

MOTION

Council District 13 has coordinated the delivery of over \$2.8 million in additional services for the unsheltered individuals at Echo Park Lake; this figure does not include any costs incurred by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) or by any of its contracted service providers. While the unsheltered population at Echo Park Lake received constant service and housing options and significant outreach, local residents and park patrons reported harassment, drug use, and repeated violence towards women.

On December 1, 2020 an unsheltered person was shot (Case# 2012-010000-1679) at the lake, further escalating an already tense and dangerous site for workers to provide the delivery of services. However, in spite of the danger within the lake, all service coordination and delivery was led by CD 13 in partnership with nonprofit partners, city departments, county agencies, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) - not by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). The park closure itself was led by the Department of Recreation and Parks, while housing placements were done by LAHSA, Urban Alchemy and other service providers.

The police response on March 24th through March 26th resulted in the arrests of 182 protestors and the unfortunate detention of two journalists after multiple orders to disperse were given. Additionally, the last two people experiencing homelessness at Echo Park Lake waited until arrest and citation on Thursday morning, March 25th. While the City received credible threats of violence, many of the people present were peaceful and complied with officer instructions. The LAPD should provide a summary report on the efforts leading up to the closure of the park, focusing primarily on the police deployment to ensure the public's safety at the Echo Park Lake First Amendment protests. Additionally, the Information and Technology Agency should identify all communications to City Departments, Agencies or Offices about Echo Park Lake, planned first amendment protests, and or the housing event planned for March 25th 2021, focusing on credible threats of violence to any city employee or to city property.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department, with the assistance of the Department of Recreation and Parks, to report on the public safety issues at Echo Park Lake, from January 2020 until the present, including any incident involving persons experiencing homelessness, park patrons, street vendors, concessionaires, non-profit or local faith based organizations, including vandalism of city resources or threats to city staff or personnel.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Information Technology Agency (ITA), with the Assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and the Office of the City Attorney, to identify, organize and present on communications reported to City Agencies, Departments, or Offices about Echo Park Lake and the planned housing event and park closure beginning March 24th, 2021 focusing on and isolating credible threats of violence to city personnel or property.

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I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department to report on the community safety activities of March 24 through March 26, 2021, and outline the decision-making process for the required public safety response; this report should include a description of what training programs directly prepared officers for this and other first amendment deployments.



Presented By: _____

Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember, 13th District



Seconded By: _____