

MOTION

AD HOC POLICE REFORM

A number of disturbing videos showing Police Department (LAPD) personnel using force during the recent protests in response to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis have been circulating online and in the media. This includes a video showing LAPD officers beating protesters with batons before shooting into a crowd with rubber bullets in the Fairfax District; an LAPD officer shooting an unhoused individual in a wheelchair who was not even part of the protests with a rubber bullet, striking him in the head and seriously injuring him; and, another showing an LAPD cruiser striking a protester and then fleeing the scene in Pershing Square. A full investigation into these allegations and the acts shown in these videos must be conducted.

In addition to the videos and reports of significant use of force by LAPD officers against protesters, a number of individuals and organizations state that the imposition of citywide curfews led to the arrest of thousands of protesters whose only crime was exercising their First Amendment rights after the LAPD decided that everyone needed to clear the streets. A number of arrestees have complained that LAPD used significant force to enforce the curfew, and that arrestees were held in close contact with other protesters in confined spaces, which, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, could have put their health in danger. Others have contended LAPD used force on peaceful protesters both before and after curfew or orders to disperse were given, and while demonstrators were complying or dispersing.

On June 2, 2020 a Motion (Rodriguez – Harris-Dawson) was introduced directing the Chief of Police to present an After Action Report to Council analyzing the Department's actions leading up to and during the recent civil unrest. This After Action Report should also include an analysis of the crowd control tactics used by LAPD, including the deployment of police in full riot gear to block the movement of protesters, decisions to declare unlawful assemblies and curfews, information on how those declarations were conveyed to protesters as well as information on LAPD's compliance with existing departmental policies and legal mandates on use of force. Further, the Department should request Mr. Gerald Chaleff, the former Police Commissioner and retired LAPD Special Assistant for Constitutional Policing, who prepared the detailed report on LAPD's actions during the May Day 2007 incident in MacArthur Park, prepare this After Action Report.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department (LAPD) include an analysis of the Department's crowd control tactics and compliance with existing departmental policies and legal mandates during the recent civil unrest as part of the After Action Report requested by Motion (Rodriguez – Harris-Dawson, C.F No. 20-0686). This analysis should also include a discussion on the firing of rubber bullets and other types of riot control ammunition into crowds of people, at bystanders and at people's heads, the steps LAPD used to announce unlawful assemblies and curfews and how those decisions were enforced, and decisions to deploy officers to block peaceful protesters from marching.

I FURTHER MOVE that LAPD report on how individuals arrested during the protests for curfew violations or failure to disperse when ordered to do so were handled after their arrest, including information on if social distancing and other public health guidelines were followed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This report should also include information on how LAPD enforced curfews and dispersal orders on unhoused individuals.

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAPD request that Mr. Gerald Chaleff, the author of the Department's review of the 2007 May Day incident in MacArthur Park, take the lead of the review of LAPD actions during the recent protests.

PRESENTED BY: BOB BLUMENFIELD for

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON (verbal)
Councilmember, 8th District

MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 7th District

MIKE BONIN (verbal)
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:

DAVID E. RYU (verbal)
Councilmember, 4th District