

MOTION

For over a decade, the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) has collaborated with community partners to build invaluable youth programs and bridge programs that prepare young Angelenos for becoming members of law enforcement.

The Department's Cadet Program is a community-based crime prevention program that aims to empower youths, ages 13 to 17, and maximize their personal and scholastic potential through the emphasis of the program's four cornerstones: leadership, academic excellence, ethical and wise decision-making, and community stewardship. The Cadet Program is considered the Department's signature youth program and proven to be its most enduring.

A partnership between the Department and the Los Angeles Unified School District has created unique and innovative secondary law enforcement schools known as the Police Academy Magnet Schools (PAMS). The PAMS program offers an academically and physically rigorous career pathway for young men and women interested in law enforcement and criminal justice by providing a better understanding of law enforcement and a recruitment avenue of diverse and highly qualified candidates for the Department.

There is also the Associate Community Officer Program (ACOP) to assist young adults, ages 17 ½ to 20, who have proven to be outstanding participants in the Department's youth programs—such as the Cadet Program or a PAMS program—and have expressed the desire and commitment to join the Department as a sworn officer. ACOP offers short-term employment to bridge the gap for young adults until they are legally eligible to apply for the Department.

Then there is the Police Orientation Preparations Program (POPP), which is a two-year Associate degree program for high school graduates which is supported by both the Department and the Los Angeles Community College District. POPP is open to any graduate from a PAMS high school program, a cadet of the Cadet Program, or any other law enforcement agency cadet program. In the POPP program, students complete all academic requirements for an Associate of Science Degree in Administration of Justice, which is fully transferable to California State and University of California colleges.

These programs are crucial for recruiting the next generation of sworn law enforcement officers, in whom the public trusts with their everyday safety.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Police Department to report on the current status of the Cadet Program, the Policy Academy Magnet Schools (PAMS) Program, the Associated Community Officer Program (ACOP) and the Police Orientation Preparations Program (POPP), including program elements, participation and enrollment levels, and how these programs work collectively to provide viable pathways for youth to pursue law enforcement careers with the Department and thereby assist the Department in meeting its recruitment objectives.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Police Department to also report on options to expand participation in these programs; and bridge any potential program gaps which may exist. The expansion of these programs may also include the development of public awareness/outreach campaigns and incentives in order to increase participation rates.

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