



## PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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June 10, 2022

Hon. Mike Bonin, Councilmember, CD 11

*Via email to [mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org)*

Re: Request for Use of CD 11 Discretionary Funds in an Amount Sufficient to Allow for the Assignment of Additional LAPD Officers to the Palisades Beach Detail this Summer

Dear Councilmember Bonin:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been advised that due to LAPD staffing issues, no additional officers will be assigned to the Palisades Beach Detail this summer. This is a matter of immediate and grave concern.

As you know, an influx of visitors to our beach and hillside areas regularly occurs during the summer months. Families flock to the beaches and many children and young adults participate in summer camps and the Junior Lifeguards program at Will Rogers State Beach. At the same time, the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH) informs us that many more persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) traditionally come here in the summer and are already beginning to arrive in greater numbers this year.

The Palisades consists of 26 square miles, much of the area made up of rugged hillside terrain where PEH often set up illegal encampments. Moreover, PPTFH volunteers and outreach workers see increased evidence of severe mental illness and drug addiction among the PEH who are attracted to our beach, bluffs and canyons. Dangerous, violent conduct directed against volunteers and outreach workers by PEH is becoming a frequent occurrence. The risk of fire in our hillsides is always present (fires are frequently started by PEH and/or arsonists) and there is a greatly increased risk with the conditions that PPTFH volunteers, outreach workers and our current Beach Detail officers (Officers Margin and Bermudez) are now regularly observing and experiencing. All of these conditions put the safety of our entire community at heightened risk.

The efforts of our Beach Detail are critical to maintaining public safety, but will be stretched thin with the increased numbers of PEH and other visitors expected during the coming months. Last summer, we were fortunate to have four additional officers assigned to the Beach Detail – for a total of six officers. We need the same number of officers assigned this summer. Their efforts are critical to ensure and maintain public safety for everyone – community members, beach visitors, PPTFH volunteers, outreach workers and PEH alike.

We understand that CD11 has discretionary funds which may be used to fund overtime for additional officers to be assigned to the Palisades Beach Detail. We're also told that Councilmember Koretz has authorized the use of CD 5 discretionary funds for overtime for additional LAPD West Division patrol officers in Westwood and other areas of that District. We urge you to: 1) confer immediately with West Division Commander Captain Jonathan Tom and other LAPD leadership to ascertain the level of funding

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needed to allow for as many additional officers as possible to be assigned to the Beach Detail this summer (ideally at least four but no fewer than two more officers, in addition to Officers Margin and Bermudez); and 2) authorize the transfer of a sufficient amount from CD 11 discretionary funds for this purpose without delay.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated cooperation with this request.

Please note: The text of this letter was unanimously approved by the PPCC Board at the June 9, 2022 public Board meeting.

Sincerely,

David Card, Chair  
Christina Spitz, Secretary  
Pacific Palisades Community Council

*cc (via email):*  
Capt. Jonathan Tom, Commanding Officer, LAPD WLA Division  
Senior Lead Officer Brian Espin, LAPD WLA Division  
Noah Fleishman, CD 11 District Director  
Sharon Browning, Co-President, PPTFH  
Sharon Kilbride, Co-President, PPTFH