

MOTION

The Los Angeles Police Department has been recognized nationally as a leader in implementing reforms, supporting strong civilian oversight and accountability, and cultivating 21st Century policing principles and practices. It is important to acknowledge; however, that most of these reforms and actions were born out of tragic events and civil unrest, that go as far back as the Watts Riots of 1965, between the LAPD and the communities they are privileged to protect and serve.

In 2001, the U.S. Department of Justice and the City of Los Angeles entered into a consent decree that provided specific guidelines designed to institute new policies and procedures to reform the conduct of the LAPD. The consent decree was a result of the Rodney King beating by LAPD officers, the 1992 riots ignited by acquittals in the King case, and the Rampart Division anti-gang unit scandal in 1999. It was intended to address a pattern or practice of excessive force, false arrests, and unreasonable searches and seizures.

After each of these tragic events, the City responded with the creation of a commission or task force to examine the department and provide recommendations to drive reform. Following the Rodney King incident in 1991, Mayor Tom Bradley created an Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department, commonly referred to as the Christopher Commission, to examine the use of force policy in the department, racism and bias affecting use of excessive force, community relations, recruitment and hiring, training, personnel issues, complaints and discipline, organizational structure. The report produced by the commission included numerous recommendations to revise the operations and structure of the department. Following the Rampart scandal, the Police Commission formed the Rampart Independent Review Panel to review the policies, procedures, and operations of the LAPD, while considering structural issues and obtaining input from inside and outside of the Department. The panel, composed of citizens, including attorneys, educators, and business executives, issued a report in November 2000 with 72 findings and 86 recommendations.

Los Angeles is not alone in its efforts to take on police reform. In 2014, President Barack Obama elevated the conversation at the national level by establishing the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The task force was charged with identifying best practices and offering recommendations on how policing practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust. The task force recommendations, each with action items, are organized around six main topic areas: Building Trust and Legitimacy, Policy and Oversight, Technology and Social Media, Community Policing and Crime Reduction, Officer Training and Education, and Officer Safety and Wellness.

The LAPD has taken great strides towards reform; however recent events show that there is still more work to be done. In 2020, Los Angeles is once again facing a critical moment of reflection examining the reform efforts to date, honestly assessing progress or lack thereof, and identifying new areas for change or improvement to meet the needs of communities today.

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I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct the Los Angeles Police Department, and request the Board of Police Commissioners to direct the Inspector General, to report to the Public Safety Committee in 30 days with a comprehensive report of the policing reform efforts that the department implemented in compliance with the consent decree and the actions that have been taken in response to the recommendations produced by the Christopher Commission, the Rampart Independent Review Panel, and the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The report should include a list of recommended items that remain to be completed and a plan to carry out new and outstanding police reform efforts.

PRESENTED BY 
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY: _____
JOE BUSCAINO (verbal)
Councilmember, 15th District