

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

LAPD COMMENTS ON THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

Dear Councilmember Yaroslavsky:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD/Department) remains committed to providing exceptional public safety services to all Angelenos while adapting to fiscal constraints. We are keenly aware that the proposed cuts, especially to our civilian ranks, have raised concern and uncertainty across the organization. These members are integral to our mission and our culture, and we do not take these potential losses lightly.

CORE SERVICES

The Department's primary responsibility is to protect and serve the residents and visitors of Los Angeles through crime prevention, response, and investigation. We accomplish this through patrol operations, specialized investigations, traffic enforcement, emergency response, community engagement, and administrative support functions that sustain these frontline services.

POSITION AUTHORITIES AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES

Civilian Deployment and Position Eliminations

The Proposed Budget includes the elimination of 403 civilian positions with an assumed eight months of savings (positions funded for four months in 2025-26). **This reduction represents approximately 15 percent of our civilian workforce and accounts for nearly 25 percent of all layoffs proposed Citywide** (for context, LAPD civilians make up about 13 percent of all filled civilian positions Citywide). Our civilian workforce currently stands at 2,650, the lowest in more than two decades. Based on our hiring plan through April 5, 2025, we project a year-end

deployment of 2,649 civilian employees. This reduction will impact our ability to provide administrative support to sworn personnel and maintain essential back-office functions, including repair and upkeep of our vehicle fleet. Tasks previously performed by civilian professionals may require staffing by sworn personnel, potentially impacting the number of officers that are available to deploy for protection and service to our communities. We also recognize that these proposed layoffs are deeply personal to many of our employees, and we remain committed to supporting them through this process while advocating to preserve these critical positions.

Consequences of Eliminating Civilian Support Roles

- A 43 percent reduction in crime scene photographers will require re-prioritization of which crime scenes are documented. This will result in longer response times and may require sworn officers to remain on scene for extended periods until documentation is complete.
- A 13 percent cut to forensic print specialists will limit fingerprint processing to serious and violent crimes only. Burglaries and other lower-priority offenses will no longer be processed.
- A 22 percent cut to criminalist positions, part of a proposed 20 percent staffing reduction across the Forensic Science Division (FSD), would slow DNA processing, stall sexual-assault and cold-case work, and delay firearms analysis and National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) uploads that aid homicide investigations. Staffing at that level risks loss of laboratory accreditation, jeopardizing the admissibility of evidence and potentially forfeiting more than \$2 million a year in federal grant funding earmarked for DNA testing in homicide and sexual-assault cases. It would also leave the Division unable to meet key mandates: the 120-day deadline for sexual-assault kit testing, the 48-hour turnaround for narcotics and ballistic evidence, and the weekly breath-alcohol instrument maintenance required under Title 17.
- The Evidence and Property Management Division (EPMD) operates 24 hours a day, five days a week at 25 sites with a 21 percent vacancy rate; the proposed 26 percent personnel cut would nearly halve the Property Officer cadre and trigger rolling closures of Area property rooms. Officers would spend one to four hours out of the field transporting evidence. For context, there were 169,000 items sent last year, including 8,000 firearms (7,000 sent to NIBIN) to the few facilities still open, while community members, attorneys, and investigators could travel up to 25 miles to reclaim or review property. These closures would severely delay the intake, processing, and release of firearms, narcotics, biological samples, and other critical evidence. Because the Principal, Senior, and Property Officer classifications are unique to LAPD and provide courtroom testimony, filling gaps with other staff would violate chain-of-custody standards and expose the City to significant legal liability.

- Cutting 10 of 19 Photographer III positions, a 52 percent reduction, will extend crime-scene and traffic-collision photo response by one to two hours, forcing field personnel to secure scenes for a longer period of time. Eliminating nine Forensic Print Specialists (16 percent) will cut latent-print case output by 20-25 percent and reduce each Area's property-crime submissions for priority analysis from 10 cases per deployment period to five as the unit focuses on violent crimes. Each eliminated Police Surveillance Specialist II will add approximately one week (15-20 percent) to mobile-device extraction turnaround while leaving interview-room and surveillance-equipment repairs unresolved for unknown periods, potentially jeopardizing time-critical video recovery and officer safety.
- A 13 percent cut to equipment mechanics will extend repair times and delay the preparation of newly acquired vehicles. The Motor Transport Division (MTD) is already operating with 65 vacant positions and has not recovered from the loss of 63 positions during the 2009 Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP). Five years ago, MTD staffed 188 personnel; today, that number is 153. Five of the six-night shifts have already been shut down, along with the morning shift covering midnight until six in the morning, which limits after hours service to Central Facility only. As such, the proposed reductions will force the closure of at least five Area garages.
- The Department will be forced to close the Hollywood, Pacific, and Harbor jails and rely solely on its three regional facilities, where Personnel Department staff handle medical care for arrestees, because of recent changes to the custody-transport contract with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. These budget cuts may require the Department to reassign 29 sworn officers to cover administrative functions currently handled by civilian classifications facing significant cuts: a 24 percent reduction in Administrative Clerks, 21 percent in Senior Administrative Clerks, and a 35 percent reduction in Management Analysts. Combined, these cuts impact approximately 180 positions across these three classifications. Additionally, five vacant custody medical care positions in the Personnel Department are proposed for elimination, which will further impact service levels at the three regional jails that would remain open. We anticipate that booking times will increase, keeping officers out of the field for longer periods.
- Records and Identification Division (R&I) is already operating under a 40 percent reduction. Further eliminating positions would severely hamper R&I operations - the Vehicle Warrant Section could no longer staff its mandated 24/7 operation, missing the Department of Justice (DOJ) 10-minute/1-hour hit-confirmation deadlines, pushing officer call-waits past three hours, and leaving warrants, restraining orders, stolen-firearm entries, and ghost-gun IDs unprocessed. These are conditions that jeopardize both safety and DOJ system access. Report backlogs would jump from eight months to well over a year for community requests, and from eighteen months upward for outside-agency requests, stalling prosecutions and scanning of missing-person reports. The cuts would also prevent 24-hour sex- and arson-offender data entry and force shuttering

fingerprinting of arrestees in hospital bookings during overnight hours which would require officers to stay with arrestees longer and significantly delay their return to patrol.

- An approximate 50 percent cut to Accounting Clerks within LAPD will result in significant operational impacts. For example, a proportionate cut to Fiscal Group's Payroll Section would double each clerk's workload to roughly 2,500 sworn and 1,300 civilian employees per clerk. With only half the staff, the section would struggle to catch payroll errors and complete individual pay corrections that already take three to four weeks. Further, personnel cuts will significantly hamper the ability to assist with clearing over 170 reported systemic and individual payroll problems reported through the City's Service Now database. As of today, LAPD has 172 open service tickets in this system, which represent 27% of all reported payroll problems Citywide. This strain would heighten the risk of payment delays, missed backpay adjustments, union grievances, and time-keeping compliance failures. Additionally, many of these positions represent employees hired through the Targeted Local Hire (TLH) program offering entry-level positions to vulnerable and underserved populations, such as veterans, persons with disabilities, and unhoused workers. The Human Resources and Payroll (HRP) Team has emphasized that LAPD's relative stability stems from clerk expertise and manual fixes; losing half that team would erase this buffer and likely trigger payroll disruptions on the scale that forced emergency hearings in the Personnel and Hiring Committee in January and February 2025 regarding the Fire Department's Workday challenges.
- The proposal to eliminate between 25 and 30 information technology (IT) positions would decimate LAPD's already thin IT ranks and lose more in public safety capacity than reductions would save in salaries. Cutting positions at our Emergency Command Control Communications Systems Division (ECCCS) would eliminate 24/7 support for wildfire, tactical, and presidential-visit command posts, and leave the Metro and Valley 9-1-1 centers, with 180 dispatcher workstations handling 5 million calls a year, without technical coverage for at least eight overnight hours. Application Development & Support Division (ADSD) would lose approximately 44 percent of its staff, leaving just 18 employees to maintain 70 custom applications, fulfill California Public Records Requests (CPRA) and open-data mandates, and preserve more than 50 million crime and arrest records. With about half of the field-service team eliminated, computer repairs across 40 precincts would take twice as long, sidelining officers whose desktop computers, in-car mobile data computers (MDCs, 1,800 units) or iPhone computer aided dispatch (CAD) apps (7,500 devices) fail. Network security would also suffer, as classifications identified for layoff oversee 400+ virtual and 100 physical servers that host every core system; without them, intrusion detection and patching will slow dramatically. The loss of warehouse positions risks mismanaging 38,000 critical IT assets, and deleting administrative classifications would stall procurement and oversight of our \$56 million IT budget and \$200 million in contracts. Together, these cuts heighten cyber-attack exposure, delay emergency responses, and negatively impact every technology-driven function that keeps Los Angeles safe.

- Cuts will impair LAPD's ability to respond to CPRA requests, fulfill Discovery legal obligations, complete redactions, and process or close Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) complaints. The system is already strained due to statutory mandates, and these cuts will increase backlog and legal exposure.
- Reductions may also place the Department at risk of non-compliance with Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements, affecting officer certification and training standards.
- Security Services Division (SECSO) operates with a 40 percent vacancy rate, requiring contract guards to cover 41 percent of the 263 daily posts (including seven percent that were once sworn-officer positions). The proposed cut would drop two-officer coverage to one at Elysian Park Academy, Ahmanson and Davis training sites, and the Emergency Operations Center, shrink Department Operations Center (DOC) staffing from two guards to one with no roving patrol, and eliminate posts in the Civic Center Area. To meet minimum staffing requirements, LAPD would then have to eliminate or outsource security for 25 Zoo, 34 Sanitation, and 36 Library posts, plus several Civic-Center and outlying buildings, leaving just one roving unit to patrol the entire Civic Center and sharply degrading protection of critical City facilities.

Sworn Deployment

The Mayor's Proposed Budget starts the fiscal year with 8,689 sworn officers, which aligns with our projected year-end deployment of 8,688 based on data through April 5, 2025. The budget proposes hiring 480 new officers (12 classes of 40) against anticipated attrition of 530, which would result in a year-end deployment of 8,639. This staffing level allows for continued implementation of our crime reduction strategies but limits our ability to expand community-based policing efforts.

Sworn Overtime Reductions

The Proposed Budget reduces sworn overtime by approximately \$26.3 million, including an \$8.36 million elimination of funding for homeless housing sites. This reduction will significantly impact our operational capacity and ability to respond to emerging public safety needs. We anticipate approximately 317,000 fewer overtime hours available for field operations, which will affect patrol coverage, specialized enforcement, and community engagement activities. Given these reductions, we will not be able to honor sworn overtime earmarks that inhibit our flexibility to manage our sworn overtime account and address violent crime.

EXPENSE REDUCTIONS

The Proposed Budget includes several expense account reductions, including \$4,400,960 from Contractual Services and \$982,395 from Firearms Ammunition. We are still evaluating the full impact of these reductions, but initial review suggests they may affect training capacity and LAPD's ability to sustain critical technology systems and equipment. Additional analysis is underway to better understand specific implications.

VEHICLES

We appreciate the continuation of \$23.8 million in the base budget for 274 vehicles which maintains our 2024-25 funding level, and \$27.2 million in Municipal Improvement Corporation of Los Angeles (MICLA) funding for 376 specialized vehicles. However, the budget does not include the requested \$2.7 million for our parts account to maintain the existing fleet. Without adequate funding in this historically underfunded account, the Department risks elevated vehicle out-of-service rates, higher maintenance costs, repair delays, safety concerns, and mid-year fund transfers to cover shortfalls. This will further exacerbate impacts due to layoffs that will hamper the Department's ability to service our vehicle fleet.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Our current organizational structure is detailed in the attached chart. We will explore opportunities to reorganize functions to minimize service impacts, particularly in administrative areas that support field operations.

ORGANIZATIONAL MORALE AND CULTURE

The strength of our department depends on the coordinated efforts of both sworn and civilian employees. When necessary budget reductions disproportionately impact civilian staff, it can unintentionally signal that their contributions are less critical to our mission. This not only affects morale among civilian employees but also creates broader uncertainty within the Department. Sworn personnel rely heavily on the institutional knowledge, technical expertise, and administrative continuity that civilian professionals provide. When that support is diminished, it can leave our officers feeling less confident in the department's long-term stability and capacity to operate at the level our communities expect. As we navigate difficult fiscal decisions, it is essential that we protect the cohesion and balance of our workforce. Preserving the contributions of all employees — civilian and sworn — ensures we remain operationally strong, mission-focused, and united in our service to the people of Los Angeles.

CONCLUSION

While we recognize the fiscal challenges facing the City, we respectfully request consideration of restoring civilian positions that provide critical support to public safety operations. We will make every effort to identify offsets within Departmental accounts, including eliminating non-Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) cash overtime and instead bank overtime to defer payouts during 2025-26. The Department is committed to communication and continued support for our workforce throughout this challenging budget process.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We look forward to discussing the Department's budget during the upcoming hearings.

Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky

Page 7

3.5

If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Chief Daniel Randolph, Director, Office of Support Services, at (213) 486-8410.

Respectfully,



JIM McDONNELL

Chief of Police

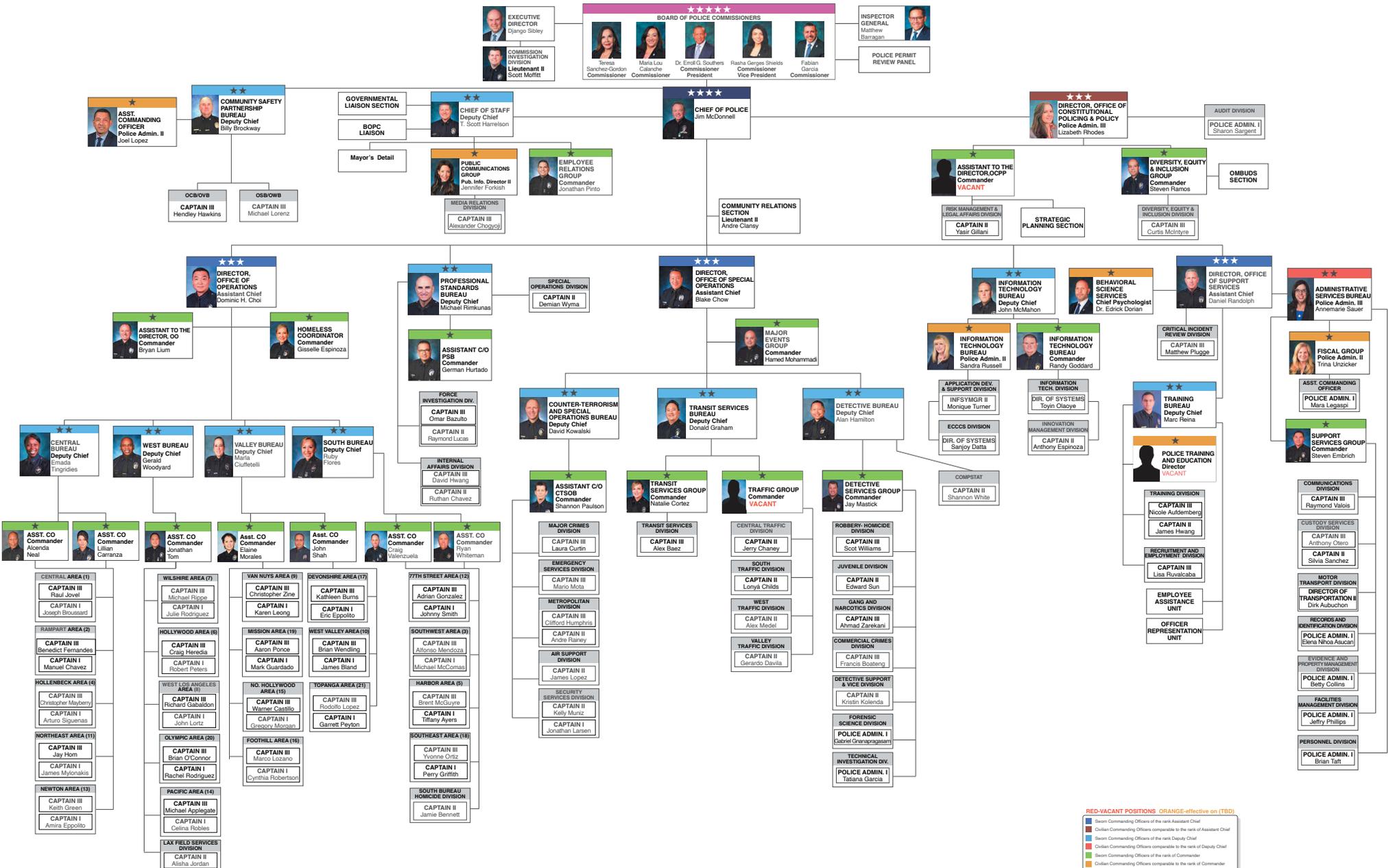
Enclosure: Organization Chart



LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART

JIM MCDONNELL CHIEF OF POLICE

As of DP 4, 2025 (April 6, 2025 - May 3, 2025)



RED-VACANT POSITIONS ORANGE-effective on (TBD)

- Seven Commanding Officers of the rank Assistant Chief
- Civilian Commanding Officers comparable to the rank of Assistant Chief
- Seven Commanding Officers of the rank Deputy Chief
- Civilian Commanding Officers comparable to the rank of Deputy Chief
- Seven Commanding Officers of the rank of Commander
- Civilian Commanding Officers comparable to the rank of Commander
- Seven & Civilian Commanding Officers comparable to the rank of Captain