

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



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ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Members:

The Committee requested comments on the Mayor's Proposed Budget for discussing its impacts on the Los Angeles Police Department (Department). We recognize the historic challenges the City has faced as the COVID pandemic has wreaked havoc throughout the world in both human and economic tolls. The Department has experienced devastating loss of personnel to COVID in both its sworn and civilian ranks.

During this past year, the Department has worked within the resources allocated and further adjusted to the changes in the Department's budget as the City dealt with the economic crisis caused by the pandemic. The Department has realigned existing resources to ensure that patrol has been fully staffed and reduced or eliminated specialized investigative and administrative units to provide support to the geographic areas within the Office of Operations. The Department's re-envisioned deployment, in concert with the proposals to redirect calls for service for those experiencing homelessness, mental health, and addiction issues to interventionists with specialized training and skills, will allow the Department to focus on its core mission of making Los Angeles a safer City.

Despite the limited hiring of sworn officers during the current fiscal year, the Department hired its most diverse recruit classes ever. The Mayor's proposed budget recognizes the need for the Department to maintain the sworn deployment level adopted by the City Council for the current fiscal year and provides for the on-going recruitment and hiring of a diverse workforce which is representative of the communities we serve. While 269 civilian positions are eliminated in the proposed budget due to the Separation Incentive Program (SIP) in the current fiscal year, it retains the most critical positions requested by the Department.

The Department is still adjusting to the reduction of civilian personnel through SIP and will continue to adjust deployment and hiring to meet the most critical needs. Other adjustments may also be necessary within the budget to address changed civilian deployment. As an example, due to SIP decreasing the Departments cadre of mechanics and supervisors, it will be more difficult

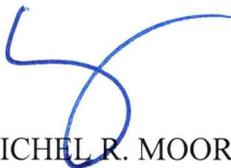
to maintain an acceptable out-of-service rate. The Department's out-of-service rate of 16 percent is already above the industry standard and with the reduction of black and white (B/W) purchases due to budget reductions in Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21, the out-of-service rate can be expected to climb to over 20% which will affect the ability to deploy officers on patrol. This out-of-service rate will be difficult to reduce with fewer mechanics and automotive supervisors and the Department's re-envisioning that placed more officers in patrol functions. The Department is reviewing the most critical needs within the vehicle fleet and may request adjustments within budgeted funding to replace vehicles that have aged past their useful life. Newer vehicles have better emission standards, and the Department introduced its first hybrid B/W patrol vehicles into the fleet in FY 2020-21.

The largest adjustment to the Department's budget in the current fiscal year was through a reduction in overtime. The proposed budget restores overtime sufficient to provide for realignment of personnel for the most essential investigations, the reopening courts, increased large public activities as COVID subsidies, and includes specific programs such as combatting human trafficking, A Bridge Home, Vision Zero and other quality of life issues.

The permanent establishment of the Community Safety Partnership Bureau (CSPB) in the budget acknowledges the Department's commitment to re-envisioning policing and will allow the Department to further develop relationships with communities that have historically been underserved, marginalized, and subjected to social injustice. The officers assigned to CSPB serve to build a relationship of trust between these communities and the police built on mutual understanding, cultural education, and respect.

We look forward to discussing these and other issues with the Committee. If you have questions, please contact Deputy Chief Dominic Choi, Director, Office of Support Services at (213) 486-8410.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police