

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(19) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(2)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/07/2021

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 04/16/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0718

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council strongly SUPPORTS Council File 20-0718 for City Council to REQUEST the City Attorney to decline to pursue any criminal or financial penalties against individuals arrested for non-violent actions, such as curfew violations or failure to disperse, during the recent civil unrest, and dismiss all citations.



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COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

In Support of Council File [20-0718](#)

(George Floyd / Protests / Non-Violent Actions / Decline to Pursue Criminal or Financial Penalties)

February 4th, 2021

Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear City Attorney Mike Feuer and Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council strongly SUPPORTS Council File 20-0718 for City Council to REQUEST the City Attorney to decline to pursue any criminal or financial penalties against individuals arrested for non-violent actions, such as curfew violations or failure to disperse, during the recent civil unrest, and dismiss all citations.

Last year, George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis Police when an officer knelt on Floyd’s neck for about nine and a half minutes.ⁱ This marked the beginning of a racial justice and civil rights movement across the world ushering in protests against police brutality and systemic racism in nearly every major American city. However, in Los Angeles these protests, primarily organized by Black Lives Matter Los Angeles (BLMLA), were met with numerous documented cases of Los Angeles Police (LAPD) using violent & excessive force to quell these demonstrations.^{ii iii iv} On June 5th, 2020, BLM-LA filed a class action lawsuit against the LAPD alleging that the department arrested more than 2,600 peaceful protestors over the course of roughly one week.^v

Unfortunately, despite calls from assaulted protestors^{vi vii}, City Councilmembers^{viii}, and civil rights organizations^{ix x}, the department’s problematic use of excessive force and arrests by the LAPD continue to this day. On December 6th, 2020 during the 13th day of daily “Block Garcetti” protests led by BLMLA, police officers ambushed peaceful demonstrators and arrested Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Councilmember Jamie Penn.^{xi xii} The disturbing images of police brutality against peaceful demonstrators documented right outside Mayor Garcetti’s residence^{xiii} drew outcries from elected officials like Assemblymember Miguel Santiago^{xiv}, Congressman Jimmy Gomez^{xv}, Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo^{xvi}, and City Councilmembers Mike Bonin^{xvii} & Nithya Raman^{xviii}. On February 2nd, 2021, BLMLA organized another peaceful demonstration outside the Stanley Mosk courthouse which concluded with police officers isolating and detaining a small group of protestors including BLMLA core organizer “Baba” Akili.^{xix xx} This stands in stark contrast to LAPD’s response to the various

radical anti-vaccine/anti-mask protests across the city. On January 30th, 2021, one such protest resulted in a hours-long shutdown of the Dodger Stadium vaccine distribution site with zero arrests or instances of police brutality. ^{xxi}

All Americans deserve a safe space to exercise their right to protest. However, this past year in wake of protests spurred by victims of police violence like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and numerous others have been met with further police aggression and excessive arrests. Concerningly, some protests in Los Angeles appear to have a measured and appropriate police response yet others receive unfair and disproportionate mistreatment. It is crucial for the city to communicate to all of its law-abiding citizens that their First Amendment right protects their freedom to assemble and express their views through protest. No one should have their right to protest obstructed by abuses of power now and forever. All punitive charges against non-violent, peaceful demonstrators should be dropped immediately.

Sincerely,

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Board Consent Vote (Agenda Item 10-C) as of April 7th, 2021:

Yes: 19

Abstain: 0

No: 0

Absent: 2

ⁱ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/11/us/george-floyd-body-cam-full-video.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://abc7.com/lapd-video-batons-protest/6231194/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-06/la-me-lapd-tactics-criticism-violence>

^{iv} <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-10/lapd-investigating-56-police-misconduct-allegations>

^v <https://www.classaction.org/media/black-lives-matter-los-angeles-et-al-v-city-of-los-angeles-et-al.pdf>

^{vi} <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-11/lapd-violated-protocols-for-batons-and-less-lethal-bullets-injuring-many-protesters>

^{vii} <https://www.kcet.org/shows/southland-sessions/powerful-portraits-of-people-wounded-by-police-during-protests-are-a-form-of-resistance>

^{viii}

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-0778>

^{ix} <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-03/l-a-s-nighttime-curfew-faces-growing-criticism-as-arrests-mount>

^x <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-22/complaints-lapd-abuses-mount-protest-lawsuit>

^{xi} <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-11-30/black-lives-matter-los-angeles-garcetti-biden-protests>

^{xii} <https://knock-la.com/jamie-penn-arrest-black-lives-matter-eric-garcetti-protest-1891dlbcbd17>

^{xiii} <https://laist.com/latest/post/20201206/protest-Getty-House-Garcetti-LAPD-arrest-batons>

^{xiv} <https://twitter.com/SantiagoAD53/status/1335698227895521282?s=20>

^{xv} <https://twitter.com/RepJimmyGomez/status/1335718959358873602?s=20>

^{xvi} <https://twitter.com/AsmCarrillo/status/1335749303504044032?s=20>

^{xvii} <https://twitter.com/mikebonin/status/1335810334154575873?s=20>

^{xviii} <https://twitter.com/nithyavraman/status/1335777540464472064?s=20>

^{xix} https://www.instagram.com/p/CKlubCYgMhN/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

^{xx} https://www.instagram.com/p/CK2d7ZKAZSp/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

^{xxi} <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-01-30/dodger-stadiums-covid-19-vaccination-site-shutdown-after-dozens-of-protesters-gather-at-entrance>