

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the feasibility of creating a new substation at Westfield Topanga Shopping Center.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Blumenfield - Lee):

INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), to report on the feasibility of creating a new substation at Westfield Topanga Shopping Center.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On September 12, 2023, your Committee considered a Motion (Blumenfield – Lee) relative to the feasibility of creating a new substation at Westfield Topanga Shopping Center. According to the Motion, on August 13th, an organized theft ring of 30-50 individuals stormed the Nordstrom at the Westfield Topanga Shopping Center and stole \$300,000 worth of merchandise, as reported by the LAPD. In just a few minutes, these masked thieves trashed the store and then swiftly drove away in vehicles without license plates. This sort of 'flash mob' robbery has become a more common occurrence in recent years. In fact, a nearly-identical crime happened at the same location just two years ago. And, just days ago, there were very similar crimes perpetrated in Century City and Glendale.

The LAPD cannot and should not serve as private security for Westfield, but it is imperative to explore options on how the city can best help address mass theft and other crime-not just at this shopping mall, but in the surrounding Warner Center neighborhood. Under the Los Angeles City Charter, deployment decisions for LAPD are solely at the discretion of the Chief of Police. However, this does not mean the city should not explore and study opportunities to create substations within a division to enhance deployment, especially in areas of the City where LAPD divisions cover large geographic areas. For several years, residents in the West San Fernando Valley have been asking for a police substation at the Topanga Shopping Center, which is the second most-visited mall in Southern California. Over the past 15 years, more than 10,000 housing units have been constructed or permitted in the Warner Center. Based on the number of visitors and new residents, the City should explore if it is feasible to take advantage of space at Westfield for more officers to be centrally located within Warner Center. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,
Public Safety Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
LEE:	YES
McOSKER:	YES
PARK:	YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	NO

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9/12/23

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