhoods, and this motion would lead many to be concerned about even attending their own public parks as racial profiling during interactions is very real and witnessed daily. Instead I would press the council to provide more funding for park rangers to allow for paired partners, as well as additional funding on community outreach to get communities out into the parks, and mental health services and healthcare to the communities that may be in the park. We should all be able to enjoy parks without the implicit threat of being targeted. Arming rangers is not the answer.

Communication from Public

Name: Rebecca Y. Lee
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 12:55 PM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: We need to reject the proposal to arm park rangers. Studies have shown that weapons in any situation escalate them to dangerous levels, moreso if a gun is involved. If park rangers are armed and trained by the LAPD to view LA residents as threats in public spaces, this will result in injuries and murders that will disproportionately affect Black and Brown neighbors. We've seen how violent and dangerous the LAPD have been in the past week and training park rangers to act similarly will only make things worse. LA residents want to be safe and live peaceful lives; this proposal would only further our descent into a police state. We should absolutely not arm park rangers or any other type of government employee and should in fact be disarming and demilitarizing the police and other armed public servants.

Communication from Public

Name: JOCELYN S GAJEWAY

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 12:56 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: After watching the extreme, uncalled force employed by law enforcement towards residents of Los Angeles during this weekend's protests, I am strongly opposed to the idea of arming city park rangers. Arming park rangers will create a threat to marginalized groups across the city who are using and enjoying public spaces, as is their right. The idea that providing rangers the same training as the LAPD is not a comforting one - as recent events illustrate. Instead, this will create an environment encouraging the use of excessive force for even small infractions, resulting in injuries and deaths. Instead, we should provide park rangers and officers with additional training in non-violent de-escalation techniques, and focus on community based policing, allowing them to build relationships with the community that are based on trust, rather than fear. Law enforcement, in all aspects, must be reformed with a focus on non-violent techniques to engage with the public, rather than allowing the demands of those who seem to be more concerned with property values than the value of human life. Allowing park rangers to be armed will continue to erode community relationships, create a barrier to the free use of public space, and ultimately result in more tragic and unnecessary deaths for the "crime" of being a person of color or unhoused.

Communication from Public

Name: Carrie Miller

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:54 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers is unnecessary, and would create an additional danger for marginalized people who want to use public spaces. Based on the LAPD's abhorrent track record, I have no confidence that a ranger with the same training would be able to effectively de-escalate volatile situations.

Communication from Public

Name: Sonia Castro

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:58 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Now, more than ever, we need to Not weaponize city park rangers. Needless violence and injury is sure to ensue if they are armed.

Communication from Public

Name: Caleb Aldrich

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:03 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: This is a letter voicing my wish that you DO NOT arm park rangers. We do not need more guns on the streets right now. Please add my name, Caleb Aldrich, to those that oppose arming park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:06 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm Park Rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Caroline Quach

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:09 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent violence enacted by the LAPD against protestors and residents, I strongly believe we absolutely must not arm park rangers. Arming them further threatens marginalized groups simply trying to exist in the public spaces that are FOR them to begin with. Even if park rangers receive the same training as LAPD, that does nothing to stop individual malice and bigotry which is already apparent not only in the LAPD itself but the entire institution of Police in the United States. As a resident of Los Angeles I absolute would not trust park rangers with weapons nor would I feel safe around them.

Communication from Public

Name: Mary-Kate Glenn

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:12 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Considering the amount of unnecessary deaths at the hands of the LAPD, I think it's PRETTY safe to say we don't need to be arming Park Rangers as well. Holding accountability has been CLEARLY too difficult, and the easiest way to prevent threats or incidents towards citizens is to simply not give it a chance to occur in the first place. Do not arm Park Rangers

Communication from Public

Name: Erin M

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 01:13 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Equipping Park Rangers with firearms is an unnecessary and reckless idea. Guns are a tool invented to kill. Park Rangers are there to protect wildlife and the humans who come to see it. They have no need for tools of war. Equipping them as such will only lead to escalation of conflict and will discourage visitors from patronizing the park, as their lives could be endangered by Rangers at any moment.

Communication from Public

Name: C.T. Garner

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:46 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As an LA resident, I strongly object to the arming of our park rangers. Given the epidemic of brutality by law enforcement officers, both in LA and nationwide, our community needs a firm commitment from everyone sworn to protect it to resolve conflicts peacefully and compassionately, rather than further escalating tense situations into harassment, intimidation, and violence. Equipping park rangers with deadly weapons will only further endanger the most vulnerable members of our communities - people experiencing homelessness, people of color, and others who are already at risk. I ask that the Council take the first step towards healing the rifts between LA's civil servants and the communities they serve by rejecting this proposal.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:50 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of the amount of force applied by law enforcement towards LA residents in the past week, we ought to be vehemently opposed to arming further enforcement. It is creating unnecessary risk towards marginalized groups who simply want to EXIST in public spaces, the right of any resident, and the argument from neighborhood councils and property owners that they trust park rangers because they are trained in the same manner as the LAPD is appalling in how short-sided it is in how much more violence it will bring. The LAPD cannot be trusted with unnecessary punitive methods, and neither should park rangers. We need to move to a community policing system that prioritizes non-violent approach towards the community, and the first step is to absolutely NOT ARM PARK RANGERS.

Communication from Public

Name: Pinguino Kolb

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:40 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park rangers are a fantastic city resource; not only do they care for our trails, but they engage with the public in an open, friendly manner. Arming park rangers and training them with violent police tactics would make the community feel unsafe; as the protests have shown the city over the past week, these tactics have no place in our city streets, and certainly no place in our parks and trails, where the community goes to take a break from the stresses of the world. If there is a problem in the parks that requires police intervention, rangers should continue working with law enforcement in the manner which they have for years.

Communication from Public

Name: Keely Chaisson
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 12:09 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers should not carry firearms. Arming park rangers will endanger black people using the park.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 12:10 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Due to the events that have occurred over the last week and a half, arming park rangers should absolutely not be done. It creates a risk towards people who merely want to be in and around public parks.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 12:43 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The LAST thing we need is more people armed. Especially if their training to carry firearms is coming from the VERY problematic LAPD's Use of Force Training. As a resident and home owner in Los Angeles, I vehemently oppose arming Park Rangers. We need a community based system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards the community. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 12:46 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Why do park rangers need to be armed? They're park rangers! The gross escalation of force displayed across the country by various police departments does not need to be present amongst park rangers!

Communication from Public

Name: L Vail

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:55 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Dear city council, We don't need more armed officials. It's just expanding the potential for deadly abuse of power, which as we know disproportionately affects people of color. The current situation demonstrates the more fire power authorities have, the more likely they will want to use it before attempting to deescalate. This is the wrong direction to take for those monitoring our shared spaces. Please do not approve this. Thanks.

Communication from Public

Name: Eliot Phillips

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:02 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers should not be armed. It sends the wrong message to people using the park that outside spaces are dangerous. We want people to enjoy the great outdoors and these great public spaces. The park ranger should be a welcoming face that the public knows they'll be able to rely on in emergency situations. We don't want to make people wary of park rangers, worried that they'll escalate the situation. Do not arm park rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Teresa

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:03 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing regarding the proposition to arm park rangers. I would like to voice my opposition to this. Given the last week of protests and the overreach and violence perpetrated by police, I think that it is far too risky to give rangers a tool that is only meant for killing.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:09 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE do not arm park rangers. This sounds terrifying. It is my understanding they are already equipped with non-lethal means of deescalating dangerous situations. Filling every crevice of the world with guns will not make it safer.

Communication from Public

Name: Elliott S.

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:13 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of recent events, and after the long unchecked history of violence the LAPD has shown, it is against public safety to arm more authority figures in Los Angeles. The LAPD have shown they are only here to uphold white supremacist values through inciting violence, destroying property, and harming innocent people through excessive force - most of which is gun-related. Armed police have shown there is no free public space when they are present. No human being should be persecuted on sight with gun violence, and we should not allow for the possibility. We as a community need to disarm the police and any adjacent force for the safety and progress of our city. Do not arm park rangers!

Communication from Public

Name: Cassidy Rowe

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:13 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The actions of law enforcement this last week during protests, as well as historically, have proven that further arming law enforcement and park rangers does far more harm than good to the citizens of Los Angeles. Weaponry, despite any safety training the rangers and officers may receive, has only succeeded in encouraging the armed individuals to use excessive force, and inevitably has led to injury and death among innocent people simply for existing in our public spaces or for minor infractions. Rather than arming officers and park rangers with more tools to do harm, the city should instead invest in a focus on teaching these rangers and officers de-escalation tactics, which not only prevents deaths, but can also help to foster trust between civilians and rangers. Overall we must take steps towards reforming our community policing systems to rely on non-violent approaches to engaging with the public, rather than playing into the demands of people who care more about their property values than the real human lives of Los Angeles. Arming park rangers will not only aggravate the distrust the public already has for those who police our public grounds, but will inevitably lead to more tragic deaths at the hands of these armed rangers and officers for the 'crime' of being a person of color or homeless in LA's parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Lexie Sparrow

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:15 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In light of the amount of force applied by by law enforcement towards Los Angeles residents and protesters this past week, I thought we ought to be vehemently opposed to arming park rangers. It creates a threat towards marginalized groups who simply want to exist in the public spaces, which are a right for every resident of Los Angeles. The argument from neighborhood councils and property owners appear to be that they trust park rangers because they are trained in the same manner as the LAPD, which is a terrifying notion held by the people trying to protect their property values. I think the behavior of the LAPD and the sentiments of the police chief in regards to George Floyd's murder in recent days makes it intensely clear that their unnecessarily punitive methods cannot be trusted. They are here to protect and serve, not brutalize & murder. We need to move to a community policing system that prioritizes a non-violent approach towards community, educating LAPD on de-escalation methods, but for now we should absolutely not arm park rangers. #BLM

Communication from Public

Name: jacqueline

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:18 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers should absolutely NOT be armed on duty. It sets an extremely dangerous precedent and puts everyone even more on edge than necessary. This is gross and terrible and puts members of the public into a bizarre backwards submissive position where its as though the public are required to bend at any armed person in their presence.

Communication from Public

Name: Markus Mentzer

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:30 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am vehemently opposed to arming LA City Park Rangers. I understand the need for Rangers to defend themselves better, but adding more guns to more organizations in the city of Los Angeles is not the solution.

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Fountain
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:30 AM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The presence of a gun increases the chances of a shooting by 100%, and it takes an boggling amount of double-think to imagine increasing the potential for violence increases the potential for safety. A gun doesn't make you more safe, it makes you more of a threat so that others (the perceived "threats" to the community) feel less safe. What this motion is asking for is the ability to increase the amount of *FEAR* that park rangers can instill in interactions with park guests. If park rangers have received proper training then they should know how to use the tools already at their disposal correctly. They should also know how and when to properly call for backup. They also should already know, in detail, the area of their patrol. The narrative that they are out in a desolate wilderness, unable to properly communicate their location, is pure fiction. The entire Country is reacting against the climate of abuse against the under-privileged and people of color by people hired to keep *ALL* of us safe. This motion only serves to contribute to the problem.

Communication from Public

Name: Monica Miklas
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 11:34 AM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I am frequent visitor to LA City Parks and I am opposed to the arming of LA's municipal park rangers. I understand from the motion to arm rangers that they receive the same weapons training as LAPD officers. After a week in which the LAPD has demonstrated, time and again, inappropriate use of force, this is not a comfort. On the contrary, I cannot fathom the public benefit of introducing more weapons into the hands of people with LAPD training; this would seem a recipe for more violence, not less. The Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council posits that park rangers should be armed because of the danger posed to them by people experiencing homelessness who camp in our city parks. People experienced homelessness in our parks should be met with compassion, counseling, care, and services, not the implicit threat of the use of force, which serves to exacerbate tensions. Across our communities, we must invest in non-violent, collaborative solutions that reduce the possibility of force being used on vulnerable, marginalized people.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:12 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers would be unconscionable, particularly at a time when law enforcement has relentlessly used armed violence against the very people the are apparently tasked with protecting.

Communication from Public

Name: Shannon Watters

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:14 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As we seen in recent days, the argument that having the same training as the LAPD does not make someone qualified to carry a lethal weapon in an environment where marginalized people just want to exist in public space. Arming park rangers creates an unnecessarily dangerous environment for Los Angeles residents simply visiting the park, and cannot be allowed for the sake of public safety.

Communication from Public

Name: Amy

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:09 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Under no circumstances should we be adding more guns to public places. There is no need for park rangers to be armed. Our park rangers are not under attack. Our citizens, however, are -- including by men and women in uniform. That the park rangers will have received the same "training" as the officers who have shot and killed 600 civilians since 2012 does nothing to make residents feel safer. Instead of spending our tax dollars on increasing the odds that even one more person will be unjustly shot, spend that money on social workers and housing initiatives. If park rangers are fearful of confrontations with the homeless, house the homeless. Solve the real problem.

Communication from Public

Name: Devon Maloney
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:06 AM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: That the city would consider arming park rangers is a vicious and unnecessary abuse of power. Time and again, studies have shown that arming officers with guns creates the opportunity and likelihood that they will be more violent in their interactions with civilians. With the way police already brutalize Angelenos of color on a regular basis, we do not need to render our parks—long advertised as, though never quite, exceptional public spaces where all should feel safe and welcome to find respite from the outside world—as dangerous and dark as everything else. Park rangers are not police. They are not the military. They are stewards of nature, and to give them guns is antithetical to their purpose in the world. I **strongly** oppose this proposal.

Communication from Public

Name: Paul Krueger

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:16 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming park rangers is a dangerous escalation of law enforcement's power during an already fraught time. The public has been given no reason to trust armed law enforcement personnel or their judgment, and putting more guns on our streets will make them more dangerous, not less. Especially for members of our unhoused community who need our parks more than anyone, armed rangers represent a dire threat to their wellbeing. The property values of homeowners are not more important than the lives that will inevitably be lost if you put weapons in the hands of our park rangers. Please pursue another path.

Communication from Public

Name: Samantha
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:16 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: This is a bad idea. You are making the lives of black people more difficult. Please reconsider.

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Hu
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:17 AM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The past weekend we saw what continues to happens when we militarize law enforcement; it results in the excessive force and violence towards Los Angeles residents. I think we should be opposed to arming park rangers. It creates a threat towards marginalized groups (often groups who are over policed and over scrutinized already in any space they are in) who simply exist in public spaces - public spaces meant for everyone as a right. Property value should never be held above the value of human life. The argument from neighborhood councils and property owners appear to be that they trust park rangers because they have the same training as LAPD, but as we see the same training often causes more harm than any good. The past few days we clearly see that the behavior of LAPD that their unnecessarily punitive methods can't be trusted. We need to broaden our imagination towards a non-violent community policing system. We need to fund public programs that help our community imagine and realize social programs that aren't punitive but rather rehabilitative. If someone is behaving erratically and is in harms way...Imagine texting a numbers and an unarmed urgent responder trained in behavior and mental health comes to keep the person safe and make sure they are getting the support they need. If some people are sleeping in the public areas not meant for overnight stays imagine an unarmed city employee comes by to check in and see if they need a place for sleep, food, water or healthcare. Alternatives to policing is possible. Until then we should absolutely not arm park rangers. Arming park rangers will extend the current punitive police state.

Communication from Public

Name: Alexandra F Romanoff

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:28 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I'm a lifelong resident of Los Angeles, and I've never felt as unsafe in my city as these last few days. And it isn't because of the protestors-- it's because of the police. Arming park rangers won't help anyone or contribute to a culture of de-escalation. Instead, it will make marginalized groups fear entering public spaces, a right of every citizen. It will increase the danger faced by unhoused residents and those dealing with addiction. It will dehumanize our citizens and make us fear each other. This is an entirely unreasonable and frankly terrifying suggestion. I would be much less likely to visit a public park knowing I could be shot for perceived misbehavior. The LAPD has a history of racial injustice and aggressive violence; I don't see why applying their training to park rangers should make me feel any safer. I urge the council in the strongest possible terms to reject this proposition. We need fewer guns on our city streets, never, ever more.

Communication from Public

Name: Theresa Vitale
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:29 AM
Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I live next to the second largest park in Los Angeles. We also happen to be right next to the Police academy. The neighborhood sees petty crimes and car break-ins regularly, and just like the rest of the city, we have a large number of Angelenos in need of housing. Some of those residents seek refuge at both of the two parks in the neighborhood. Armed park rangers would do nothing but endanger the lives of everyone in the neighborhood, including the park rangers themselves. Their jobs and need is already questionable (all they seem to do is drive over the grass areas of the park, ruining areas where people picnic, play with their children and dogs, and scold people for using our park). The residents of LA will not stand for park rangers being armed. This is an absurd and offensive consideration and should be dropped immediately. We need fewer government officials armed. The only thing rangers should be scared of are the coyotes, and the rest of us do fine dealing with them on a daily basis. Perhaps converse with the other parks and rec staff, specifically the amazing, hardworking people who clean up and maintain the parks every day. I guarantee they will not support the idea that their colleagues need to be armed. All city council members are already on thin ice with the residents of LA. This would most certainly be a last straw for anyone still waivering after recent events. Just because a few rich people are scared of change does not make this amendment more reasonable or right. The majority will not stand for this.

Communication from Public

Name: Jordan Boye

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:29 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not arm Park Rangers, as their job is one of assistance and adding firearms to the situations they encounter would not help, especially when dealing with homeless or minority individuals or the mentally unstable. Our parks are for everyone and there are plenty of better things for the Rangers to worry about than firearm safety and whether or not to use lethal force. Arming them would be a recipe for tragedy.

Communication from Public

Name: Montana McBirney

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:34 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: After seeing how law enforcement treated LA residents this weekend, I think we have to oppose arming park rangers. The use of force in the hands of law enforcement has only proven to be a threat and not protection. We need to be taking things AWAY like guns, not arming more people in power.

Communication from Public

Name: Lily Bernstein

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:25 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I do not see a single reason to justify arming park rangers, especially given the lack of care we have witnessed from LAPD in needless acts of weaponized aggression this past week. There is a clear and documented history of the LAPD using force disproportionately against people of color and other racial minority groups who are just trying to go about their daily lives. Additional weapons is not the answer to keeping our parks and communities safe.

Communication from Public

Name: Megan Shapiro

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:25 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Hello. There is absolutely no way we should be arming Park Rangers. If what is currently happening in the world doesn't convince you of that, then you are all blind. We need to be de-escalating in all areas, not providing more members of the state with weapons. Making Park Rangers get the same certification as the LAPD is a joke. We need to focus on community based solutions, but in the meantime, Park Rangers should not be armed. All people should be able to enjoy our parks and open spaces without the fear that a Park Ranger will get spooked enough to shoot them. This is RIDICULOUS.

Communication from Public

Name: Anthony

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:43 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: To permanently arm park rangers would imply that permanently arming them is necessary. The only reason to arm park rangers permanently is to make use of those arms. What active threats exist that those arms are necessary? Unless we have an outbreak of wild animals, the only threat would be the unwelcome presence of certain humans on the site. I would contend unless there's a history of violence perpetrated by those humans on site, then the necessity of those arms is to perpetrate violence on those humans. If that cannot be undisputably proven, then there is no grounds to justify this change.

Communication from Public

Name: Cam Ostrin

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:46 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Armed park rangers creates and reinforces an environment of danger and threat. Police brutality against Black people and other people of color is an important issue that we can work at. Training rangers in de-escalation and mediation would create opportunity to help more people and save lives. Please don't encourage increased violence and work towards truly helping people enjoy their lives in public spaces, without fear of threat, injury, or death.

Communication from Public

Name: Lilianna Wagner

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:47 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: As an LA resident, I'm distressed by the idea that city park rangers could be armed. Not only does this create an atmosphere of intimidation that is antithetical to the existence of public spaces, it's also clear that unnecessary use of force disproportionately affects people of color and, in particular, the black community. Like many people in Los Angeles right now, I have very little confidence in the "extensive training" officers receive or their ability to responsibly handle firearms. Further, the "homeless people and drug addicts" this seeks to deter deserve to be helped, not hurt; I hope that the city of Los Angeles can prioritize non-violent community care for these disadvantaged folks rather than senseless menace.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:48 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Looking through the impact statements, "Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council General Board" suggests that the Park Rangers should be armed as they "went through the same extensive training, including use of a firearm, as other sworn police officers, including those of LAPD." Given how the LAPD have employed this 'extensive training', I think that should be seen as a black mark against them and not a positive. "Hollywood United Neighborhood Council" states that they need guns to 'stay safe and protect the community'. Guns do not create safety, they are tools for fear. Given the Rangers went through similar training to the LAPD, I have no doubt that they will be used to intimidate and injure rather than protect and serve by a large enough proportion of them that it will be unconscionable to arm them. If you want to keep the Park Rangers safe, give them better vehicles, fire fighting equipment and training to deal with arson and wildfires, as these are the real threats. Guns are not the answer, especially now.

Communication from Public

Name: Emily

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 10:52 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Have we not yet learned that equipping law enforcement with increasing amounts of weaponry only leads to more violence? How can LA residents feel safe relaxing in shared public spaces knowing that park rangers are carrying lethal weapons nearby? This is a terrible idea and should be rejected.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 09:59 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The last thing we need is more armed public officials.