

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to a report back on the detaining of journalists in recent protest demonstrations, procedures surrounding issuing press credentials, and crowd control procedures involving journalists.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. REQUEST the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to report back on the detaining of journalists in recent protests and demonstrations, including during protests over racial injustice during the summer of 2020, demonstrations after the Dodgers World Series victory the night of October 27, 2020, and demonstrations in Echo Park on March 24-26, 2021. The report should include:
 - a. The number of journalists detained, the duration of their detainment, and reasoning behind such actions.
 - b. Release of all information about arrests of or physical interactions with the press to the public.
2. REQUEST the LAPD to report back on procedures and issues surrounding issuing press credentials, including:
 - a. Procedures for recognizing press credentials
 - b. Criteria for issuing credentials
 - c. Technical challenges and average time it takes to issue an LAPD press credential
 - d. Training currently conducted to ensure LAPD quickly and correctly identifies members of the news media at newsworthy events like demonstrations
 - e. Enforcement and discipline for officers who do not follow protocol
3. REQUEST the LAPD to report back on crowd procedures involving journalists, including:
 - a. Procedures and protocols LAPD follows to allow journalists freedom of movement to cover events such as demonstrations, including ensuring that members of the news media are exempt from mobility restrictions and curfews
 - b. Training LAPD officers to ensure their awareness of journalists' rights to freedom of movement

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:

At a regular meeting held on April 21, 2021 the Public Safety Committee virtually considered a Motion (Bonin - De Leon - Rodriguez) relative to a report back on the detaining of journalists in recent protest demonstrations, procedures surrounding issuing press credentials, and crowd control procedures involving journalists. After providing an opportunity for public comment the Committee approved the recommendations in the Motion, as detailed above. This matter is now transmitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Approved as amended (5) Yes; (0) No

MEMBER	VOTE
RODRIGUEZ	YES
O'FARRELL	YES
BUSCAINO	YES
DE LEON	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON	YES

KK 4-21-21

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-