



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

October 21, 2020

Hon. Eric Garcetti
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hon. Mike Bonin
Councilmember, Council District 11
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email: mike.bonin@lacity.org

Re: Maintenance of the LAPD Beach Detail in Pacific Palisades

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember Bonin,

Our LAPD Beach Detail may soon be missing in action! We've been informed that the Palisades Beach Detail (two officers) may be reassigned elsewhere, but will this condition be permanent? Without critical enforcement along our coast, there will be a surge in homeless camps on the beach and in the bluffs, more campfires and arson threatening our homes, and more crime (assaults and other violent crimes, illegal drugs, needles on the public beach, etc.).

Since 2016, the LAPD Beach Detail in Pacific Palisades has worked hand-in-hand with our very successful volunteer Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (pptfh.org), so that our community is safe and our homeless receive compassionate, effective services with access to permanent supportive housing. PPTFH finds and tracks the homeless on and near the beach and offers services to encourage them off the beach and bluffs. The Beach Detail enforces the law when the homeless refuse the services offered. This carrot-and-stick model has worked since 2016 to achieve the following results:

- No tents along the coastline (before 2016: growing clusters of tents, with crimes committed and beachgoers harassed).
- No bluff or hillside camps (before: 163 camps, and brush fires which endangered homes).
- Vehicle-dwelling laws enforced (not enforced before 2016).
- 132 previously homeless individuals are off the streets.
- 85 previously homeless individuals have been permanently housed.

Without robust enforcement by the LAPD Beach Detail, the volunteers of PPTFH will be hard-pressed to be effective in encouraging homeless people to take the offer of services and a transition into housing. The homeless from other cities which do law enforcement, especially coastal cities, will drift into the cities that don't do enforcement.

We are now in a year-round fire season, and the campfires and arson fires will burn this winter and the winds will blow. We are currently at the mercy of a fire bug camper who paints himself red, has set fires and has so far

eluded the police. The cost of the Beach Detail is far less than the combined cost of LAFD, LAPD, and emergency services in putting out a series of destructive home and brush fires set by coastal arsonists and homeless campers.

In 2017, PPCC passed a motion calling for a year-round, budgeted beach patrol as a fixed line item; see our 4/25/17 letter to Chief Beck: <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Beach-detail-and-motion.pdf>. We again respectfully urge that you consider budgeting for a year-round Beach Detail for our Pacific Palisades beaches and bluffs, to reduce the homelessness impact on the City budget and to maintain the continuum of enforcement along the Los Angeles shoreline.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee, PPCC

David Card, Chair
David Kaplan, Vice Chair
Richard Cohen, Treasurer
Christina Spitz, Secretary

Maryam Zar, Chair Emeritus
John Padden, Organization Representative (PRIDE)
Joanna Spak, Area Representative (Area 1, Castellammare,
Paseo Miramar)

cc (via email):

Michel Moore, Chief of Police, LAPD
Eileen Decker, President, Los Angeles Police Commission
Steve Soboroff, Commissioner, Los Angeles Police Commission
Capt. III Jonathan Tom, Commanding Officer, West Los Angeles Area, LAPD
Kevin Taylor, West Area Representative, Mayor Garcetti
Sharon Kilbride and Sharon Browning, Co-Chairs, PPTFH