

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Echo Park Neighborhood Council

Name: Darcy Harris

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(19) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 07/28/2020

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 08/18/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0190

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Echo Park Neighborhood Council strongly opposes the proposed amendment to LAMC 63.41 to permit Park Rangers to be armed while on duty or any expansion of their investigatory powers “into criminal activity and beyond” not currently granted to them. We further oppose any allocation of additional funds to create and maintain the administrative, reporting, training and equipment costs needed to effectuate the stated outcomes of this proposed motion. It is our firm belief that far from enhancing public safety, such a proposal, were it to become law, would undermine it, putting more of our most vulnerable residents at greater and unnecessary risk of physical and psychological harm. Simply put, our city does not need another militarized force. Instead, we propose that, rather than spend money on guns, the City Council redirect the funds it intended for this poorly conceived, fear driven amendment towards securing safe housing and the supportive services necessary to maintain stable lodging.



ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



CHAIR
Darcy Harris

VICE CHAIR
Mo Najand

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
Thomas DeVoss

TREASURER
Tyler Samples

SECRETARY
Richard Courtney

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT COUNCIL FILE: 20-0190

TITLE: ARMED WHILE ON DUTY / PARK RANGERS / LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE (LAMC) SECTION 63.41 / AMENDMENT

POSITION: OPPOSED

CERTIFIED COUNCIL
APRIL 16, 2002

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LOS ANGELES, CA 90026

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AUGUST 16, 2020

The Echo Park Neighborhood Council strongly opposes the proposed amendment to LAMC 63.41 to permit Park Rangers to be armed while on duty or any expansion of their investigatory powers “into criminal activity and beyond” not currently granted to them. We further oppose any allocation of additional funds to create and maintain the administrative, reporting, training and equipment costs needed to effectuate the stated outcomes of this proposed motion. It is our firm belief that far from enhancing public safety, such a proposal, were it to become law, would undermine it, putting more of our most vulnerable residents at greater and unnecessary risk of physical and psychological harm.

We are particularly disturbed that this motion would escalate tensions between law enforcement and our communities coming as it does on the heels of a damning increase in homelessness throughout the city in general and tent encampments in particular.^[1] As we have seen in our own neighborhood, unhoused people are left with few options for safe spaces to sleep other than local parks that have lighting, as well as accessible public toilets. We have observed that as housed residents grow increasingly agitated at the sight of so many visibly desperate people park rangers have taken an increasingly aggressive posture towards those with no choice but to seek shelter in public places. Rather than diminish conflict some rangers have instead responded with force, exacerbating already fraught situations.^[2] As this video clip from an incident that occurred on February 26, 2020 shows, had the ranger shown drawn a weapon rather than a baton in this crowded and chaotic interaction, catastrophic consequences might easily have occurred.

Simply put, our city does not need another militarized force. Instead, we propose that, rather than spend money on guns, the City Council redirect the funds it intended for this poorly conceived, fear driven amendment towards securing safe housing and the supportive services necessary to maintain stable lodging.

Reject the motion to amend LAMC 63.41 for the good all of Los Angeles's people.

RESOLUTION

On July 28 , 2020, the EPNC Board of Governors held a Brown Act noticed-meeting, at 7pm, at Echo Park United Methodist Church, 1226 N Alvarado Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026. With a quorum of 19 board members present and vote count of 19 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions, the Board resolved to submit a CIS in opposition to the proposed amendment as set forth above..

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Courtney", written in a cursive style.

Richard Courtney
Secretary, Echo Park Neighborhood Council

[1] <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/12/875888864/homelessness-in-los-angeles-county-rises-sharply>

[2] <https://mobile.twitter.com/ABC7/status/1232907316585910272>