



FESIA A. DAVENPORT  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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November 10, 2020

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

65-H November 10, 2020

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### **DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR PARKS SECURITY SERVICES (ALL AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)**

#### **SUBJECT**

The Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) requests that the Board of Supervisors (Board) direct the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and request the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), to finalize an agreement for Sheriff Security Services at County parks by November 30, 2020. In the event no agreement is reached by November 30, 2020, the CEO recommends the Board take action to transfer funding from the LASD budget to DPR's budget to pay for security services at County parks.

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Direct the Director of DPR, and request the Sheriff, to develop and enter into a MOU for Sheriff Security Services at County parks no later than November 30, 2020. The MOU must be effective through June 30, 2021, and must maintain the same level of LASD services for County parks currently provided, at no additional cost (i.e., the status quo).
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DPR and the Sheriff to execute the above described MOU, subject to prior approval from County Counsel and CEO, by November 30, 2020.

3. Direct the Acting CEO and the Auditor-Controller to transfer \$18,490,000 in appropriation from LASD's County Services budget unit to the Parks and Recreation budget unit, only if the MOU is not executed by both departments on or before November 30, 2020. Approval of the transfer in appropriation is void if the MOU is executed by both departments on or before November 30, 2020.
4. Direct the Acting CEO to notify the Board of Supervisors of any budget actions taken.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

#### Background

On December 15, 2009, the Board merged the Office of Public Safety (OPS) into LASD. OPS had three operational bureaus, one of which was Parks Services. The Parks Services Bureau provides public safety services to all of the parks and facilities (i.e., trails, lakes, golf systems, etc.) operated by DPR and is funded by the County General Fund. LASD assumed responsibility for providing these services effective July 1, 2010, and has continued to do so since that time. LASD is now indicating it plans to discontinue these services, as more fully detailed below.

On April 2, 2020, the CEO instructed all County departments to submit curtailment scenarios, ranging from 10 to 20 percent, given a projected \$935.5 million budget gap for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 due to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 27, 2020, LASD submitted a 10 percent curtailment proposal that included cuts to Unincorporated Area Patrol, Parks Services Bureau, Special Victims Bureau, Operation Safe Streets, Community Partnership Bureau, Fraud and Cyber Crimes Bureau, Major Crimes Bureau, and certain custody-related operations. Ultimately, the curtailment scenarios for all departments were scaled back to eight percent in the FY 2020-21 Final Changes Budget adopted by the Board on June 29, 2020. As a result, all of LASD's budgetary curtailment actions took place on June 29, 2020, with the adoption of the Final Changes Budget.

On September 29, 2020, the Board approved the FY 2020-21 Supplemental Changes Budget, which restored the LASD services identified above and shifted all cuts required under the eight percent curtailment scenario to Custody Operations. In addition, all potential layoffs were completely mitigated. This resulted in 203 budgeted positions and \$23.975 million (\$30.979 million annually) in net County cost (NCC) being restored to LASD's operating budget to ensure public safety services continued at DPR's parks and facilities.

Despite these actions, on or about October 15, 2020, LASD gave notice to Parks Services Bureau staff of its plan to redeploy staff from Parks Services Bureau to other areas within LASD, including Custody Operations. Redeployments were originally noticed for November 1, 2020, and now scheduled for December 6, 2020. If implemented, this redeployment will eliminate dedicated safety and law enforcement services from County parks and require DPR staff and park patrons to rely on local law enforcement or LASD patrol, in unincorporated areas, for service calls.

On October 13, 2020, the Board directed the CEO and the Director of DPR to report in writing within 14 days on options to satisfy the public safety and community policing gap at County parks, including, if necessary, the potential transfer of \$23.975 million from the LASD budget to the DPR budget to provide dedicated funding for public safety services at County parks.

The CEO and the Director of DPR filed their initial report on October 26, 2020 ([http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1080413\\_10.26.20](http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1080413_10.26.20) EnsuringReliableandConsistentPublicSafetyinLosAngelesCountyParks.pdf). The report summarized the pertinent background and identified several options to address the immediate safety needs at County parks and develop a sustainable, long-term parks safety strategy. The recommended option to address short-term security needs was to maintain the status quo by ensuring LASD continued to provide the same level of public safety and law enforcement services through the end of the current fiscal year. The report identified the potential to transfer Parks Services Bureau funding to DPR, if necessary, to ensure the services are provided.

As instructed by the Board on October 13, 2020, our office will work with DPR and other stakeholders and provide a second report within 90 days that explores additional options with a focus on developing a new model for public safety at County parks and facilities that ensures parks facilities, programs, and services can continue to benefit a broad spectrum of community residents in a safe and welcoming manner. Since the filing of the report on October 26, 2020, DPR and LASD, with the support of the Acting CEO, have engaged in regular discussions to reach an agreement to maintain the status quo. The actions recommended in this letter authorize DPR and LASD to execute an MOU to maintain the status quo through June 30, 2021.

However, based on information provided by LASD management to its deputies and staff, dissolution of the Parks Services Bureau and the redeployment of Parks Services Bureau staff is still scheduled to occur on December 6, 2020. Because of this, the actions recommended in this letter require that the MOU be executed on or before November 30, 2020, subject to the prior review and approval of CEO and County Counsel.

If no MOU is reached by November 30, 2020, the recommended actions require that the CEO and the Auditor-Controller transfer \$18,490,000 in appropriation and NCC funding from LASD's budget to DPR's budget to pay for security services for County parks. The \$18,490,000 represents the prorated amount of annual NCC funding allocated to LASD for the Parks Services Bureau. The Acting CEO will notify the Board of any budget actions taken.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommendations support the County Strategic Plan, Strategy III.3, Pursue Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility, and Accountability.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Approval of the recommended actions overall will have no fiscal impact to the FY 2020-21 Final Adopted Budget. If an agreement is not reached by November 30, 2020, \$18,490,000 in appropriation and NCC funding will be transferred from LASD's Operating budget to the DPR Operating budget. Approval of the transfer in appropriation will be void if a status quo MOU is executed by both departments on or before November 30, 2020.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The MOU will ensure LASD continues to provide the same levels of services for the same amount of funding (i.e. status quo) with the overall goal of ensuring parks facilities, programs, and services can continue to benefit a broad spectrum of community residents in a safe and welcoming manner. The MOU will be reviewed and approved by County Counsel and the CEO. Approval of the appropriation by the Board at a regular or special meeting is authorized by Government Code section 29125 (a)(3).

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The recommended actions will have no impact on current services.

Respectfully submitted,



FESIA A. DAVENPORT

Acting Chief Executive Officer

FAD:JMN:MM:SW

CY:DW:cc

- c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
- County Counsel
- Sheriff
- Auditor-Controller
- Parks and Recreation