

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POLICE REFORM REPORT relative making it illegal to use the 911 emergency system to make false reports to law enforcement agencies that an emergency or threat exists when the call is motivated/based on racial bias.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Price - Wesson - Harris-Dawson - Koretz):

REQUEST the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Los Angeles Police Department, to report back within 30 days in regard to options to make it illegal to use the 911 emergency system to make a report, or cause a report to be made to law enforcement agencies, that an emergency or threat exists when the call is motivated / based on racial bias, and the caller knows that the report is false or frivolous, as further detailed in the text of this Motion.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On June 24, 2020, your Committee considered a Motion (Price - Wesson - Harris-Dawson - Koretz) relative to make it illegal to use the 911 emergency system to make a report, or cause a report to be made to law enforcement agencies, that an emergency or threat exists when the call is motivated / based on racial bias, and the caller knows that the report is false or frivolous. According to the Motion, calls to City 911 emergency systems are being abused due to racial bias and this results in unnecessary wasted time and expense of City resources. Police reports are often not taken for these types of racially based incidents and they often do not have consequences to the caller. Without a police report, there is also little recourse for the victim of this type of racially based 911 call to take action of their own. Additionally, depending on the severity of the call it could result in bodily harm or false arrest of the victim. The City should determine options to make it illegal to use 911 to make a report, or cause a report to be made to law enforcement agencies, that an "emergency or threat" exists motivated / based on racial bias, and the caller knows that the report is false or frivolous. Options should include criminal penalties, rights of victims to bring private civil actions, and cost recovery by the City. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion as amended and detailed in the above recommendation. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POLICE REFORM

MEMBER

VOTE

WESSON: YES
KORETZ: YES
LEE: YES
CEDILLO: YES
HARRIS-DAWSON: YES
ARL
6/24/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-