



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney  
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. R 25 - 0036  
FEB 05 2025

**REPORT RE:**

**DRAFT ORDINANCE ADDING ARTICLE 4, SECTIONS 23.67 THROUGH 23.67.6  
TO DIVISION 23, CHAPTER 3 OF THE LOS ANGELES ADMINISTRATIVE  
CODE TO FORMALLY ESTABLISH THE LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT  
PORT POLICE RESERVE CORPS**

The Honorable City Council  
of the City of Los Angeles  
Room 395, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Members:

This Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. The ordinance was drafted and forwarded to the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) at the request of the Los Angeles Port Police. This draft ordinance would add Article 4, Sections 23.67 through 23.67.6 to Division 23, Chapter 3, of the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) to formally establish the Los Angeles Harbor Department Port Police Reserve Corps (Corps). The Corps, as an element of the Los Angeles Port Police, would be under the independent and autonomous control of the Harbor Department.

Charter Findings

Charter Sections 602 and 651 provide the Board authority over the possession, management, and control of Harbor Assets. Charter Section 657 provides that the Los Angeles Port Police shall remain under the independent and autonomous control of the Harbor Department.

On January 30, 2025, the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners approved, authorized and directed the transmittal of the enclosed draft ordinance to the City Council for consideration pursuant to Charter Section 250, "Procedure for Adoption of Ordinances."

#### Background and Discussion

Many law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), utilize Reserve Officers in various duty assignments as an added component of policing resources. A Reserve Corps program provides additional surge capacity without reducing services provided by full-time Officers. Additionally, Port Police Reserve Corps members (members) can provide the Port Police Division with specialized knowledge, skills, and abilities. Members may be assigned as patrol officers or as instructors at the Maritime Law Enforcement Training Center.

The proposed LAAC article is modeled on the existing LAAC article establishing the LAPD Police Reserve Corps. It sets forth the basic structure and organization of the Corps. It addresses management of the program, requirements for participation, compensation for uniforms and expenses, misdemeanor penalties for false impersonation, and eligibility for workers' compensation benefits.

To be enrolled as a member, individuals must meet the same stringent selection standards and background requirements as full-time officers. These standards are promulgated in the California Penal Code and implemented by the State of California POST Commission. Prior to entering service, Reserve Officers must complete an accepted police academy program. Prospective Reserve Officers may be allowed to attend the LAPD's reserve academy training, subject to the availability of openings in academy classes. Otherwise, they may attend another police academy that is recognized by the Port Police at their own expense. Once enrolled in the Corps, Reserve Officers are required to participate in continued training in accordance with POST standards and Port Police policies. Members will be provided with uniforms and equipment necessary to perform their assigned duties. Upon termination of their service, members will be required to return all issued uniforms and equipment to the Harbor Department.

Members are volunteers and are not considered City employees regarding salary and benefits. Members are classified as employees of the City for the purposes of applicability of workers' compensation benefits only while serving in an assigned shift or while receiving training as such. Members must serve at least 16 hours every two pay periods to maintain their status. They are provided with funds in the amount of \$25 per pay-period to offset the costs of various expenses that they incur such as uniform cleaning and firearms maintenance. A pay-period is two weeks. Members will not be included in any pension plan based solely on their status as a member.

Misdemeanor penalties would be made applicable to any person, not a member of the Corps, to falsely impersonate a member.

#### Summary of Ordinance Provisions

The draft ordinance amends the LAAC by adding the following:

- Section 23.67 to establish the Corps under the control and direction of the Chief of the Port Police/Port Warden II (Chief). The Corps shall be made up of volunteer workers (members) only.
- Section 23.67.1 to establish the Chief's authority and control over the Corps.
- Section 23.67.2 to designate the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board), with the assistance of the Personnel Department, as responsible for establishing the qualifications for membership in the Corps, as well as to define the authorities for the swearing-in and termination of members.
- Section 23.67.3 to define the power, authority, and duties of the various levels of Reserve Officer members, as well as to define the compensation amount in the form of a fixed, bi-monthly payment intended to reimburse expenses related to Corps membership.
- Section 23.67.4 to establish the parameters for the issuance and wear of uniforms and equipment.
- Section 23.67.5 to make it a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not to exceed six months or by a fine not to exceed \$500.00, or both for any person, not a member of the Corps, to wear, display, or carry any item which shall have been issued to any member or to represent, identify, or hold themselves out to be a member or have any connection with the Corps.
- Section 23.67.6 to define employee status of members and related eligibility for workers' compensation benefits.

#### CEQA Findings

The proposed action is approval of a LAAC amendment establishing the Los Angeles Harbor Department Port Police Reserve Corps, which is an administrative activity. The Director of Environmental Management for the Los Angeles Harbor Department has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

Council Rule 38 Referral

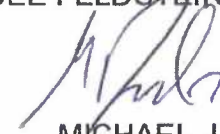
The Harbor Department is the proposing department, and the LAAC amendments were discussed and considered with Harbor Department management and staff present in a full public hearing of the Board of Harbor Commissioners on January 30, 2025.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Attorney John Driscoll at (310) 732-3750. A member of this Office will be available when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By



MICHAEL J. DUNDAS  
Senior Assistant City Attorney

MJD:JTD:mc  
Transmittal