

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



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ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Members:

The Committee requested comments on the Mayor's Proposed Budget discussing its impacts on the Los Angeles Police Department (Department). We acknowledge the significant challenges that the global health pandemic has had on the City, the nation, and the world. We also recognize the devastating impact that COVID-19 has had on the economy and its impact on the City's revenue as we witness one of the darkest economic times this nation has ever faced.

Under this administration, the Department has strived to work within the resources allocated to this Department. Next fiscal year will be no different. We understand that the City and its leaders have consistently placed the highest priority on public safety. For that, we are very grateful. Therefore, after reviewing the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21, we believe that it represents the best balance for the organization, and funds our most critical needs given the overall fiscal challenges of the City.

During the current fiscal year, the Department has made strides in returning officers to patrol, opening the Harbor Area Jail, opening Area Property Rooms, and other measures which allow officers to spend more time on patrol and less time performing administrative tasks. The Department has also made progress in recruitment and hiring, in concert with the Personnel Department, shortening the background process and increasing targeted recruitment efforts to hire more women, African Americans, and Asian Pacific Islanders. The Department intends to continue these efforts in the coming year with the resources available.

Funding for sworn overtime has been used to address important issues in the City such as supporting the safety of the A Bridge Home Program, combating human trafficking and addressing other quality of life issues. We appreciate the continuation of those programs in the Proposed Budget. The budget also continues the progress made on the replacement of the Department's aging technology and replacement of vehicles that are critical to the Department's mission.

Recognizing the impact that COVID-19 has played in the development of the Mayor's Proposed Budget, the Department will lose some ground on the hiring of critical civilian positions through the hiring freeze which will reduce the civilian work force by 130 in Fiscal Year 2020-21. The 26 furlough days, or the equivalent of a reduction of an additional 190 civilian employees, will also set the Department back. We realize this will be felt by all City departments in the next fiscal year. While this is a substantial impact, we appreciate the exemption of Police Service Representatives and Detention Officers from the furloughs as this directly impacts our response times and keeping officers in the field. Although the impact of the budget on our civilian workforce will be a setback on the progress made since the 2008 recession, we are grateful that the Proposed Budget did not include layoffs to our workforce.

As the impacts of COVID-19 continue, we are hopeful for a thoughtful and determined process towards the reopening of affected business and improvement of the City's financial situation.

We look forward to discussing these and other issues with the Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala, Director, Office of Support Services at (213) 486-8410.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police