

December 1, 2023

Honorable Traci Park
Councilwoman, 11th District
200 N. Spring Street, Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: LAPD RESOURCES IN WESTCHESTER/PLAYA/LADERA

Honorable Councilwoman Traci Park,

As you are aware, in 2017, two motions were presented by the L.A. City Council Public Safety Committee and the Budget & Finance Committee (see attachments), addressing community policing, and the fact that it has not changed or been adequately updated since its establishment in 1969.

The Motion from the Budget & Finance Committee dated August 2, 2017 stated that:

“It has been more than 20 years since the City Council last approved a comprehensive Citywide review of the LAPD Basic Car boundaries. Since that time, there has been considerable population growth, significant new development, the designation of new communities and the emergence of a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils. It is therefore imperative that the City take a fresh look at the current boundaries to ensure they meet the City’s contemporary policing needs and best conform to identifiable neighborhood boundaries. Such an effort will also help inform and guide the City in how to best distribute future patrol resources.”

The Motion from the Public Safety Committee dated January 20, 2017 stated that:

“LAPD’s community policing is implemented through its system of Basic Cars, it’s Patrol Plan, and its 7/40 Mandate-systems which sorely need review, improvement, reinvigoration and significant reinvestment of personnel” and further that:

“Even while LAPD’s ranks have swelled, the number of officers patrolling our neighborhoods has shrunk. On an average day in 1969, with a city population of almost 3M, LAPD had 6,124 sworn officers, with 337 patrol officers on the streets, assigned to 181 cars patrolling our neighborhoods. On an afternoon in December 2016, with a city population of 4M, LAPD had 9,885 sworn officers, with just 311 patrol officers on the streets, assigned to 159 cars patrolling our neighborhoods”.

In the past 20 years, the Westchester/Playa population and community has grown considerably, to include the Playa Vista and One West Bluffs communities, not to mention significant development in the surrounding area of Marina del Rey and the current City Plan Update which seeks to add more housing in our footprint, while experiencing a decrease with respect to LAPD resources and patrol.

As you are aware, crime is up throughout the city, but Westchester/Playa/Ladera has had a significant increase of crime, which continues to compromise the safety in our community.

LAX is in our footprint and although they have their own police force, we have millions of people coming and going to LAX from all around the world; many of those travelers staying at hotels and eating at restaurants in the Westchester /Playa area and some of them, engaging in crime.

The NCWP has received countless emails over the years, from frustrated stakeholders citing the increase in crime and asking why we do not have more police presence in our ever growing footprint. This needs to be addressed and improved.

In addition, the 877 non emergency line is inefficient, as hold times for our stakeholders, for which we have had hundreds of communications from with their frustration, can be up to 45 minutes-if anyone answers at all. This is an administrative position and in this day and age, there is no excuse for the inadequacy. This should be of immediate importance as it is the most common form of communication between our stakeholders and LAPD, yet the community feels “unheard and that their police force is inaccessible”.

The NCWP understands the challenges LAPD has faced with respect to shortage of resources, to include sworn officers. However the city’s budget included a \$3.2B budget to LAPD for the current fiscal year, and although we recognize this does not necessarily translate into more police immediately deployed, we are requesting that

1. The Basic Car Study be refreshed and updated with current crime data and that action be taken with respect to the recommendations of the study and
2. That you make every effort to bring more LAPD resources to the Westchester/Playa/Ladera area, as well as for 9-1-1 and non emergency dispatch centers.

Respectfully,

Paula Gerez, President, NCWP

CC: LAPD-Michel Moore-Chief of Police
CC: Mayor Karen Bass