

MOTION

AD HOC POLICE REFORM

In 2011, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), in partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), and the Advancement Project, a nonprofit founded by Civil Rights attorney Connie Rice, launched the Community Safety Partnership program - a radical departure from traditional policing, that assigned specially-trained police officers into public housing developments for a minimum commitment of five years. Officers apply for, and compete to be accepted into the program, and are selected for their de-escalation, conflict resolution and leadership abilities. CSP officers then embed themselves into the community and form relationships with residents through activities like coaching youth football, serving as Girl Scout Troop leaders, and walking children to and from school.

The CSP program recently underwent a rigorous review and evaluation by the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, using both quantitative and qualitative research methods to examine crime data as well as draw upon the viewpoints of law enforcement, residents, institutional partners, and community-based organizations at Nickerson Gardens and Jordan Downs, two of the four original CSP sites, both located in Watts in Council District 15. The results were clear and unambiguous: though not perfect, the CSP program has reduced crime and made residents feel safer. Over the six-year evaluation period, the CSP program resulted in seven fewer homicides, 93 fewer aggravated assaults and 122 fewer robberies than would otherwise have been expected to occur in Jordan Downs and Nickerson Gardens. Greater trust between residents and CSP officers resulted in more crimes being solved - murder clearance rate went from less than 50% to 81%, and officer-involved shootings decreased from an average of 9 a year to 1.

Public Safety is - and will always be - a core function and responsibility of local government, but cities, and our police officers and firefighter-paramedics cannot continue to be the first, last, and only responders to complex social problems. We must invest in community viability and upward mobility infrastructure at all levels of government - federal, state and local - collaboratively, like that occurring with the redevelopment of Jordan Downs in Watts, which has been awarded a \$35 million Transformative Climate Communities Grant from the State, and a \$35 million Choice Neighborhoods Initiative from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, and millions of dollars of City infrastructure and technical support.

But even with that investment, there will always be a need for police, and the time to reorganize, restructure, and rebuild the LAPD is now. The CSP program has become a national model for community policing and the City now has quantifiable proof that the CSP model works. It is time to expand the Community Safety Partnership program within LAPD and begin to transform the department into one based upon community policing.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Council DIRECT the Chief Legislative Analyst, working with the Police Commission and community stakeholders, to report with recommendations on a Citywide expansion of the Community Safety Partnership program, prioritizing disadvantaged communities and communities of color.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Council DIRECT the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst identify funding within LAPD's existing budget to fund the initial expansion of the CSP program.

CO-PRESENTED BY:

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