

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

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(18) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 12/08/2021

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 12/09/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0190

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Encino Neighborhood Council (ENC) is filing this Community Impact Statement (CIS) FOR Council File 20-0190 (Buscaino - Cedillo) relative to directing the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance amending Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 63.41 to allow park rangers to be armed while on duty, in accordance with state law. The issue was discussed at both the ENC Parks and Environment committee and by the ENC Board, and was passed unanimously by both bodies. The ENC sincerely hopes that the motion is heard in the near future by the City Council Public Safety Committee and then promptly considered by the City Council. Kindly see the attached ENC statement.

The Encino Neighborhood Council (ENC) is filing this Community Impact Statement (CIS) FOR Council File 20-0190 (Buscaino - Cedillo) relative to directing the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance amending Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 63.41 to allow park rangers to be armed while on duty, in accordance with state law. The issue was discussed at both the ENC Parks and Environment committee and by the ENC Board, and was passed unanimously by both bodies. The ENC sincerely hopes that the motion is heard in the near future by the City Council Public Safety Committee and then promptly considered by the City Council.

As noted in CF 20-0190, "RAP park rangers are also considered full law enforcement officers under California Penal Code (CPC) Section 830.1 and have full police powers throughout the State of California. For the protection of the public and for the safety of all law enforcement officers in the City, it is necessary to amend LAMC section 63.41 to allow park rangers to be armed while on duty, as authorized by CPC §830.31 (b) which states, "a person designated by a local agency as a park ranger, who is regularly employed and paid in that capacity, and whose primary duty is the protection of parks, may be armed by their employing agency."

The Recreation and Park rangers are often the first responders to dangerous or criminal activities in City parks, including but not limited to poaching, assaults, fires, possession and use of firearms or other weapons - the list goes on. It should be noted that California Fish and Wildlife Officers, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority officers, LAPD officers, and even LAFD arson investigators are armed. Yet our Recreation and Parks rangers deal unassisted with dangerous situations in locations other law enforcement officers can not even find. As noted in the motion, "park rangers should have the full ability to utilize all law enforcement tools and equipment to ensure the safety and security of the public under all circumstances."

The Sepulveda Basin wildlife and recreation areas, with approximately 2,150 acres, constitute the City's second largest park, and is contained almost entirely within the boundaries of the Encino NC. The ENC has a representative on the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee, and regularly interacts with the Department of Recreation and Parks rangers regarding the many public safety issues in the Basin as well as other City parks. The Encino Neighborhood Council has been requesting an enhanced ranger presence in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas for many years (for example, see [CF 12-0899-S1](#)), and has repeatedly requested that the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates request that the Department of Recreation and Parks not only add more rangers, but establish a ranger station in the Sepulveda Basin (this has not happened). The ENC appreciates the Department of Recreation and Parks rangers charged with public safety in our area, and believe they should be armed while on duty in accordance with state law, for their safety and ours.