

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 02/13/2023

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 02/13/2023

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 23-0078

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary:



February 13, 2023

Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CF 23-0078: LAPD Recruitment, Marketing, Advertising campaign

Empowerment Congress West Area NDC (ECWA) commends the Council's efforts towards diversifying police recruitment. While we understand there is a challenge finding diverse recruits for Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), we believe the \$500k proposed for a diversity campaign would be better spent on additional training for existing police and increasing the staffing for alternative policing units.

Hiring more officers from diverse backgrounds does not guarantee that the current challenges of police abuse will be addressed. As we've seen most recently in Memphis, and more locally in Venice in January 2023, even with diverse officers on scene, African Americans are still being beaten, tasered and killed.

Had these officers been given additional training on cultural sensitivity and how to handle civilians suffering from mental health challenges, perhaps the lives lost could have been saved. In the most recent incidents when citizens lose their lives during police altercations, officers did not follow proper procedures. For example, in the Venice incident, a man was tasered multiple times within 10 minutes, which is against police regulation, and led to his death. We believe additional hands-on training for how to first de-escalate, and then if the use of a Taser is required, more hands-on training is needed, so the encounter does not turn deadly.

In a police shooting in Los Angeles in January 2023, despite being made aware that the citizen was suffering mental health challenges, a Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Teams (SMART) unit was not brought out on the call. We've been informed that SMART units, are not readily available at night. Additionally, we've been informed that often SMART units offer to meet the officers at the Police Station, rather than being taken out on a call. Using the funds to increase the staffing of the SMART units, so that mental health professionals can accompany police officers on calls, as needed, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, would be more beneficial to our community.

In conclusion, we believe that additional continuing education for officers would be more useful than efforts to diversify through an advertising campaign. Better trained officers, improving the reputation of the LAPD, would more likely increase recruitment than an ad campaign.

We propose that the City Council instruct the LAPD to use the transfer funds as follows:
Transfer \$150,000 from Fund 100, Department 70, Account No. 006010, Office and Administrative,
and \$350,000 from Fund 100, Department 70, Account No. 004430, Uniforms, to Fund 100,
Department 70 to 1) SMART Units so that they may the add more trained personnel and increasing
their hours of availability, and 2) to add more continuing education programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council (ECWA)