

Communication from Public

Name: CCA
Date Submitted: 04/28/2022 09:45 AM
Council File No: 22-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Comments on the city budget



February 15, 2022

Councilmember Kevin de León
City of Los Angeles, Council District 14
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: LA City Budget FY 22-23

Dear Councilmember de León,

Established in 1924, Central City Association (CCA) represents over 300 organizations including large employers, cultural and educational institutions and nonprofits. We are committed to advancing policies and projects that enhance Downtown Los Angeles' (DTLA) vibrancy and increase opportunity in the region. We appreciate the actions you have taken to support safety and wellness including implementing LAMC 41.18 in select locations with effective outreach and launching Clean Streets Now. To build upon your accomplishments, **we request that you partner with us to further increase safety and wellness resources in DTLA. Specifically, we are asking for increased foot beat officers, restoration of bicycle patrol and a 24/7 unarmed service response.** We believe these additional resources will support DTLA's recovery from the pandemic and greatly improve the quality of life for residents, employees and tourists visiting our city center.

DTLA Needs Increased Safety & Wellness Resources

DTLA is a unique community comprised of a combination of uses that do not exist elsewhere in the city. It is a cultural and tourism destination, a residential neighborhood with approximately 80,000 people, our civic center and the region's transportation hub. It is also home to the most concentrated homeless population in the United States. Our neighborhoods have been disproportionately impacted by the recent increase in crime. Last year in LAPD Central Division, burglaries were up 44%, car thefts were up 100% and homicides were up 53% compared with 2019 data.ⁱ The below table shows how DTLA's higher crime rates compare to similar areas in the city between 1/2/2022-1/29/2022.

Crime Comparison

	DTLA ⁱⁱ	Hollywood ⁱⁱⁱ	Wilshire ^{iv}
Violent Crimes	192	126	66
Property Crimes	482	375	345
Total Arrests	259	246	143

Increasing Foot Beat Officers & Restoring Bicycle Patrol

DTLA has less foot beat officers than in years past and does not receive bicycle patrol services. Now, two to four foot beat officers are reactively deployed for crime response. The Entertainment Detail previously assigned to the L.A. LIVE area was also eliminated.

LAPD has 9,500 active police officers although there is authority to hire up to 9,700 officers. Due to retirement, difficulty recruiting officers and an overwhelmed Personnel Department it has been challenging for LAPD to recruit and train new officers. We must support the Personnel Department with additional resources to help LAPD add new officers. We believe LAPD can reach 9,700 officers with the right support and encourage the expansion of LAPD.

These critical public safety components must be restored. Bike patrols are easier for community members to approach and can quickly navigate DTLA's busy streets while being accountable for service to the community. Foot beat officers dedicated to DTLA can prevent crimes through visibility and become familiar with community members, helping build



trust and accountability between LAPD and the community. CCA recognizes that LAPD bicycle and foot beat patrols are just one component of safety and wellness, but research^{v,vi,vii} and experience tell us that officer visibility and accessibility are key to DTLA's success.

Creating an Unarmed Service Response

DTLA lacks a dedicated resource to effectively support people suffering from mental illness and other crises on a 24/7 basis. The City has acknowledged this need by establishing the CIRCLE pilot program in Venice and Hollywood. We believe that a version of the CIRCLE program – one that operates 24/7 – is desperately needed in DTLA.

We remain strong partners in this work and will continue to advocate for LA County to deliver its fair share by providing Department of Mental Health services to the unhoused. We will also continue to advance governance reform efforts to improve health and human services delivery in Downtown. Improving service delivery and County/City coordination will take time and effort. While that work is evolving, the CIRCLE program in DTLA could provide relief in the near term.

With the City's revenues returning to pre-pandemic levels and an unprecedented interest from leadership to reimagine public safety and wellness, we hope you will join us in increasing foot beat patrols, restoring bicycle patrols and establishing a 24/7 CIRCLE program in Downtown Los Angeles.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lall
President & CEO
Central City Association

Cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Council President Nury Martinez
Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Chair of Budget & Finance Committee
Councilmember Gil Cedillo, Council District 1
Councilmember Curren Price, Council District 9
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer

ⁱ Central Area COMPSTAT Profile 12.4.21-12.31.21

ⁱⁱ <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2022/02/cntprof.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2022/02/hwdprof.pdf>

^{iv} <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/2022/02/wilprof.pdf>

^v <https://www.capolicylab.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CPL-Press-Release-re-SFPD-footbeats-12-5-18-FINAL.pdf>

^{vi} <https://whyy.org/segments/the-police-experiment-that-changed-what-we-know-about-foot-patrol/>

^{vii} https://docs.rwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009&context=sjs_fp