

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(17) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 07/09/2020

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 07/20/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0769

Agenda Date: 07/09/2020

Item Number: 5b

Summary: The Silver Lake Neighborhood statement supports the proposal in CF 20-0679 to develop an unarmed model of crisis response and to move away from using the LAPD as first responders in a variety of service calls for which they are not specially trained. In particular, the SLNC favors adopting a new model that does not rely on law enforcement in response to calls relating to homelessness.

Community Impact Statement

Council File 20-0769 (Unarmed Model of Crisis Response / Non-Violent Calls for Service / Non-Law Enforcement Agencies)

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

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

The Silver Lake Neighborhood council is writing to you in support of Council File 20-0769 (Unarmed Model of Crisis Response / Non-Violent Calls for Service / Non-Law Enforcement Agencies). We have previously written regarding our continuing concerns with police presence and use of force that accompanies interactions with people experiencing homelessness, including encampment cleanups (also known as ‘Sweeps’). In community impact statements for council files 19-0450, 19-0602, and 19-0609, our board has repeatedly made note of the devastating effects that police intervention has when accompanying outreach efforts for our unhoused neighbors.

When police and other city workers not extensively trained in homeless outreach are the first responders to problems stemming from homelessness, conflict worsens. It is reported that one third of the instances of use of force by the LAPD are against people experiencing homelessness. People’s belongings are destroyed, medication and identification documents are taken, support groups for vulnerable people are torn apart, and we find ourselves no better off when it comes to safety, public health and sanitation. We use jails as housing and emergency rooms as primary care facilities, and we waste taxpayer money on temporary fixes to our problems in the process. We are in support of Council File 20-0769, calling for the introduction of unarmed models of crisis response, as we encourage the city to promptly remove LAPD as first responders to homelessness and related issues. We should be investing in hiring and training dedicated social workers and building and giving people access to affordable housing, both more long-term solutions to the issues our city now faces in reducing and preventing homelessness.

The 2020-21 City Budget still allocates over 50% of General Funds for the LAPD at a time when thousands of Angelenos are calling for defunding police and re-allocating a much more substantial portion of funding to social services. These services are needed now more than ever, not just to serve our unhoused neighbors but to serve those who are economically impacted by COVID-19 and are at increased risk of becoming homeless. We urge you to develop and implement the unarmed crisis response model proposed in CF 20-0769 and in so doing provide more funding in the city budget for desperately needed social services.

Sincerely,

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council