

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to areas of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) in which violations that qualify under the Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) Program Ordinance can be cited and the status of the Neighborhood Justice Program.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (McOsker - Soto-Martinez):

REQUEST the City Attorney to:

- a. Report on all of the areas of the LAMC in which violations that qualify under ACE can be cited with said report to include any additional expansion of the code that could be applicable through the adoption of Council File No. 23-0244.
- b. Report on the status of the Neighborhood Justice Program to date and ways to augment the successful completion of said Program.

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 (McOsker – Soto-Martinez) relative to areas of the LAMC in which violations that qualify under the Administrative Citation Enforcement Program Ordinance can be cited and the status of the Neighborhood Justice Program. According to the Motion, on June 21, 2013, the City Council adopted the ACE Program Ordinance (Council File No. 10-0085; Ordinance No. 182610), and requested that the City Attorney’s Office develop an ACE Pilot Program.

The Ordinance called for the “phased implementation” of a Pilot to begin with the Police Department (LAPD) and the Animal Services Department (DAS), and thereafter added in one department at a time, starting with the Housing Department (LAHD) and Department of Building and Safety (LADBS). Additional City Departments could be added to the program through the approval of the City Council. On November 5, 2014, the City Council adopted an implementation plan for the Pilot, and as part of that plan, requested the City Attorney report back on a quarterly basis on the status of the program.

Housed under the Outreach and Restorative Justice Division, ACE has acted as the non-criminal approach to nuisance abatement transgressions through an issuance of citations and subsequent fines for violations of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC), rather than criminalization through arrest, and subsequent incarceration. Historically, ACE violators have also been referred to the Neighborhood Justice Program (NJP) as an alternative adjudication to their citation cases. Currently, the NJP operates virtually and also at 12 in-person locations throughout Los Angeles.

Since its introduction as a Pilot almost a decade ago, there have been impediments to the effective implementation of ACE. With the recent adoption of Council File No. 23-0244, procedures as granted through the City Charter have allowed for the City Attorney to implement citation forms, administrative procedures, and protocols, while also ensuring that appeals continue to occur through an administrative hearing and that the City designate an outside citation processing company to be involved in this process. Council also directed the City Attorney to report on a quarterly basis on the geography and specific code related to the issuance of ACE citations. 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:	YES

ARL

9/12/23

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-