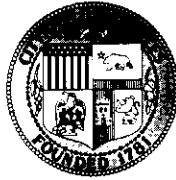


# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

ALVIN Y. BLAIN  
GENERAL MANAGER



JAMES K. HAHN  
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
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February 28, 2005

Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council  
P.O. Box 27003  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

## CONCERNS REGARDING THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

In response to your letter inquiring about further details of the proposed Office of Public Safety (OPS), the following responses have been prepared to assist you with a greater understanding of the future plans for OPS.

**1. Whether there will be a dedicated Parks Bureau within the proposed Office of Public Safety whose officers are assigned to work specifically and exclusively within the parks? If not, how do you plan to assure the continuation of Park Rangers' complex and specific body of expertise over time, despite employee turnover and retirement?**

Since the inception of the OPS plan, GSD has promoted a system where employees will remain in their current area of responsibility (e.g.: parks, libraries, Convention Center, Zoo), unless the employee elects to voluntarily transfer to another section. The Department recognizes the value in ensuring that employees continue to work in the field where they possess the greatest experience. Assurances to reflect this plan have been incorporated into the employee's and Local 347's agreements with GSD management.

Peace Officer Park Rangers transitioning to the Special Officer classification have participated in a series of "meet and confer" sessions, created specifically to address any changes to their existing working conditions. GSD has reached an agreement with the labor organization representing Park Rangers, SEIU Local 347, on the position of involuntary transfers.

Park Rangers who transition to the Special Officer classification will serve in the patrol section of the Parks and Facilities Bureau, servicing the parks. All personnel within OPS, inclusive of Special Officers and Security Officers, will complete a cross-training program to gain familiarity with all facilities under the responsibility of OPS. The Special Officers assigned to parks (formerly recognized as Park Rangers) will take a lead role in training all Special Officers on park related duties.

**2. Whether there will be civilian oversight of the proposed Office of Public Safety?** *Other departments whose employees are authorized to use deadly force in the performance of their duties are overseen by civilian commissions. The General Services Department is one of only two City departments without citizen oversight. Since the GSD's proposed Office of Public Safety is, in effect a second police force, how do you propose to provide oversight for approval of policy, to provide accountability and to respond to incidents which involve the use of force.*

Accountability for the use of force by officers of OPS will be accomplished through the use of force policy adopted by the Department and approved by City Council. This use of force policy is consistent with the policy of L.A.P.D. and has been approved by the City Attorney. Any categorical use of force will result in an independent investigation by L.A.P.D. and the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

GSD will be held accountable to several civilian commissions including Recreation and Parks and Los Angeles Library. Neighborhood Councils and other community-based groups will regularly provide input to the Mayor and City Council. Also, each of the geographical patrol areas within OPS will have an assigned Senior Lead Officer, to work closely with Neighborhood Councils on matters of concern.

**3. Whether the operating rules of the proposed Office of Public Safety and the Memoranda of Agreement with the serviced departments will be settled and made available for comment by neighborhood councils before implementation.** *Since public safety is at issue, all memoranda of agreement, methods of accountability, benchmarks, duties, and requirements for operation of both the proposed Office of Public Safety and the departments being serviced (Recreation and Parks, Convention Center, Library, Zoo, etc.) should: be specifically and clearly define in writing; have passed through all unions' 'meet and confer' processes; have passed through all public comment recommendation, and approval process; and have been approved by the City Council.*

The employee's labor organizations, City Council members, Council committees, affected department commissions and general managers, community groups and L.A.P.D. have been active participants throughout the progression of the OPS plan. Each affected department is crafting a Memorandum of Agreement with GSD, to serve as a contractual agreement on service levels to be provided by GSD throughout the term of the agreement. Each customer department will have the opportunity to revise the terms and conditions of the MOA, generally on an annual basis. The MOAs will be approved by the commission of the respective department,

prior to consideration by the City Council. Final approval for the Office of Public Safety will be achieved through City Council and all submitted documents will become public record, available for review. Department commission meetings, Public Safety Committee and City Council meetings offer opportunities for Neighborhood Council involvement and comment.

**4. Whether the Recreation and Parks Department will receive the budget authority and funding needed to initiate and maintain the City approved regional Park Ranger corps of 30 officers for large parks such as Griffith Park? This corps was created by the LaBonge-Hahn-Gruel City Council Motion File # 04-2043, supported by the GGPNC and other NCs and passed by the full City Council on December 14, 2004. It has not as yet been funded by the City.**

The City Council adopted the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee's (Arts Committee) report relative to the LaBonge-Hahn-Gruel motion (CF 04-2043) on December 14, 2004. The instruction, as such, is for "the Department of Recreation and Parks, in consultation with the City Administrative Officer and General Services Department, to report back to the Arts Committee with a deployment and staffing plan that will result in the deployment of 30 Park Rangers (consisting of one Chief Ranger, three Regional Park Rangers, and 26 dedicated Park Rangers) at the City's larger regional parks including Griffith Park, Elysian Park, Runyon Canyon, Sepulveda Basin, Hansen Dam, Ernest Debs Park, Angels Gate/Cabrillo Beach, Venice Beach, Bee Canyon/O'Melveny, and Harbor Regional Park."

Given the proposed consolidation of security services, including Park Rangers, from Recreation and Parks Park Rangers into the General Services Department, Recreation and Parks evaluated the need for additional Park Rangers for the City's larger, regional parks. Based on this evaluation, as well as the LaBonge-Hahn-Gruel motion (CF 04-2043), Recreation and Parks submitted a supplemental budget request to the Mayor and CAO for consideration as part of the 2005-06 fiscal year budget.

The Department's supplemental budget request, dated November 19, 2004, is attached for your review. In summary, the Department notes that it is a top priority of Neighborhood Councils, Park Advisory Board and the public in providing more parks, recreational programming and adequate staffing. With the consolidation of the Park Rangers into the new Office of Public Safety in the General Services Department, the remaining 19 Park Rangers will not be able to provide coverage for the City's ten regional parks, especially with the thousands of visitors coming to these parks each day. The Department therefore requests funding and position authority for 11 new, additional Park Rangers to provide educational and environmental programs for youth and other park patrons,

to respond to accidents and provide emergency services and shelter to the public, and to organize search and rescue operations, fire suppression and other critical functions.

At this time, this budget package and the Department's many other budget requests for the 2005-06 fiscal year are still under consideration by the Mayor and the City Administrative Officer. It is unknown as to whether or not some or all of the Park Ranger resources requested by this Department will be included in the Mayor's Proposed Budget for the 2005-06 fiscal year. Once budgeted resources have been determined, Recreation and Parks will present a deployment and staffing plan to the Arts, Parks, Health, and Aging Committee.

**5. Whether the Recreation and Parks Department's regional Park Ranger corps employees will be paid commensurate with their level of education as compared with similar positions requiring college degrees within the City of Los Angeles?** *We are concerned that if the pay inequity issue is not resolved, retention will continue to pose a problem with the Recreation and Parks Department's Park Ranger employees.*

Recruiting and retaining qualified Park Rangers has been a challenge for the Department of Recreation and Parks for a number of years. It was for that very reason that the Department management supported a 5% salary increase for the classification when the last contract negotiations were held.

The security consolidation now presents the City a unique opportunity to revise the Park Ranger classification so that it attracts candidates with a passion for delivering interpretive programs in our regional parks and candidates that may have been deterred by the law enforcement aspects of the class in the past. As the concept of security consolidation has unfolded, Department management has participated in discussions with the Department of General Services (GSD) as well as with those non-peace officer Park Rangers who will remain in our Department. Once the role and scope of responsibilities of the Office of Public Safety in GSD are fully defined, the duties and responsibilities of our Park Ranger Division will also be clarified and the Park Ranger class can be carefully reexamined.

The responsibility for revising the classification of Park Ranger ultimately lies with the City's Personnel Department. With input from our Department, the Personnel Department will formulate new class specifications for Park Ranger. As part of that process, the Personnel Department will examine the requirements for the class as well.

Upon adoption of the revised class specification and job requirements, the City Administrative Officer will review the salary for the class, and will determine whether the current salary rate is appropriate. Any changes are subject to the collective bargaining process, and are outside the independent authority of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

**6. Whether the Recreation and Parks Department's regional Park Ranger corps will retain the ability to write citations and enforce City codes? We are concerned that if Park Rangers cannot write citations and enforce codes, a valuable resource is wasted, security in the parks is reduced, and violators would be emboldened.**

The purpose of the consolidation is to improve government efficiencies by eliminating any duplication of services that are presently being performed; to optimize coverage by special officers to address problems; to improve response time; and to make our parks safe and enjoyable for the residents of Los Angeles.

Merging the Peace Officer Park Ranger section into the newly developed Office Of Public Safety will eliminate duplication of services, and will allow the section that will patrol the parks to have the proper safety equipment needed to perform their duties in a safer and more effective manner.

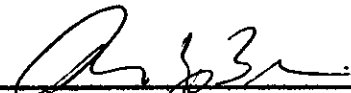
Current Peace Officer Park Rangers who are eligible to transition over to the new Office of Public Safety will be placed into the patrol section responsible for patrolling the parks. This will provide consistency in the patrolling of the parks. The General Services Department will be accountable to make sure that each request for service or response to an incident is handled in a responsible and ethical manner. This accountability and levels of service will be established in a Memorandum of Agreement to be signed by both Departments' prior to the transfer.


After the transition, the Office of Public Safety will handle all citation and law enforcement work that is currently performed by Park Rangers. The work of the City Park Ranger will be focused in the City's regional parks and become more aligned with the traditional role of a park ranger, i.e., land and resource management and interpretive education. Park Rangers will continue to write parking citations and will continue to request compliance with all laws and the municipal code. However, Park Rangers will not actively enforce the law by detaining or arresting violators - the Office of Public Safety and LAPD will handle those functions in cooperation with the Park Rangers.

The Park Rangers will overlook no unlawful act; however, the protocol for enforcing compliance will involve a cooperative effort between the Park Rangers and the Office of Public Safety.

The concept for how the Office of Public Safety and the Park Rangers will operate following the transfer has been approved by the City Council in concept form. It has past through several council committees with the understanding that the law enforcement duties be placed into the Office of Public Safety.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Chief Gary Newton of the Security Services Division at (213) 978-4660.

  
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Alvin Y. Blain  
General Manager  
Department of General Services

  
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Jon Kirk Mukri  
General Manager  
Department of Recreation and Parks

cc: The Honorable Tom LaBonge, Council District Four  
The Honorable Wendy Greuel, Council District Two  
Eric Brown, Deputy Mayor

BOARD OF RECREATION AND  
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JON KIRK MUKRI  
GENERAL MANAGER

November 19, 2004

Honorable James K. Hahn  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
City of Los Angeles  
City Hall Room 300

Dear Mayor Hahn:

On behalf of the Department of Recreation and Parks, I hereby submit for your consideration three supplemental budget requests for FY 2005-2006. These additional requests seek to address the need for consistent, permanent Park Ranger presence for our parks and recreational facilities, provide for the successful implementation of a public expression program for the Venice Beach Boardwalk, and regularize the consolidation of printing and publishing services in the Department of General Services.

The supplemental budget request packages are summarized below, with individual requests categorized according to the principle goals to which each responds.

**MAYOR GOALS: SAFER CITY AND LIVEABLE NEIGHBORHOODS**

**NEW FUNDING REQUESTS:**

**Park Ranger Deployment**

**Funding: \$1.02 Million; Positions: 11**

A top priority of Neighborhood Councils is providing more parks in Los Angeles and more recreational programming, particularly for youth; in a similar vein, a top priority of Park Advisory Boards was providing adequate staff to conduct recreational programs. With the consolidation of Park Rangers in the new Office of Security in the General Services Department, the remaining 19 Rangers will not be able to provide coverage for the City's ten regional parks, especially with the thousands of visitors coming to these parks each day. The Department is therefore requesting funding and position authority for 11 Park Rangers to provide educational and environmental programs for youth and other park patrons, respond to accidents and provide emergency services and shelter to the public, organize search and rescue operations, fire suppression and other critical functions.



**Venice Beach Public Expression Program**

**Funding: \$61,400; Positions: 0**

Recently, the Council and Mayor approved an amendment to the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 42.15, which authorized the Recreation and Parks Commission to establish policies and procedures for those individuals who wish to conduct public expression at the Venice. The Department estimates approximately 300 individuals that will participate in this program, whereby 106 spaces will be made available (62 spaces for public expression and free speech and 44 spaces for performers). In order to successfully implement and sustain this vital public expression program, the Department requests funding for six part-time Recreation Assistants (3,500 hours annually), ongoing office and administrative expenses, as well as one-time costs for a photo ID system, personal computer and printer, and a golf cart for monitoring and program activities at the boardwalk.

**MAYOR GOAL: MORE EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT**

**Consolidation Requests –**

**Transfer of Publishing Services**

**Funding: \$0; Positions: -1**

As a result of a study conducted by the CAO office pertaining to the General Services Department's (GSD) publishing unit cost of printing, it was determined that GSD was able to achieve greater economies of scale than most other departments' in-house printing divisions. In light of this analysis and in partnership with GSD and the CAO, the Department proposes to transfer one full-time and two part-time positions associated with this function to GSD. Funds will be retained in the Department's Printing and Binding Account No. 2120, in order to reimburse GSD for these printing and publishing services. This package represents a working draft for identification and movement of positions and function to GSD.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical supplemental budgetary requests. Please do not hesitate to contact my Chief Financial Officer, Faith Mok (213-928-9310), or Neil Guglielmo (213-928-9024) of my staff, for any additional information or questions.

Sincerely,

  
JON KIRK MUKRI  
General Manager

cc: Honorable Members of the City Council  
William T Fujioka, City Administrative Officer  
Ronald F. Deaton, City Legislative Analyst  
Frank Martinez, City Clerk