

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the status of the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) Operations-South Bureau (OSB) and Operation-Valley Bureau Human Trafficking Task Forces, and on how recent budgetary reductions may impact these units.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Martinez - O'Farrell):

DIRECT the LAPD to report in regard to the status of the Department's Operations-South Bureau and Operation-Valley Bureau Human Trafficking Task Forces, and on how recent budgetary reductions may impact these units.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On October 27, 2020, your Committee considered a Motion (Martinez - O'Farrell) relative to the status of the LAPD OSB and OVB Human Trafficking Task Forces, and on how recent budgetary reductions may impact these units. According to the Motion, human trafficking is a significant issue in the United States, and Los Angeles is a major entry point into the country for people being trafficked from overseas. Also, people from other parts of the United States are often trafficked through the City, which, due to its size, makes it easier to hide people from law enforcement.

Human Trafficking is particularly problematic in LAPD's OSB and OVB. In an effort to combat this problem, the LAPD operates a Human Trafficking Task Force in each Bureau, which couples law enforcement with service providers in an effort to address this problem in a holistic manner. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a rise in the demand for services from various organizations in the City who service victims of human trafficking and abuse. Given that these organizations work hand in hand with law enforcement to provide the support needed for victims, it is important to ensure these operations could continue to properly function throughout the pandemic and after. After consideration and after having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEMBER VOTE

RODRIGUEZ: YES

O'FARRELL: YES

BUSCAINO: ABSENT

RYU: YES

LEE: YES

ARL

10/27/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-