

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 02:59 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers are trained police officers that received EXACT same police training as LAPD Officers. However, they protect the public in areas LAPD does not, deal with armed persons, make arrests, and protect the general wild lands areas...all without proper firearms for protection. Please consider arming the Park Rangers (who are already trained to handle firearms) to better protect and serve our community.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 03:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The Los Angeles City Park Rangers are sworn peace officers responding to calls in our parks that have the potential to threaten their lives and lives of people in the community. I believe that they should be armed in order to better protect themselves and those who want to enjoy the city's parks.

Communication from Public

Name: Brian Haug

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 03:47 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I think it is imperative that Rangers be armed while on duty. These officers are often in remote locations with back-up several minutes away. It is absolutely necessary that these officers are given every tool possible to protect themselves and their constituents to the fullest extent.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 04:07 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: In these increasingly dangerous times it is vital our LA City Park Rangers be armed. These brave individuals currently patrol our city parks with the same responsibilities as LAPD, however without the ability to carry firearms for protection. The LA City Park Rangers have received the exact same training, at the LA Police Academy side by side with the LAPD cadets and have passed the academy as well. These Rangers are trained in all aspects of law enforcement, along with additional training in fire and rescue. It currently makes no sense that these officers wear a bulletproof vest to work with no means to confront an armed perpetrator to protect the public or themselves. The LA City Park Rangers need the same tools afforded LAPD in order to completely fulfill their responsibilities of serving and protecting our parks and the public.

Communication from Public

Name: Alex Kleckner Constituent CD 12

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 04:18 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly urge LA City Council to SUPPORT the motion to arm our LA City Park Rangers. LA City Park Rangers are fully certified law enforcement officers and required to complete the same rigorous police academy as our LAPD officers. They are extensively trained on the use of firearms for public and personal protection. Park Rangers are our community's first responders in Griffith Park. They are often confronted with dangerous situations in very remote and isolated areas. These hidden and remote areas are frequently locations for crime and illicit activity. Park Rangers have specialized expertise of the extensive trails and terrain of Griffith Park, this is unique knowledge that supporting law enforcement agencies simply do not have. It is imperative that Park Rangers are armed in order to properly perform their duties of protecting our community and themselves as they faithfully perform their duty as law enforcement officers.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 04:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Arming The City Park Rangers has been a discussion for many years, far before the turn of the century. As a frequent visitor to our wonderful parks, it is evident to see that the goal of The City is to keep the parks as natural and peaceful as possible. Unfortunately, the homeless, the drug users, and the non-law abiding citizens do not share in the same goal. Today, Rangers train with the LAPD and receive the same gun safety training as our LAPD members. Without pulling up specific figures, Rangers log thousands of drug involved incidents, deal with both legally/illegally armed citizens, and are involved in preventing countless gang activity. Additionally, they are expected and empowered to arrest suspects, write police reports, handle investigations, and cite the public. Understandably, it is understood that the expectation is to work with the LAPD for violent confrontations, but having our first responders not properly prepared to protect the public and themselves is a questionable decision. The County Park Rangers are armed and my opinion of them is that they could better protect me than the parks under the authority the The City Park Rangers. My view of the parks that are protected by the The County Park Rangers is not influenced by the presence of those Rangers carrying while on duty. In fact, I am not even thinking about the Park Rangers and if it is a city or county owned park. Ultimately, I would prefer all law enforcing professionals be armed, otherwise just hire private security. I understand this is a complicated decision for the Department of Recreation and Parks and City Council, but I know I would feel safer taking my kids to the wonderful features that Griffith Park has to offer, if those Rangers were properly equipped with the PPE needed to protect themselves and my family.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 04:57 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The Los Angeles City Park Rangers need to be armed to assist in the protection of the community, parks, and themselves. Their duty is to protect and preserve. The Park Rangers receive the same exact training as the Los Angeles Police Department and also experience the same situations LAPD Officers face while on patrol. Park Rangers put their own lives on the line for the public. I believe that the community would be reassured that LA Park Rangers working in their areas have the means of protection at their disposal.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 05:05 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please arm the Park Rangers for the safety of the peace officers as well as the public. These law enforcement officers are trained to use a weapon and need to be able to protect themselves and others. Empower them to enforce the laws and keep the public safe.

Communication from Public

Name: Cathy

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 06:17 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: If LA City Park Rangers go through the same training as LAPD officers, what's the concern? Ask LAPD to do law enforcement without a gun and you can expect a mass exodus of the department. If we expect LA City Park Rangers to continue enforcing the law they need to have the ability to defend their lives and to protect park patrons against deadly threats. As law enforcement officers Park Rangers approach individuals who violate the law, and unless they're dealing with a repeat offender Rangers have no idea who they're dealing with - The violator could be a wanted felon or a parolee who refuses to go back to prison. A Park Ranger doesn't stand a chance against anyone who is armed and determined to fight. It's no secret that we have gang members and other criminals in many of our 400+ LA City parks, and I think it would help if we attempt to put ourselves in the shoes of our LA City Park Rangers as they patrol these dangerous parks. Imagine what it would be like if you had to arrest someone in the park for domestic violence and then find out that they're carrying a concealed firearm when all you have is a baton and pepper spray. Or, imagine pulling over a reckless driver and then discover that they're armed with a gun and you're not. What about if you responded to an active shooter incident at one of the park facilities where innocent lives are at stake? What would you do in these instances? These scenarios have occurred throughout our nation and many law enforcement officers have lost their lives as a result. Just like other law enforcement officers throughout the country, the firearm is a tool that Park Rangers need in order to give them a fighting chance against someone bent on taking their lives in order to get away from a criminal act they have committed. Unless a person has actually sat down and very meticulously contemplated what it would be like to perform the job of a law enforcement officer, they will never truly understand the risks involved. Opposing this measure puts a very low value on the life of our men and women serving in the LA City Park Ranger Division. Opposing this measure could result in a Park Ranger getting killed in the line of duty. Please show the LA City Park Rangers their lives matter too.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 06:57 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers are faced daily with unknown situations that they've been prepared for by going through LAPD's Post Certified Law Enforcement Training Academy. Through their daily patrol of various parks, they encounter various unknown criminals such as existing, current gang members, ex-gang members, individuals who are armed with guns, individuals with illegal gun possession charges and many more. These men and women Park Rangers are faced with constant uncertainty in the situations they are placed in while protecting our parks of the city of LA. In today's society, gun violence is prevalent and in order to protect our citizens it is best to have trained officials such as the LAPD and Park Rangers armed in order to stop the misuse of firearms through gun violence. Knowing the limited protection that the LA city officials offer the Park Rangers, they continue to risk their lives for us each and everyday they protect our parks. They go towards the danger with the little protection the city of LA offers them. I believe it is time to protect these men and women who protect our city parks. They are well trained and qualified because they go through the same rigorous training LAPD officers go through when qualifying for carrying firearms. It is time to protect those who protect us because god forbid something happens to these Rangers on duty. The blood will be on the hands of the city council.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 07:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers are trained public officers exposed to extreme dangers protecting not only public parks but also the citizens patronizing them. They wear a lot of hats- ranger, policeman , fire fighter and public educator. They went thru six months of rigorous police academy training , including safe gun use and handling yet after successfully finishing and possibly earning the highest honor they were deemed not in a high risk job and therefore were commissioned not to carry guns. They may not be chasing robbers, murderers or criminals on the streets but they are faced with a lot of unexpected situations In their line of work- people carrying guns or other ammunitions, deranged people wielding sharp objects or weapons, unruly and violent patrons, uncontrolled drunkards, uncooperative citizen, addicts, homelessness - just to name a few. When confronted with any of these uncontrollable and possibly dangerous situations they have nothing to protect them, they have to call LAPD to help them. Why? I don't understand this arrangement. Why is it that after going thru the same training one group is treated as a "subordinate" ? Do we have to wait for a catastrophic event to happen before we realize that this is not a safe practice? "More guns more violence" ? Not true if guns are in possession of a well trained and responsible personnel. It is time for the council to think hard and reconsider arming park rangers not only for public safety but also for their protection.

Communication from Public

Name: Robin garcia
Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 07:36 PM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: I support this motion

Communication from Public

Name: Dena Nelson

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 07:45 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please allow park rangers to be armed while on duty so they can keep themselves and others safe.

Communication from Public

Name: Jackie Herrera

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 07:59 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I believe that every officer in every law reinforcement agency should be not only aloud to carry a firearm but be required to. They often put their life on the line for public safety and deal with the unknown dangers of who might be caring a knife or a gun. These dangers do not only happen on the streets of the city but could also happen in parks and recreation area's where families spend time.

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Cerkel

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 09:01 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: 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.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 09:17 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I support arming Park Rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Blake Whisenhunt

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 09:29 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Park Rangers are vetted and trained. As law enforcement officers, they should be given the appropriate tools to do their job safely. This will enhance safety in parks and open spaces and may allow a ranger to someday respond to a fellow officer (deputy, state park ranger, LAPD) who needs immediate assistance. In this day and age with threats of active shooters, increasing crime in parks, and especially now in uncertain times, park rangers must be allowed to carry the tools that they were trained to use. As a park ranger from another agency, I firmly stand behind the LA Park Rangers in their mission to protect the parks and the people therein. Rangers have every right to get home safely to their families every day - arm them.

Communication from Public

Name: Alisa Clairet

Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 10:38 PM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Please grant the Rangers the right to carry fire arms. While protecting our community and enforcing the laws each day, they are placed in harms way without the ability to defend themselves or the public they are meant to protect while facing violent criminals. They are trained and educated law enforcement officers and should be armed in the event they need to respond to life threatening situations. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Grace Sanchez

Date Submitted: 03/18/2020 12:52 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: The rangers go to the same training as LAPD officers and they are putting their lives in danger everyday making arrests and patrolling our community parks. If these rangers encounter a dangerous person who is armed with a gun, they are unable to protect the park patrons and themselves. The rangers must be able to protect themselves in all situations. The city is putting their rangers in a vulnerable state being unarmed. I would strongly advise the community to support this motion. Supporting this motion protects the rangers and our community!

Communication from Public

Name: Christian D
Date Submitted: 03/18/2020 02:01 AM
Council File No: 20-0190
Comments for Public Posting: Coming from a cop this is a not brainer. Needs to be done for the safety of the community as well as the rangers. Please support these rangers.

Communication from Public

Name: Thomas Drew Mashburn

Date Submitted: 03/18/2020 07:59 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I support the move for L.A. City Park Rangers to become armed. I've formed my opinion during my 41 year career as an unarmed Park Ranger with the Ventura County Parks Department. Not only do I support arming the L.A. City Park Rangers, but all Park Rangers in the State of California. I support standardization of all Park Rangers. All should be full sworn P.O.S.T. certified Peace Officers. The public has the right to know that all Park Rangers in the State of California have the same law enforcement authority and the best ability to protect them. I support professionalism.

Communication from Public

Name: Steve Toby

Date Submitted: 03/18/2020 08:22 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: Rangers provide a necessary public safety function in our parks and should have all the tools and training to do so.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/18/2020 08:24 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: YES. We need ALL the support possible to keep the lawlessness down in the Hansen Dam. I'm afraid to let my daughter ride her horse there anymore.

Communication from Public

Name: Jeff Ohlfs

Date Submitted: 03/18/2020 08:43 AM

Council File No: 20-0190

Comments for Public Posting: I fully support the city Park Rangers being armed. The profession of park ranger goes back to 1864 with a long history in law enforcement. Park Rangers are professional natural resource law enforcement officers across the world. This is a safety issue for the park patrons and the rangers themselves. City police have too much area to cover to be concerned with what goes on in the parks. It's a different law enforcement. The public expects the type of law enforcement rangers provide in parks. You have them trained at the police academy yet you do not give them the tools to perform what they've been trained for. Parks are generally safe. But parks also have a long history of law enforcement issues. A rangers backup is always going to longer than a city police officer because of where they are located in the park. Give them the tools to protect themselves and the public. I've spent over 40 years in park management and park law enforcement around the world. Make the right choice!