

TRANSPORTATION AND IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND EQUITY COMMITTEES REPORT relative to curtailing street harassment in public spaces and transit systems.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Buscaino – Lee – Martinez – O'Farrell – Raman – Rodriguez – Price):

1. DIRECT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with the assistance of the Civil, Human Rights, and Equity Department, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), the Bureaus of Street Services and Street Lighting, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Personnel Department, and any other departments, as needed, to report with recommendations to strengthen the oversight, mitigation, and response to street harassment in public spaces and transit systems.
2. REQUEST that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to report relative to curtailing harassment on trains, buses, and transportation stops, including the "It's Off Limits" campaign and the recently-formed Public Safety Advisory Committee.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes
For: Los Feliz Neighborhood Council

SUMMARY

On March 3, 2021, Council considered Motion (Buscaino – Lee – Martinez – O'Farrell – Raman – Rodriguez – Price) relative to curtailing street harassment in public spaces and transit systems. Motion states that there has been a recent surge in hateful, inappropriate, xenophobic, sexist, and racist language throughout the nation. Since the onset of the pandemic, there's been a major spike in verbal and physical harassment against Asian Americans. Women and girls are the most frequent victims of street harassment, most commonly in the form of sexual harassment.

Motion movers believe that street harassment is a pressing public safety issue because, beyond the serious psychological effects of repeated verbal and non-verbal harassment, incidents can and do lead to physical harassment and violence. In a 2014 report entitled, "Unsafe and Harassed in Public Spaces," approximately 70% of women and 50% of men who experienced street harassment said they were seriously concerned the incident would escalate into something worse. Motion movers go on to state that the prevalence of street harassment forces individuals within these vulnerable populations to alter their behaviors, including less convenient but safer routes of travel,

avoiding travel at certain times, traveling with self-defense products, abandoning any unnecessary trips outdoors, and even avoiding transit options in public spaces.

As the City continues to invest millions of dollars each year in infrastructure improvements to enhance pedestrian safety, Motion movers state street harassment must be stopped is or vulnerable populations will continue to use other travel options available to them, despite large capital investments in public transit, crosswalks, and bike lanes. Other cities have acted on this matter. According to the Motion movers, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to protect its most vulnerable residents from harassment in public spaces.

Motion recommends that Council direct the CLA, and other City agencies and Metro to report to Council with recommendations for addressing street harassment in public spaces and on transit lines. Council referred Motion to the Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee. Subsequently, the Motion was also referred to the Transportation Committee.

At its meeting held June 1, 2021, the Transportation Committee expressed strong support for the Motion and the urgent need to act swiftly to protect vulnerable members of the community. Committee recommended that Council approve Motion's recommendations, as amended to include the Bureau of Street Lighting in the report back instruction.

At its meeting held June 17, 2021, the Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee concurred with the action taken by the Transportation Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
BONIN:	YES
KORETZ:	YES
BUSCAINO:	ABSENT

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IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND EQUITY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
DE LEÓN:	YES
PRICE:	YES
O'FARRELL:	YES
CEDILLO:	YES
RAMAN:	YES

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS