

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to an overview of the youth programs operated by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and FILE the April 25, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners (Board) report, inasmuch as this report is for information only and no Council action is required.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On September 12, 2023, your Committee considered an April 25, 2023 Board report relative to an overview of the youth programs operated by the LAPD. According to the Board, since the inception of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in 2011, and with the 2020 establishment of the Community Safety Partnership Bureau (CSPB), the delivery of community programming, specifically those tailored to engage youth and their families, remains a priority endeavor aimed at building trust between the police and the community members living within defined CSP Neighborhood Engagement Areas (NEAs). A commitment to youth programming stems from the belief that crime reduction can be achieved, in large part, by providing opportunities for young people to realize their full potential, which in turn can contribute to a healthy environment and develop positive working relationships between all members of the community and the police.

Participants within the CSP youth programs are selected from within and around designated CSP NEAs, with community awareness advanced through a multi-layered approach, to include, officers' efforts (e.g., footbeats) or those of local non-profits, partnerships with local schools, or community outreach events hosted with institutional partners. Some of the current youth programs, offered at the ten CSP NEAs, were originally established through the efforts of CSP officers (some nearly ten years ago); however, in maintaining fidelity to the CSP model, these youth programs have evolved into community-led efforts. As such, CSP officers provide needed support and function as youth mentors and coaches, in collaboration with community members or partners from community-based organizations, as well as identify resources in support of youth programs.

Additionally, CSP officers serve as liaisons between residents, community-based organizations, other LAPD entities, and external partners to support the development of various programs or services that address the community's needs. The transition from police officer-led to community-led programming reflects the CSP commitment to building community leadership and capacity, which is paramount to the development of healthy communities. The time and energy put into this growth will in turn empower the

community to “police itself” and thrive with or without police presence. The CSP officers collaborate with existing community-based organizations, local non-profits, individual schools, philanthropic groups, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), Department of Recreation and Parks, and gang interventionists via the Mayor’s Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) to offer a variety of programs designed for youth engagement and to promote prosocial behavior. Collectively, these programs have helped to reduce gang membership and delinquency, provide avenues for employment and personal development, and build trust between law enforcement and community members.

The CSP officers work tirelessly to connect community members with an array of public and private resources, enabling them to advocate for themselves and help the community flourish. It is important to note, CSP officers are substantially involved in supporting the work of our GRYD partners in the delivery of all Summer Night Lights programming at sites connected to CSP NEAs. Many of the CSP-supported youth programs are seasonal, community-led, and/or hosted through the work of non-profit organizations, which poses a challenge to providing the exact figures related to the number of active youth participants, or demographics; however, CSP officers are intentional in their recruitment efforts by generating awareness and cultivating participation through youth and their families in and around CSP NEAs. As previously discussed, in addition to youth programming, CSP officers perform various functions within their respective NEAs and cultivate a shared responsibility for securing public safety and reinforcing community leadership and capacity. Additionally, the funding for these programs is largely managed and controlled through the work of external partners (e.g., HACLA and non-profits). Thus, in many cases, providing budget details is beyond the scope of CSPB. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the Board report. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Public Safety Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
LEE:	ABSENT
McOSKER:	YES
PARK:	YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	YES

ARL

9/12/23

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-