AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POLICE REFORM REPORT relative to alternative models and methods that do not rely on armed law enforcement to achieve transportation policy objectives.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Harris-Dawson - Bonin - Price - Wesson - Ryu):

1. DIRECT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), with assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and the City Attorney, to develop and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a consultant to conduct a study on the feasibility of utilizing civilian enforcement of traffic laws for motorists, cyclists, and other forms of transportation occurring within the City of Los Angeles.

2. DIRECT that City departments consider the following in the development of the RFP detailed above in Recommendation No. 1:
   a. A review of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, the California Vehicle Code, and other relevant traffic laws for any outdated enforcement sections that could be decriminalized or removed.
   b. A review of unarmed traffic enforcement techniques from around the United States as well as any international models.
   c. The size of the City of Los Angeles in population and square mileage.
   d. The diversity of the City, including but not limited to:
      i. Racial demographics.
      ii. The number of languages spoken.
      iii. The number of people living in poverty.
      iv. Any other factors that may be relevant to developing this type of program to meet the needs of City residents.

3. DIRECT the LADOT to create an advisory task force to make recommendations to the LADOT for traffic safety alternatives and convene community meetings to solicit feedback in regard to community needs.

4. DIRECT the LAPD to report in regard to the top five most cited traffic violations, as well as the number of vehicle stops and arrests for traffic enforcement/violations including data on the gender and ethnicity of those cited or arrested, broken down by bureau, traffic division, and station for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

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

For:
Arrroyo Seco Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On October 23, 2020, your Committee considered a Motion (Harris-Dawson - Bonin - Price - Wesson - Ryu) relative to alternative models and methods that do not rely on armed law enforcement to achieve transportation policy objectives. According to the Motion, people of different races and ethnicities have different access to, experiences with, and feelings of safety with mobility in Los Angeles, especially in interactions with law enforcement. In the transportation industry, national experts are increasingly recognizing that policing of public spaces reduces mobility for some members of the public, particularly Black and Latino people. These barriers to mobility have cascading impacts on access to job and educational opportunities, healthcare, and parks and open space, all of which contribute to the wide disparities in income, health, and well being experienced in Los Angeles. Low-income communities of color bear the brunt of traffic violence in Los Angeles due to decades of disinvestment in safe streets infrastructure and policies that prioritize through traffic over local residents’ mobility needs. In 2015, when the City endorsed the Vision Zero Initiative to end traffic fatalities through a combination of education, engineering, and enforcement strategies, mobility justice advocates immediately feared yet another campaign to over-police their communities and lack of follow-through on investment in tangible safety improvements. These consistent critiques, many from leaders based here in Los Angeles, have now grown into a broad consensus among transportation industry’ leaders that police involvement can actually undermine traffic safety goals and that a police-led response to what is fundamentally a disinvestment issue is harmful, costly, and counterproductive. 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 recommendations. 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: ABSENT
CEDILLO: YES
HARRIS-DAWSON: YES
ARL
10/23/20